

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) recommends that the Council replace its CPS science needs and priorities agenda item with a CPS management needs agenda item. We believe this change of focus will aid the Council in addressing a pressing management need in the Pacific sardine stock off the West Coast. Specifically, the revised agenda item could be used to initiate consideration of potential revisions to Pacific sardine management, with the intention of including all sardine off the West Coast under the Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Currently, only the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine is subject to management under the FMP, leaving some sardines unmanaged. The CPSAS notes that the current Pacific sardine habitat model excludes much of the sardines off California from the northern subpopulation. With this proposed agenda item, we ask the Council to consider the development of a comprehensive management plan (i.e., inclusive of all sardine found in US waters) based on the latest and best scientific information available concerning stock structure, dynamics, and distribution. Recent scientific research may inform a holistic, feasible, and practicable management structure that incorporates sardine populations currently excluded from management, thereby improving the FMP.

PFMC
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