

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) has had to significantly reduce agendas, removing coastal pelagic species (CPS) agenda items that had been previously scheduled. 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.

Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan

Currently the Council is scheduled to take final action on the Pacific sardine rebuilding plan at the September 2020 meeting. As stated in the CPSMT report (Agenda Item G.1. Supplemental CPSMT Report 2), a mid-July meeting between the CPSMT and the CPS subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is needed to complete and review the rebuilding tool and analysis to ensure complete documentation and analysis for the Council to make a robust and informed decision. The advanced briefing book deadline for the September Council meeting could be as early as August 10th. Providing time to work on recommendations from the SSC and the Council from this June meeting and then have materials prepared for the September Council meeting makes the timing of a joint CPSMT and SSC meeting extremely difficult and likely leaves one week in mid-July as the optimal timing.

Other workload planning items

Stock Assessment Prioritization

At its June 2019 meeting, the Council adopted a CPS biennial stock assessment prioritization (SAP) process to occur at its November meeting starting in 2020 (Council Meeting Record, June 2019, see Motion under Agenda Item F.2 on page 21). This initial SAP will inform stock assessment priorities beginning in 2022. This does not appear on the Council's current Year-at-a-Glance ([C.5. attachment 1](#)) and the CPSMT recommends this be added to the November 2020 agenda.

CPS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review

As noted in the April 2020 CPSMT report on future agenda and workload planning (Agenda Item I.4.a, April 2020), 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 and if the Council determines no changes are warranted based on the findings, the EFH review is concluded, otherwise it proceeds to Phase 2. The Phase 1 report is tentatively scheduled to be presented at the November 2020 PFMC meeting.

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 this meeting. Given current events, priorities, and workload, the CPSMT recommends the Council puts this initiative on the Year-at-a-Glance for the April or June 2021 meeting.

Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (CSNA)

In November 2019, the Council reviewed a report on the simulation flowchart/framework for the monitoring and management of CSNA (Agenda Item D.4, Supplemental Presentation 1 and Attachment 1, November 2019). As the CPSMT noted in its April 2020 workload statement (Agenda Item I.4.a, CPSMT Supplemental Report 1), we anticipate being able to complete work on the framework/flowchart and provide a report for Council consideration in April 2021.

The CPSMT anticipates a team meeting in advance of the November Council meeting to work on the items listed above.

PFMC
06/15/20