

## STOCK ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ACCEPTED PRACTICES - FINAL ACTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met on April 17, 2024 to review the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Accepted Practices Guidelines for CPS Stock Assessments and propose changes. Members of the CPS Advisory Subpanel and Management Team as well as members of the Pacific sardine stock assessment team also participated in this meeting and offered recommendations. Attachments 1 and 3 are the track changes drafts showing the modifications for consideration by the full SSC, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), and its advisory bodies. Attachments 2 and 4 are provided as clean copies for reference with all proposed edits accepted. At this meeting, the Council should consider any additional edits and adopt the CPS TOR and Accepted Practices documents as final for use in the 2025-26 stock assessments.

The major changes in the updated version of the (TOR) relative to the 2023 TOR include 1) highlighting the role of the STAR Panel Chair to ensure professional conduct for participants in STAR Panels and other reviews, 2) including bridging analyses in stock assessment reports, 3) allowing the removal of datasets from update assessments with sufficient justification, and 4) clarifying the timelines for submission of validated data.

The Council should also consider how often the documents should be reviewed and revised. Currently, the TOR and Accepted Practices are on a biennial cycle based on the fact the documents were previously merged with groundfish stock assessment TOR and Accepted Practices. However, given the differences between groundfish and CPS, less frequent reviews and revisions may be appropriate.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt Final Stock Assessment Terms of Reference and Accepted Guidelines.**
- 2. Provide guidance relative to timing of future review and revisions.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments for 2025-2026 (Track Changes).
2. Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 2: Draft Terms of Reference for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments for 2025-2026 (Clean).
3. Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 3: Accepted Practices Guidelines for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments in 2025 (Track Changes).
4. Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 4: Accepted Practices Guidelines for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments in 2025 (Clean).
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.1 Stock Assessment Terms of Reference and Accepted Practices - Final Action Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt the Stock Assessment Terms of Reference and Accepted Practices, Provide Guidance on Future Reviews

PFMC  
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