

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE STOCK
ASSESSMENT PLAN AND TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) – FINAL ACTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the Terms of Reference (TOR) for groundfish and CPS stock assessment review process. A number of revisions to the draft were suggested prior to the June Council meeting, and those have already been incorporated (Agenda Item F.2, [Attachment 3](#)).

However, the CPSMT notes an additional change to the draft TOR document should be made before it is finalized and adopted. The central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA) assessment listed in Appendix A (p. 36) is incorrectly listed as a catch-only projection review. It should be listed as a review of a full benchmark assessment in 2021 as per the Council's request (June 2019 Agenda Item F.2).

The CPSMT discussed the TOR document in its current form that combines groundfish and CPS, and notes that there are numerous differences between groundfish and CPS assessments and their review processes. Although the revised document has been improved, it is still cumbersome because reviews for both groundfish assessments and CPS assessments are included. The document is groundfish centric and lacks clear delineation of items that apply only to groundfish versus CPS assessments, and this makes its use more difficult for assessors, stock assessment review (STAR) panels, advisory bodies, and all others involved.

The CPSMT recommends that the Council consider separating the TOR for CPS and groundfish assessments and reviews for the following reasons:

- Separate TOR for CPS and groundfish assessments would avoid coordination problems that have plagued the revision process.
- The TOR would be taken up as agenda items under the appropriate fishery management plan (FMP) eliminating confusion and coordination issues.
- Separate TOR for CPS and groundfish assessments will make for less cumbersome documents that would be shorter, less confusing and more streamlined specifically to the assessment review process for each FMP.
- A CPS-specific assessment TOR document would not necessarily need to be revised every two years like the groundfish TOR document.

The CPSMT thanks the TOR authors for their diligent work and consideration of the CPSMT's suggestions and appreciates the Council's consideration of these recommendations.