Scientific and Statistical Committee's Coastal Pelagic Species Subcommittee
Report on Accepted Practices Guidelines for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Online Meeting

September 22, 2023

A meeting of the Coastal Pelagic Species Subcommittee (CPSSC) of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) was held online on September 22nd to develop recommendations on the content of the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Stock Assessments in 2024 for CPS stock assessment scientists. Members of the stock assessment team from the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California were present to discuss draft proposed language provided by them in collaboration with the CPSSC Chair Dr. Andre Punt (University of Washington), which was reviewed and commented on remotely by members of the CPSSC prior to the meeting.

The participants reviewed the draft document during the online meeting, including sections on data and modeling to resolve suggested edits and comments from the CPSSC. No major points of disagreement were identified, and revisions were made to the draft language to achieve consensus on the content of the accepted practices document. The full SSC will review the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments in 2024 as recommended by the CPSSC at the November 2023 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting. The updated version of this document will be posted on the Pacific Council's website shortly after the November Council meeting.

There was a noteworthy discussion regarding the basis for the internal estimate of uncertainty to compare against the default sigma that is pertinent to both groundfish and CPS stock assessments. In some cases, assessments internally estimate uncertainty in the overfishing limit, while others use biomass in the terminal year. In addition, some assessments compare the uncertainty based on the coefficient of variation to the default sigma, even though the log scale standard deviation is only approximately equal to the arithmetic-scale coefficient of variation. The basis for sigma calculations and comparisons should be consistent in units and scale, and clear documentation should be provided. Language that addresses this concern is provided in the revised CPS Accepted Practices Guidelines document. Similar language should also be added to the groundfish stock assessment Accepted Practices Guidelines document.