

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) significantly reduced its April 2020 agenda, removing most of the coastal pelagic species (CPS) agenda items that had been previously scheduled. The Council also is considering revising plans for the June 2020 agenda and the upcoming year. Although a number of candidate CPS agenda items for June 2020 are included in the Council's Year-at-a-Glance ([Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1](#)), the proposed June 2020 agenda ([Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 2](#)) does not list any CPS agenda items.

The CPS Management Team (CPSMT) offers the following recommendations and suggestions on CPS agenda topics for the Council's consideration of future meeting agendas and workload planning.

Highest Priority

Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan

The CPSMT recommends this item be included on the June 2020 agenda. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) notified the Council in July 2019 that the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine was declared overfished. The letter noted that under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) the Council must prepare a rebuilding plan so that it can be implemented within 24 months of this notification, i.e., July 2021. To meet that deadline the letter requested that Council actions be submitted to NMFS within 15 months, i.e., October 2020. Therefore, the CPSMT recommends the Council maintain the originally proposed schedule with June as the next meeting to facilitate the goal of final action in September.

Other workload planning items

CPS Essential Fish Habitat Review

Essential fish habitat (EFH) falls under MSA guidelines, and Federal regulatory guidance provides for the review to address a variety of elements, including adverse impacts from fishing and non-fishing activity. Reviews of EFH are to be conducted at least every five years; CPS EFH was last reviewed in 2010. EFH reviews occur in two phases. Phase 1 reviews for new information. If the Council determines no changes are warranted based on the findings during Phase 1, the EFH review is concluded; otherwise it proceeds to Phase 2. The CPSMT suggests that the Council reschedule EFH scoping for June to initiate a review process. The scoping document would propose a timeline for the review.

Revisions to Management Categories in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

In June 2019 the Council asked for a CPS FMP amendment that removes the Active and Monitored management categories ([Council Meeting Record, June 2019](#), see Motion 4 under Agenda Item F.4 on page 26). Scoping was tentatively scheduled for the June 2020 meeting but is not currently on the draft June agenda. The CPSMT has made progress on potential revisions to the CPS FMP. Given current events, priorities, and workload, the CPSMT recommends the Council could resume this initiative in November 2020.

Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (CSNA)

The Council has requested a model-based stock assessment for CSNA be conducted in 2021 (June 2019 Agenda Item F.2). In November 2019, after receiving information on the simulation framework for monitoring and management of CSNA developed at the October 2019 joint meeting (November 2019 Agenda Item D.4, [Supplemental Presentation 1](#) and [Attachment 1](#)), the Council requested the CPSMT report back in April 2020 on a timeline required for the CPSMT to evaluate the framework. To that end, the CPSMT has determined that we can provide a report on the CSNA flowchart/framework for Council consideration in April 2021.

Council Operating Procedure 26 on Methodology and Data review process

In November 2019 the CPSMT recommended that the Council consider minor modifications to Council Operating Procedure 26 to make the Council agenda more streamlined, flexible, and efficient. The Council agreed and asked the CPSMT to bring suggested revisions at a future meeting. The CPSMT had intended to present those to the Council at this meeting under Agenda Item I.3, which was canceled. The CPSMT recommends consideration of these revisions at a future meeting, once the Council returns to normal operations and clears the backlog of items needing more immediate attention.

Sardine management

The CPSMT recognizes numerous topics regarding sardine management have been raised. These topics and relevant new information could be reviewed by the Council's CPS advisory bodies to provide guidance at a future Council meeting as to the need and potential pathways for further consideration.

PFMC

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