

## STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIZATION

In June 2019, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted a biennial stock assessment prioritization process for use in 2020 to inform stock assessment priorities beginning in 2022. This biennial process was designed to guide stock assessment priorities, survey design, and the long-term integrity and value of abundance indices while providing sufficient flexibility to allow for revisions in the intervening year based on new information. Due to lack of Council floor time amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the expectation of what assessments were already underway for 2022, the Council chose to skip the first scheduled stock assessment prioritization item in November 2020. Therefore, this item will be the first time that the Council undergoes this process for use in assessments in 2024 and 2025.

Table 1 below shows the three coastal pelagic species (CPS) that have been assessed and their most recent assessment (type and date) and proposed assessment (type and date) based on the schedule outlined in Council Operating Procedure 9 (COP 9) for Pacific mackerel and the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA). Pacific sardine was initially proposed for a benchmark in 2023; however, it was recommended to be delayed until the completion of the proposed sardine workshops.

**Table 1. CPS stock assessments- previous and proposed assessment type and date**

Species	Last Assessment/Type	Proposed Assessment/Type
Pacific sardine	March 2022- Update	March 2024 Benchmark- pending results of stock structure workshop
Pacific mackerel	May 2021- Update	May 2023- Benchmark May 2025- Update
CSNA	December 2021- Benchmark	Check in 2024 (Use COP 9 framework)

The Council could also choose to set priorities for more than just two years ahead, therefore providing as much advance notice as possible, but ultimately retains the opportunity to re-evaluate and adjust them as necessary when this item is scheduled to come before the Council in 2024.

**Council Action:**

**Adopt Stock Assessment Priorities and Provide Other Guidance, as Appropriate.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.5 Stock Assessment Prioritization Jessi Doerpinghaus
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. Council Action: Adopt Stock Assessment Priorities and Provide Other Guidance, as Appropriate

PFMC  
10/05/22