



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Brad Pettinger, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 22, 2024

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel and Interested Persons

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2024 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in person April 5 – 11, 2024, in Seattle, Washington. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) will meet in person on April 8. The Council is scheduled to take up CPS matters on April 9. Major topics for discussion at this meeting are below. For more detailed information, please refer to the situation summaries in the Briefing Book materials.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report (I.1)

NMFS will provide a regulatory update and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) will provide an update on science center activities.

2024-25 Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) - Final Action (I.2)

Two notices of intent for exempted fishing permit activities were submitted at the November 2023 meeting, both designed to support stock survey work. Both are for ongoing EFP activities. If approved by the Council, the proponents will submit their applications to NMFS.

Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for 2024-25 – Final Action (I.3)

A stock assessment review (STAR) panel was convened in February 2024 to review a benchmark assessment for Pacific sardine. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the draft assessment and STAR panel report during their April 5 online meeting and provide recommendations on the assessment, overfishing limit, and sigma. The CPSAS and CPSMT should be prepared to make recommendations on a P*, EFP allowances (as determined under I.2), and incidental and live bait harvest allowances for the 2024 – 2025 fishing year. If the 1+ biomass is above 50,000 mt, the incidental landings limit for sardine in other CPS fisheries would be set between 0 – 45 percent. The CPSMT and CPSAS should be prepared to make recommendations for Council consideration.

Council Operations and Priorities (G.2)

The Council's Committee of the Whole (COTW) met in January 2024 to consider ways to discuss finances and workload. One recommendation from the COTW is that the Council's Executive Director develop recommendations regarding restructuring and reorganizing the Council process to address concerns related to finances, workload, and effective decision making. If the Council concurs with the COTW recommendation, Council staff would plan to create a two-meeting process to consider the Executive Director recommendations, with initial consideration in June and final decisions in September or November. In the event the Council considers changes to the composition of term-limited Advisory Body positions (Scientific and Statistical Committee at-large positions; Habitat Committee tribal, industry, conservation, and at-large positions; and all Advisory Subpanel positions), such changes would be coordinated with the scheduled review for the 2025-2027 term (see [Council Operating Procedure 9, Schedule 6](#)) which begins in June 2024. The proposed timeline and process is recommended to facilitate focused review and comment on proposals by the Council, Advisory Bodies, and the public.

The CPSMT and CPSAS should attend a [briefing](#) on this subject on March 29, 3 p.m. (or watch the recording), consider the initial COTW report, and make recommendations to the Council, as appropriate. Otherwise, this can be considered an informational item with more concrete proposals forwarded for consideration at the June Council meeting.

Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (CSNA) Flowchart Evaluation

[Council Operating Procedure 9](#), Schedule 3, describes the management cycle for CSNA. A benchmark stock assessment is conducted every eight years unless a trigger is met. The assessment results provide the mean long term biomass estimate used to establish a new overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch (ABC). At two-year intervals both the short-term three-year mean biomass estimate from survey results and catch attainment will be examined. If the short-term biomass is less than or equal to 60 percent of current ABC, the ABC would be reduced for the next two fishing years. If catch has exceeded 90 percent of the ABC for two years, the Council would evaluate the need for a new stock assessment. The CPSMT will review these values to determine if the triggers have been met and will report to the Council under Agenda Item G.4 if the triggers are met.

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Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.3 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item G – Administrative
4. Agenda Item I – Coastal Pelagic Species
5. CPSMT Agenda
6. CPSAS Agenda

7. Informational Reports
8. General Information and Council Roster

PFMC
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