

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed Agenda Item F.2.a, CPSMT Report 1 (stock assessment prioritization process), and attended the Scientific and Statistical Committee discussion on the topic. We would appreciate the Council's consideration of the following points:

- The natural biological dynamics of CPS stocks require flexibility to respond to stock fluctuations promptly.
- While it may be possible to develop a ranking matrix (such as Table 2 in F.2.a, CPSMT Report 1) to prioritize individual CPS stocks for assessment, the framework should take into account the seasonal behavior of CPS related to environmental factors.
 - While we appreciate the CPS Management Team's suggestion that any Stock Assessment Prioritization agenda item occur on no less than a biennial timeframe, we also suggest that maximum flexibility be built into this process to allow divergence from the framework as needed or as stock abundance dictates.
 - We support the Management Team's recommendation to convene a meeting of the CPS management team and CPSAS, including fishermen who have daily on-the-ground experience. The CPSAS suggests that this be done each year in November to vet and adjust the framework based in part on fishermen's observations, to decide which stocks should be prioritized for assessment.

After reviewing Table 2, the simplified version of the ranking matrix, we believe while the detail in this matrix might be a helpful first step to suggest priorities, it should be used as an information tool for consideration by advisory bodies and the Council, as opposed to prescriptive guidance.

PFMC
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