

## FINAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES

This agenda item covers final assessment methodologies for the 2025 and 2026 groundfish stock assessment cycle. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will provide the revised Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments document, which details the SSC-recommended best practices for conducting groundfish stock assessments in 2025 and 2026. The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee produced a draft of the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments in 2025 and 2026 document (Agenda Item H.4.a, SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Report 1), as well as a summary report from their December 2-3, 2024 meeting (Agenda Item H.4.a, SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Report 2).

This document is intended to supplement the Pacific Fishery Management Council's [Terms of Reference](#) (TOR) for the Groundfish Stock Assessment Review Process and provide groundfish stock assessment teams (STATs) with default approaches to consider when dealing with certain stock assessment data and modeling issues. The STATs may diverge from the guidelines, and should provide adequate justification for doing so, prior to stock assessment review (STAR) panel or other review body meetings. These guidelines are not intended to provide a comprehensive treatment of all potential issues, which are too numerous to list. Rather the guidelines focus on a limited number of issues that the SSC has so far considered. The purpose of having these guidelines is to lessen the time that might otherwise be spent during stock assessment reviews in discussions about how particular steps in the assessment process should have been conducted. The guidelines are subject to change as the SSC evaluates additional data sources and modeling approaches in the future.

### **Council Action:**

**1. Review and approve SSC recommendations regarding Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments in 2025 and 2026; as appropriate.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.4.a, SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Report 1: Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments in 2025 and 2026.
2. Agenda Item H.4.a, SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Report 2: Groundfish Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments Meeting.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

- H.4 Final Assessment Methodologies Marlene A. Bellman
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Review and Approve Accepted Practices Guidelines, as Appropriate