

## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

At the November 2024 Council meeting, the Council requested that Council staff compose a white paper on the state of science and management on topics related to coastal pelagic species. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) statements identified the stock structure of Pacific sardine as a key management priority.

### **Pacific Sardine Stock Structure**

Given interest from industry, recent literature reviews, ongoing investigation into the population structure of Pacific sardine, and the presence of Japanese sardine, NMFS would support a future agenda item of limited scope to discuss the definition of the management unit for Pacific sardine.

### **Stock Assessment Review**

NMFS supports ongoing discussion about the assessment schedules for sardine and Pacific mackerel, considering resources available.

### **Other CPS Topics**

At this time, the descriptions of these additional CPS items do not demonstrate an immediate management need. Some items may warrant additional research, and, if a need is then demonstrated, should follow the above topics in order of priority, considering also NMFS' existing workload. Prioritization of CPS topics other than Pacific sardine stock structure and stock assessment review would require additional discussion about workload tradeoffs associated with those priorities.