



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Brad Pettinger, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2024

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

FROM: Katrina Bernaus, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: November 2024 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in person November 14-18, 2024, in Costa Mesa, California. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) will meet in person November 16-17. The Council is scheduled to take up CPS matters on November 18. 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 (J.1)

NMFS will provide a regulatory update.

Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan Fishery Management Plan Amendment- Final (J.2)

In September 2024, NMFS asked the Council to schedule an item to consider changes to the Pacific sardine rebuilding plan due to a U.S. District Court Order. At this meeting, the Council will consider adoption of a revised Pacific sardine rebuilding plan and potentially adopting a new T_{target} . Attachment 1 provides a revised rebuilding plan, including an analysis of alternatives for the Council and its advisory bodies to consider. The CPSMT and CPSAS should make a recommendation to the Council on a final preferred alternative and associated T_{target} and provide guidance on proposed edits to the CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (Attachment 2).

Stock Assessment Prioritization (J.3)

Under this agenda item, the Council will be recommending stock assessment and other related priorities for the 2026-2027 biennium. Attachment 1 provides considerations from Council and NMFS staff on the proposed schedule of CPS stock assessments and survey methodology reviews for the advisory bodies and Council to consider. The CPSMT and CPSAS should consider this attachment and make any recommendations.

Marine Planning (D.2)

The Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online October 9 to consider updates from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the states, NMFS, and a tribal update. The MPC also heard presentations from the NMFS WCR/NWFSC on Socioeconomic Characterization of West Coast Fisheries in Relation to Offshore Wind Energy Development as well as a presentation from the West Coast Ocean Alliance on cumulative impacts and data gaps. MPC Report 1 summarizes these topics. The CPSAS and the CPSMT should provide supplemental reports if there is relevant information missing from the MPC Report, or if additional clarification is needed. This agenda item will also include a CDFW report that provides information on the California Marine Protected Areas petition process to consider proposed changes to California's MPA system.

Research and Data Needs (D.3)

Under this Agenda Item, the Council is scheduled to adopt top science and management challenges to guide the research and data needs prioritization process. These challenges can be thought of as a "high-level" challenge or category that may stretch across more than one FMP and for which multiple types of research activities could be pursued. This is the initial step in the framework to review and update the Council's research and data needs (Attachment 2). In April 2025, the Council is scheduled to adopt a list of preliminary research and data needs associated with the top science and management challenges identified at this meeting. The preliminary list would be considered, refined and a final list is scheduled to be adopted at the June 2025 Council meeting.

To initiate discussion on this matter, Council staff have compiled an initial draft of categorical topics and challenges that stretch across various FMPs and for which the Council has, at one time or another, expressed a collective interest (Attachment 1). The Council is encouraged to keep the challenge categories to ten or less. The CPSMT and CPSAS should review this as a starting point and provide feedback and recommendations on top CPS science and/or management challenges from their perspective.

Council Operations and Priorities (D.4)

In June 2024, the Council provided guidance and set benchmarks to improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, enhance public participation, and strengthen decision-making processes. At the November meeting, staff will present an update on the progress made in implementing these recommendations.

Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures – Including Final 2025-27 Advisory Body Appointments (C.5)

During this agenda item, the Council will discuss forming an ad hoc committee to help draft a comment letter on the expected proposed rule to revise National Standard Guidelines 4, 8, and 9 which cover allocation, communities, and bycatch ([Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making, May 2023](#); [Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1, September 2023](#); [Council Comment Letter October 2023](#)). The proposed ad hoc committee would be comprised of members from existing Council Advisory Bodies, similar to the Marine Planning Committee. The CPSMT and CPSAS should review the proposed approach (Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 2) and situation

summary, provide feedback, and recommend individuals to serve on the proposed ad hoc committee.

Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning (C.6)

In addition to routine consideration of future meeting agendas, the CPSMT and CPSAS should discuss the proposed scope of the Science Needs and Priorities agenda item scheduled for April 2025 and provide guidance to the Council.

KNB:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.3 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item D – Cross-FMP
4. Agenda Item C – Administrative
5. Agenda Item J – Coastal Pelagic Species
6. CPSMT Agenda
7. CPSAS Agenda
8. Informational Reports
9. General Information and Council Roster

PFMC

10/21/24