

SUPPLEMENTAL COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIZATION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel's (CPSAS) top priority is adjusting the Pacific sardine stock assessment to include all sardines on the West Coast, rather than solely the Northern subpopulation (see our statement on workload planning). This should be prioritized over assessments of all other CPS species absent any new urgency. However, the CPSAS supports the schedule outlined by the Scientific and Statistical Committee for 2026-2027 to complete a methodology review for the Integrated Survey in 2026, a benchmark for Pacific sardine and an update for Pacific mackerel assessment in 2027.

The CPSAS believes that a full benchmark assessment of Pacific mackerel is a low priority and that the Pacific Fishery Management Council should consider a different process for assessing Pacific mackerel (such as the schedule for the central subpopulation of northern anchovy).

While the Pacific sardine remains the CPSAS's top priority, there could be benefits for future considerations of assessment for the northern stock of northern anchovy or other CPS stocks.

PFMC
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