

STOCK ASSESSMENT REVIEW (STAR) PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR 2009

Full assessments for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel typically occur every third year, necessitating a three-year cycle for the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process. The last full assessments occurred in 2007. Because CPS populations are so dynamic and because work to improve the Pacific mackerel and Pacific sardine assessments continues, the Council recommended the next set of full assessments be convened in 2009 rather than 2010 as previously planned.

Two STAR Panels are planned for 2009 with tentative dates as follows: (1) a May 4-8, 2009 STAR Panel to review the full assessment of Pacific mackerel and Pacific sardine surveys planned for 2009 and (2) a September 21-25, 2009 STAR panel to review the full assessment of Pacific sardine. Both STAR Panels are proposed to occur at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California. There will be no updated assessments for CPS in 2009.

To help guide and coordinate stock assessment authors and reviewers, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is developing a *Terms of Reference for a Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Review Process* (Terms of Reference). At its November 2008 meeting, the Council adopted the recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and directed these groups to revise the Terms of Reference accordingly. The most significant revisions pertain to the completion and review of CPS assessment updates. These revisions were completed by mid-January 2009 when the document (Agenda Item C.1.b, Attachment 1) was posted to the Council web page.

The Terms of Reference were again reviewed by the CPSMT and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) at their February 10-12, 2009 meetings where both groups recommended the document be adopted as final by the Council (Agenda Item C.1.c, CPSMT Report and CPSAS Reports). The SSC will evaluate the Terms of Reference at the March 2009 Council meeting where the Council is scheduled to approve a final version.

The Council may also discuss and provide final guidance on the STAR schedule for 2009, including plans for full assessments of Pacific mackerel and Pacific sardine, as well as a potential review of new survey methodologies.

Council Action:

Adopt Final Terms of Reference for Coastal Pelagic Species STAR Panels and Provide Final Guidance on the 2009 STAR Schedule.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.1.b, Attachment 1: Review Draft Terms of Reference for a Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Review Process (including tracked edits to the document since November 2008, to review the document without tracked edits, visit the Council web site)
2. Agenda Item C.1.b, Supplemental SSC Report.
3. Agenda Item C.1.c, CPSMT Report.
4. Agenda Item C.1.c, CPSAS Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report
 - c. Reports and Comments of Agencies and Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Terms of Reference for Coastal Pelagic Species STAR Panels
- Mike Burner
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PFMC
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