

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIZATION

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the Situation Summary document provided for Agenda Item I.5, Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Stock Assessment Prioritization. Jessi Doerpinghaus (Council Staff) raised the question of how to establish harvest specifications for Pacific sardine for the 2023-2024 fishing year in the absence of a new assessment and was present to answer questions.

The SSC supports the schedule in [Table 1](#) of the Situation Summary. If no stock assessment is performed for Pacific sardine in 2023, the SSC will consider any new information provided at the April 2023 meeting, along with the results of the update assessment endorsed in 2022. Rolling over the overfishing limit (OFL) from the 2022 [update assessment](#) is one option. Any new information, along with the time since the last [full assessment](#) (2020), will be considered in determining the appropriate maximum sustainable yield exploitation rate (E_{MSY}) and OFL, and in setting sigma to reflect the current level of uncertainty.

PFMC
11/04/22