

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed workload planning and has the following updates to its March 2024 statement under this agenda item.

The SSC Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee will review and update Terms of Reference (TOR) for the CPS Stock Assessment Review Process and the Accepted Practices Guidelines for CPS stock assessments on April 17, 2024, during a virtual meeting.

The SSC proposes the SSC Groundfish and Economics Subcommittees hold a meeting to discuss methods for the state/federal catch proportion analysis (recreational, commercial, and surveys) in summer of 2024, prior to application of these methods in the Phase 2 groundfish stock definition analyses. This meeting would require participation from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). Scheduling is subject to when the analysis and analysts are available. The SSC requests guidance on the optimal timing of this review and the scope of the review to inform Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) decisions. The SSC suggests that this could be a virtual meeting.

The SSC proposes holding a Groundfish Methodology Review to consider the use of the Fourier Transformed Near-Infrared Spectrophotometry (FT-NIRS) method for estimating groundfish ages to be utilized in future stock assessments in late summer 2024 at a time and place to be determined. The SSC suggests that this could be a virtual meeting.

The SSC Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee proposes a virtual meeting on August 5, 2024 to review further development of risk tables for groundfish and their applications in support of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4 to report to the Council at the September 2024 Council meeting. Anticipated participants include members of the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) and the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS). The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will also be invited.

The Council Coordination Committee's (CCC) Scientific Coordination Subcommittee meeting (SCS8) will be hosted by the New England Fishery Management Council and will be held during the week of August 26, 2024 in Boston, MA. Four members of the PFMC SSC, with at least one who is an economist, and one Council staff member are expected to attend.

The SSC Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee proposes a virtual meeting in Fall 2024 to review krill indicators in the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team's Ecosystem Status Report, as supported by the Council in March 2024. This topic and the risk tables topic were originally envisioned to be reviewed together but the presenters for the krill topic are not available in August.

The SSC proposes that the full SSC hold a meeting to discuss Phase 2 Stock Definition analyses as an extra day added at the beginning of the September SSC meeting in Spokane. The SSC notes that a full or half- day may be necessary if three major elements of Phase 2 are all available for review at that time (as suggested by [Agenda Item E.8 Attachment 2](#) in November of 2023). These

include 1) literature review on all remaining undefined groundfish species, 2) updated Productivity and Susceptibility Analysis, and 3) Federal/state waters catch proportion analysis. If only one or two of the analyses to support these decisions are requiring review in September, a full day may not be necessary.

The SSC proposes the SSC Salmon Subcommittee hold a Salmon Methodology Review with participation from the Salmon Technical Team (STT), and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) in the first week of October 2024, pending selection of final topics and completion of materials, at a time and place to be determined. If the Council finalizes a list of topics at the September meeting, the review would need to take place the first week of October to meet the November Advanced Briefing Book deadline. Thus, a short time frame exists between the September Council meeting and the Methodology Review.

The SSC proposes the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee hold a virtual meeting to discuss and prepare the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments in 2025 and 2026 document in the late fall of 2024 to prepare the final draft document for the Council Agenda Item scheduled for March 2025.

The SSC proposes the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee hold a meeting to discuss “Approaches to Deal with Large Closed Areas and Other Spatial Issues in Stock Assessments” in 2024 at a time and place to be determined, with participation from the GMT and the GAP, and subject to analysis being completed and ready for review.

The SSC proposes holding a workshop in 2024 on use of remotely operated vehicle (ROV) data in stock assessments to facilitate inclusion in future groundfish assessments, dependent on proponents readiness and the provision of additional information to review by CDFW. This includes review of abundance estimates for quillback rockfish and consideration of methods for integration of results in future stock assessments.

The SSC had previously proposed holding a Workshop to Develop Alternative Harvest Control Rules for Pacific Spiny Dogfish in 2024, particularly if Pacific spiny dogfish or another elasmobranch species is included in the stock assessment prioritization for 2025 assessments. Given the Council’s March 2024 motion regarding the preliminary list of species for assessment in 2025, this workshop could be postponed. However, the preliminary list of species for potential assessment in 2027 does include Pacific spiny dogfish, and therefore the SSC notes this workshop would require that an analysis be developed and available to review.

The Year-at-a-Glance summary (Agenda Item G.4 Attachment 1) currently indicates the Research and Data Needs topic is scheduled for preliminary action during the September 2024 Council meeting with final action during the November 2024 Council meeting. The SSC is supportive of moving preliminary action for this topic to the November 2024 Council meeting with final action during the March 2025 Council meeting, based on anticipated SSC workload.

Proposed Workshops and SSC Subcommittee Meetings for 2024 and Beyond

Italic items are noted as potential or preliminary

Shaded rows indicate newly added items since the prior statement

Workshop/Meeting		Potential Dates	Sponsor/ Tentative Location	SSC Reps.	Additional Reviewers	AB Reps.	Council Staff
1	CPS Stock assessment TOR and Accepted Practices	April 17, 2024	Council/Virtual	CPS Subcommittee Members	NA	CPSMST CPSAS Advisors	Doerpinghaus
2	Meeting to Discuss Methods for the State/Federal Catch Proportion Analysis (Recreational, Commercial, Surveys)	Summer 2024 TBD	Council/Virtual	Groundfish/ Economics Subcommittee Members	NA	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
3	Groundfish Methodology Review of FT-NIRS Method for Estimating Fish Ages Utilized in Stock Assessments	Summer 2024 TBD	NWFSC/Virtual	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	CARE	NA	Bellman
4	Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Subcommittee Review of Risk tables	August 5, 2024	Council/Virtual	EBM Subcommittee	NA	EWG EAS	Bellman
5	CCC Scientific Coordination Subcommittee Meeting (SCS8)	August 26-29, 2024	NEFMC/ Boston, MA	SSC members TBD	NA	NA	Bellman
6	Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Subcommittee Review of Krill indicators	Fall 2024 TBD	Council/Virtual	EBM Subcommittee	NA	EWG EAS	Bellman
7	Review Phase 2 Stock Definition Analysis	Extra SSC added to September SSC meeting	Council/Spokane	Full SSC	NA	NA	Bellman
8	Salmon Methodology Review	First week of October 2024 TBD	Council/TBD	Salmon Subcommittee	NA	STT MEW	Bellman/Ehlke

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9	Groundfish Stock Assessment Accepted Practices Guidelines for 2025-2026	Fall 2024	Council/Virtual	Groundfish Subcommittee	NA	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
10	<i>Approaches to Deal with Large Closed Areas and Other Spatial Issues in Stock Assessments</i>	<i>By End of 2024 TBD</i>	<i>Council/TBD</i>	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee Members</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>GMT GAP Advisors</i>	<i>Bellman</i>
11	<i>Use of ROV Data in Stock Assessments Workshop</i>	<i>By End of 2024 TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee Members</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>Bellman</i>
12	<i>Proposed Workshop to Develop Alternative Harvest Control Rules for Spiny Dogfish</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee Members</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>GMT GAP Advisors</i>	<i>Bellman</i>

PFMC
04/10/24