

FINALIZE METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS  
COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE (COP)

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is contemplating a new Council Operating Procedure (COP 25) that formalizes the process and schedule for methodology reviews that inform groundfish management decision-making. In November 2014, the Council adopted a draft COP 25 with changes recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). Attachment 1 is the draft COP 25 with the SSC, GMT, and GAP recommended changes in “track changes” format. The methodology review process in draft COP 25 synchronizes the groundfish methodology review process with the biennial groundfish management process and adds a section on new methodologies proposed for groundfish stock assessments. The focus of COP 25 is on the schedule for groundfish methodology reviews with a goal to complete all methodology reviews before the Council begins the biennial specifications decision-making process in September during odd years. Other details governing the groundfish methodology process, such as the roles and responsibilities of participants and the critical elements of methodology review panel reports are outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Methodology Review Process for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species.

The Council should consider the advice of the Advisory Bodies and the public before adopting COP 25.

**Council Action:**

**Adopt a process and schedule for groundfish methodology reviews as a Council Operating Procedure.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 1: Proposed Draft of Council Operating Procedure 25.

**Agenda Order:**

E.4 Finalize Methodology Review Council Operating Procedures

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- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Groundfish Methodology Review Process COP