

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE CENTRAL SUBPOPULATION OF NORTHERN ANCHOVY

At its April 2019 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) considered a white paper ([Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 2, April 2019](#)) on the management and assessment of the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA). The Council requested further information on the frequency for revisiting overfishing limits, and for alternatives for accountability measures linked to stock status. A meeting to accomplish these objectives was held October 3-4, 2019 at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) with representatives of the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel present, as well as members of the public.

A joint meeting report ([Agenda Item D.4, Attachment 1, November 2019](#)) was presented at the November 2019 Council meeting, and the Council directed the CPSMT to continue developing a framework and proposed flowchart to guide decisions on the frequency of revisiting management reference points for CSNA. The CPSMT was to report back to the Council at the April 2020 meeting and recommend a schedule for further consideration of the draft framework. This plan was sidelined due to the pandemic, and the CPSMT has since revived the effort at the Council's request.

CSNA is classified as a Monitored stock under the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan (CPS FMP), meaning it is not subject to annual management measures and the CPSMT is responsible for evaluating available data, catches, and other relevant information, to determine whether harvest management reference points should be revisited. The last stock assessment used for CSNA management purposes was completed in 1995. Although several biomass estimates have been generated since then, the combination of limited data and lack of approved assessment methodologies has impeded a full model-based assessment that could potentially be used for management. There has been significant interest in developing a model-based assessment, which is scheduled to be completed in late 2021 by the SWFSC.

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider a management framework that would apply certain triggers and mechanisms to determine when the CSNA stock should be assessed and whether harvest management measures or reference points should be revised. Revisions could be based on the results of a new stock assessment, on fishery attainment, or on changes in the biomass estimate. The Council should consider the proposed management framework and flowchart, and provide further direction as appropriate.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider the Proposed Management Framework and Flowchart.**
- 2. Provide further Guidance.**

Reference Materials:

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

Agenda Order:

- H.3 Management Framework for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review the Proposed Management Framework and Flowchart and Provide Guidance

PFMC
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