

# Overview of Stock Assessment PFMC Processes

Pacific Fishery Management Council

Spokane, Washington

June 13, 2026

# Council Tasks

## Part I: Saturday, June 13

- Review Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Report, advisory body reports, and public comments

## Part II: Sunday, June 14

- Discuss proposed revisions to the stock assessment process and Terms of Reference.
- Provide guidance, taking into account Council and Center capacity, on updates to the stock assessment process:
  - Establish priorities for the 2027 stock assessment process taking into account staff resources and timelines.
  - Identify items of interest for the Term of Reference discussion under Agenda Item E.7.
  - Provide guidance regarding the development of a Council Operating Procedure for the Stock Assessment Process.
  - Provide guidance on long-term priorities.

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# Background

- Groundfish stock assessment is thorough
- Concerns about larger workloads with limited capacity and short timelines
- Increased dissatisfaction voiced from stakeholders

## Question:

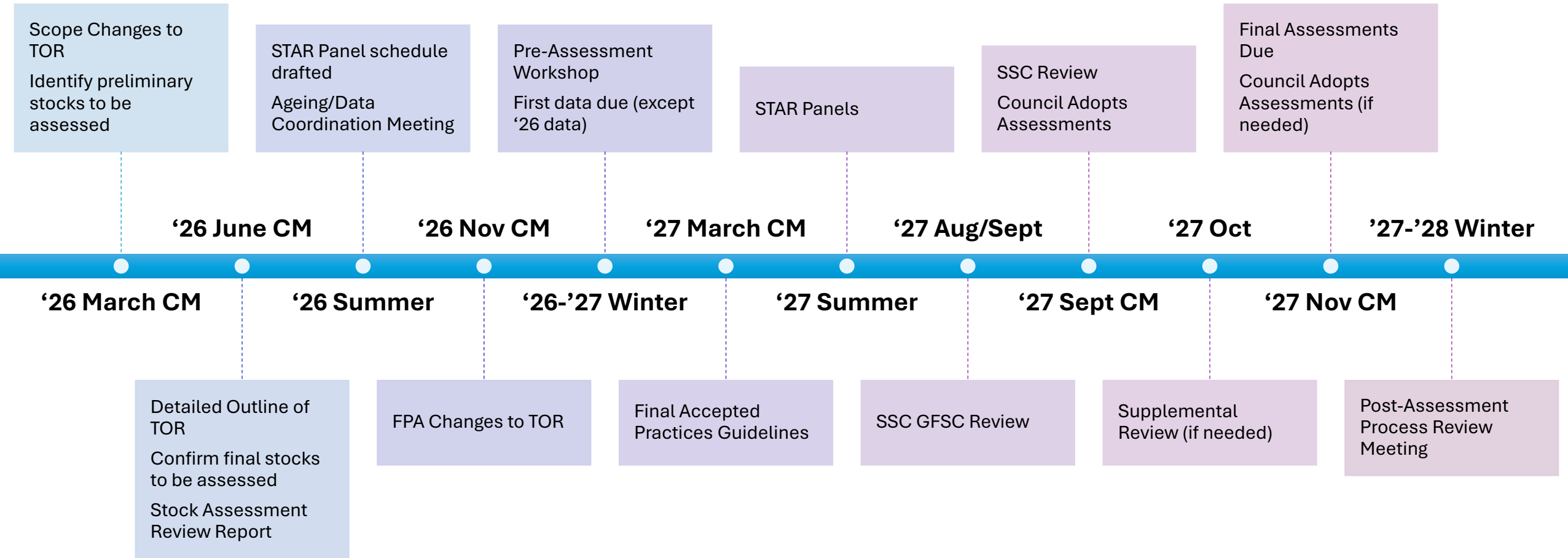
- How can we adapt the process to increase trust in the future?

