

STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

At its November 2018 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) directed the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) to develop a stock assessment prioritization process for CPS finfish stocks which could be used by the Council and Advisory Bodies on a regular basis to provide opportunities for data review and research planning. Currently, the CPS fishery management plan (FMP) uses management categories (Active or Monitored) as a proxy for prioritizing assessments and management measures for CPS stocks. Stocks in the Active category are subject to annual harvest specifications and regular stock assessments. Stocks in the Monitored category are assessed and receive new harvest specifications on an ad hoc basis. In 2018, the Council expressed a desire to review and consider alternative approaches to CPS stock assessment prioritization.

In November 2018, the Council also directed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to review and evaluate the quantity and quality of data available to conduct a stock assessment of the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA). Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1 (Staff Summary Report) contains summary information related to available data, including links to previous reports from Council Advisory Bodies on the topic of a CSNA stock assessment. The SSC and other Advisory Bodies are expected to consider the available data sources and make recommendations regarding the potential utility for an assessment of CSNA.

At this meeting, the Council will consider a stock assessment prioritization process and related issues described in Agenda Item F.2.a, CPSMT Report 1, as well as information that could potentially be used in CSNA stock assessment.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider an assessment prioritization process for CPS stocks.**
- 2. Consider data available for a potential CSNA stock assessment.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1: Staff Summary Report.
2. Agenda Item F.2.a, CPSMT Report 1.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.2 Stock Assessment Prioritization Process Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Consider an Assessment Prioritization Process for Coastal Pelagic Species Stocks and Review the Quality and Quantity of Data to Support an Assessment of the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy