

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 Council Year-at-a-Glance Summary (Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1) and Proposed Meeting Agenda for November (Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 2) currently list some important CPS topics as shaded, meaning they are candidates for rescheduling, and they do not list other important CPS topics previously identified by the Council.

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.

CPS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review

As noted in the June 2020 CPSMT report on future agenda and workload planning (Agenda Item C.5.a, June 2020) 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, with final action scheduled for April 2021. The Southwest Fisheries Science Center has an analyst under contract effective October 1, 2020 to conduct the Phase 1 literature review and associated tasks, and work cannot begin in earnest prior to this date. Therefore, the CPSMT recommends the Council shift the Phase 1 review report to April 2021, with subsequent scheduling dependent on the Council's determination of moving forward with Phase 2.

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) and again in June (Agenda Item C.5.a Supplemental CPSMT Report 1), we anticipate being able to complete work on the framework/flowchart and provide a report for Council consideration in April 2021. However, this is not currently listed on the Council's preliminary Year-at-a-Glance (YAG) document. If the Council wishes to proceed with this initiative, the CPSMT recommends the Council provide direction on potential timing. The CPSMT and others have put substantial effort into this initiative, which has received very positive feedback from all constituents. The CPSMT thinks this initiative has great merit and recommends that it be put back on to the YAG document for workload planning for April 2021 or possibly later. It would be helpful for the CPSMT to have guidance on its workload over the winter and spring.

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 June 2020, but was subsequently rescheduled for later. Currently this topic is scheduled for April 2021, but is shaded for potential rescheduling. If the Council chooses not to pursue consideration of the CSNA framework listed above in the near-term, the CPSMT suggests this topic (FMP revisions) be scheduled for either April 2021 or some subsequent meeting. If the Council does choose to pursue the CSNA framework the CPSMT recommends the FMP revisions be considered June 2021 or some subsequent meeting. This timing could allow the CPSMT to incorporate the CSNA framework into the draft revised FMP.

PFMC
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