

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 June 2024 statement under this agenda item.

The SSC plans to conduct a Groundfish Methodology Review to consider the use of the Fourier Transformed Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-NIRS) method for estimating groundfish ages to be utilized in future stock assessments on October 1 and 2, 2024, with half day morning meetings in a virtual format.

The Council adopted two topics, 1) derivation of proxy  $S_{MSY}/S_{MSP}$  ratio and  $F_{MSY}$  value suitable for use for Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) and 2) SRFC cohort reconstruction and comparison to the Sacramento Index (SI), for methodology review at the September 2024 meeting. The SSC Salmon Subcommittee will hold a Salmon Methodology Review with participation from the Salmon Technical Team (STT) on October 4, 2024, in a virtual meeting format. This review date will allow for a completed post-meeting report that meets the November Advanced Briefing Book deadline.

The SSC Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee plans to hold a virtual meeting November 5, 2024 to review forage indicators in the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team's Ecosystem Status Report, as supported by the Council in March 2024.

The SSC proposes the Groundfish Subcommittee hold a meeting to discuss and prepare the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments in 2025 and 2026 document in December 2024 or early 2025 to prepare the final draft document for the Council Agenda Item scheduled for March 2025. The SSC had also previously proposed an additional workshop in 2024 on use of remotely operated vehicle (ROV) data in stock assessments, to facilitate potential inclusion in future groundfish assessments. Based on guidance of ongoing progress on this effort from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the SSC recommends that discussion of improvements to the ROV database and data products be incorporated into the Accepted Practices Guidelines meeting. Similarly, rather than hold a separate workshop on "Approaches to Deal with Large Closed Areas," the Accepted Practices Guidelines meeting could include discussion of an ongoing literature review of methods addressing large area closures within stock assessments. This meeting should also include discussion of additional guidance on the inclusion of risk tables in 2025 groundfish stock assessment reports. To provide adequate time to address this suite of topics, a two-day in-person/hybrid meeting would be preferred.

The SSC proposes the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee conduct a review of the new Southwest Fisheries Science Center/Northwest Fisheries Science Center integrated survey in late 2025 in order to identify any issues or any additional analyses to be conducted prior to the use of the results from the survey in CPS stock assessments.

**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*

<b>Workshop/Meeting</b>		<b>Potential Dates</b>	<b>Sponsor/ Tentative Location</b>	<b>SSC Reps.</b>	<b>Additional Reviewers</b>	<b>AB Reps.</b>	<b>Council Staff</b>
<b>1</b>	Groundfish Methodology Review of FT-NIRS Method for Estimating Fish Ages Utilized in Stock Assessments	October 1 and 2, 2024	NWFSC/Virtual	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	CARE O. Shelton	NA	Bellman
<b>2</b>	Salmon Methodology Review	October 4, 2024	Council/Virtual	Salmon Subcommittee	NA	STT	Bellman/ Forristall
<b>3</b>	Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Subcommittee Review of forage indicators	November 5, 2024	Council/Virtual	EBM Subcommittee	NA	EWG EAS	Bellman
<b>4</b>	Groundfish Stock Assessment Accepted Practices Guidelines for 2025-2026, including topics: ROV data in stock assessments and approaches to deal with large closed areas	December 2024 or January 2025	Council/Hybrid	Groundfish Subcommittee	NA	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
<b>5</b>	<i>SWFSC/NWFSC Integrated Survey</i>	<i>Late 2025</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>CPS Subcommittee Members</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>CPSMT CPSAS</i>	<i>Bellman/ Bernaus</i>