

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
STOCK PRIORITIZATION FOR WEST COAST GROUND FISH

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) received a joint briefing from Dr. Jim Hastie and Ms. Kristen Blackhart on a new national process for prioritizing fishery stock assessments. The CPSAS thanks National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the years of work that has gone into establishing this process to standardize prioritization of stock assessments.

The CPSAS recognizes there is utility in this new process. However, unlike groundfish, CPS are unique in that only four stocks are included in the fishery management plan (FMP) for assessment, all of which are important both to the ecosystem and to fisheries.

As the Council begins to apply this process, the CPSAS recommends allowing for the application of different weighting criteria to be established for individual FMPs rather than assigning region-specific relative weights. This will allow the Council and advisory bodies to take into consideration the unique features of fisheries under each FMP and prioritize categories accordingly.

PFMC
11/16/15