

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
INITIAL STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR
GROUNDFISH AND COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel has the following recommendations for revising the Terms of Reference (TOR) for Stock Assessments:

The TOR for stock assessments should be revised to provide sufficient flexibility, particularly in update years, to incorporate new findings and data into assessments that more accurately reflect conditions in the ocean.

Adaptive management objectives should work both ways. The Council's current policies make it easy to reduce fishing opportunity, but not to increase it. There is no parallel policy in the current Terms of Reference allowing for new data to be incorporated into assessments in update years or that would allow a fishery to be reopened. Under the current TOR, such actions could not occur until the next full assessment. The inflexibility in the current TOR has the socio-economic effect of curtailing fisheries, and by extension harms the industry and dependent coastal communities.

PFMC
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