

SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Over the past several years the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS), the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), and Council Staff have identified various science and management topics for the CPS fishery. Since April 2023, the Council has considered scheduling an agenda item to discuss these topics and to prioritize them. In November 2024, under workload planning, the Council discussed the scope for this agenda item, scheduling “Science and Management Priorities” for April 2025. Based on recommendations from the CPSMT and CPSAS, the Council indicated its intention that this agenda item focus on Pacific sardine topics including stock structure, E_{MSY}, and the sardine distribution parameter as top priorities, while also acknowledging that other topics should be retained to provide a comprehensive view of science and management objectives for the fishery.

Council staff have developed a white paper (Attachment 1) summarizing science and management topics for the CPS fishery. This paper puts forth a list of potential topics that the Council should consider revising, adopting, and utilizing as appropriate at this meeting and over time. This list includes the Pacific sardine topics previously recommended as priorities by the CPSAS and CPSMT (Supplemental CPSAS and CPSMT Reports, Agenda Item C.6, November 2024).

The Council should prioritize items from this list. Scheduling efforts to address these priorities would then be taken up under the Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning agenda item (H.3). In addition to these priorities, the paper proposes a ‘Science and Management’ process which, if adopted, would require an update to Council Operating Procedures (COPs). This proposed process would create a biannual schedule for the Council to specify and adjust science and management priorities.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Review, revise, and adopt the list of Science and Management topics.**
- 2. Recommend near-term priorities for scheduling under Agenda Item H.3 and provide guidance on their sequence.**
- 3. Review the proposed Science and Management Priorities process, including considerations for proposed changes to COPs, and provide guidance as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 1: Science and Management Priorities Discussion Paper.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

G.5 Science and Management Priorities

Katrina Bernaus

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Review the List of Science and Management Topics; Consider Overall Workload and Provide Guidance on Priorities, Sequence, and Process

PFMC

03/26/25