

2016 METHODOLOGY REVIEW PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION INCLUDING DATA-LIMITED ASSESSMENT METHODS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Council Operating Procedure (COP) 26 for methodology and data reviews describes a procedure for considering new methodologies related to the assessment and management of coastal pelagic species (CPS) and groundfish. The COP focuses on methodologies that are useful components for stock assessments, but it can be used to consider other methods such as economic analyses and ecosystem-based fishery management.

Two proposals were received by the November Briefing Book deadline. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in partnership with the California Wetfish Producers Association, submitted the Southern California Coastal Pelagic Species Survey (Agenda Item H.4.a, CDFW Report), which describes an aerial survey method for generating a regional biomass estimate. The Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) submitted the acoustic-trawl survey methodology, which has been used coast-wide in recent years, including off Vancouver Island, Canada, and off the Baja Peninsula, Mexico. If the Council approves a review of the proposed methodologies, Council and agency staff will schedule a methodology review panel meeting, with the appropriate Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) representatives, independent experts, and a representative each from the CPS Management Team and the CPS Advisory Subpanel. In some cases, two methodology reviews may be combined into a single review meeting. The methodology review panel(s) will then submit a report for Council consideration.

In addition, the SWFSC will present a white paper on approaches to assessing data-limited CPS stocks. The white paper summarizes approaches used for data-limited groundfish stocks, and explores the possibility of applying those methods to CPS.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider methodology proposals for review.**
- 2. Consider SWFSC white paper on data-poor assessment methods.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.4.a, CDFW Report.
2. Agenda Item H.4.a, SWFSC Report 1.
3. Agenda Item H.4.a, SWFSC Report 2.
4. Agenda Item H.4.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

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| H.4 | 2016 Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection Including
Data-Limited Assessment Methods | Kerry Griffin |
| a. | Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities | |
| b. | Public Comment | |
| c. | Council Action: Consider Methodology Topics for Review and Provide Additional
Guidance as Necessary | |