# Factors of Trust in Fishery Management

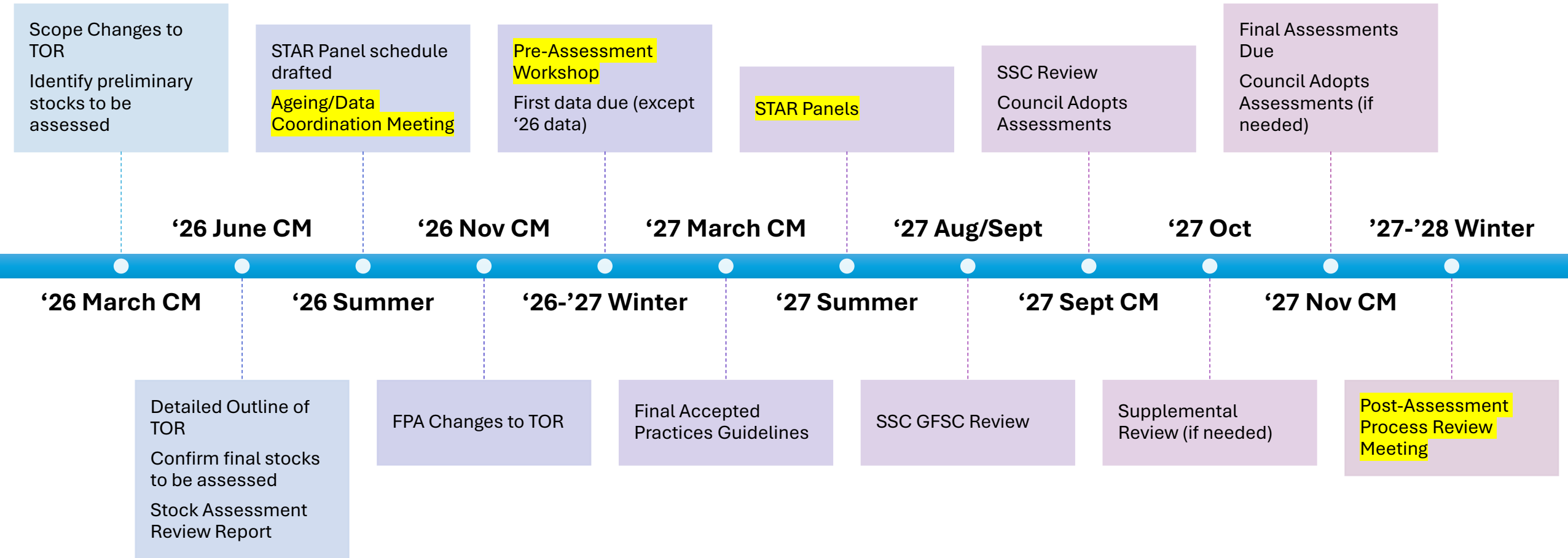
Competence, Care, Honesty/openness

Communicate early and often (continuous communication)

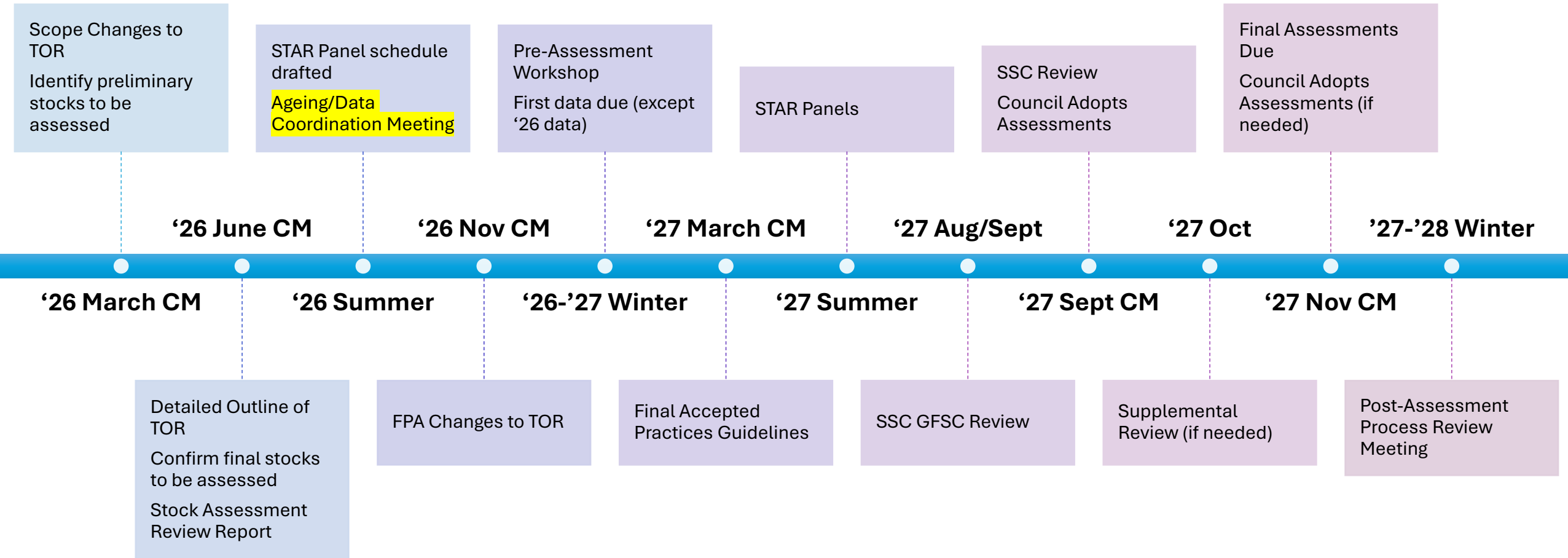
# Current Stock Assessment Process



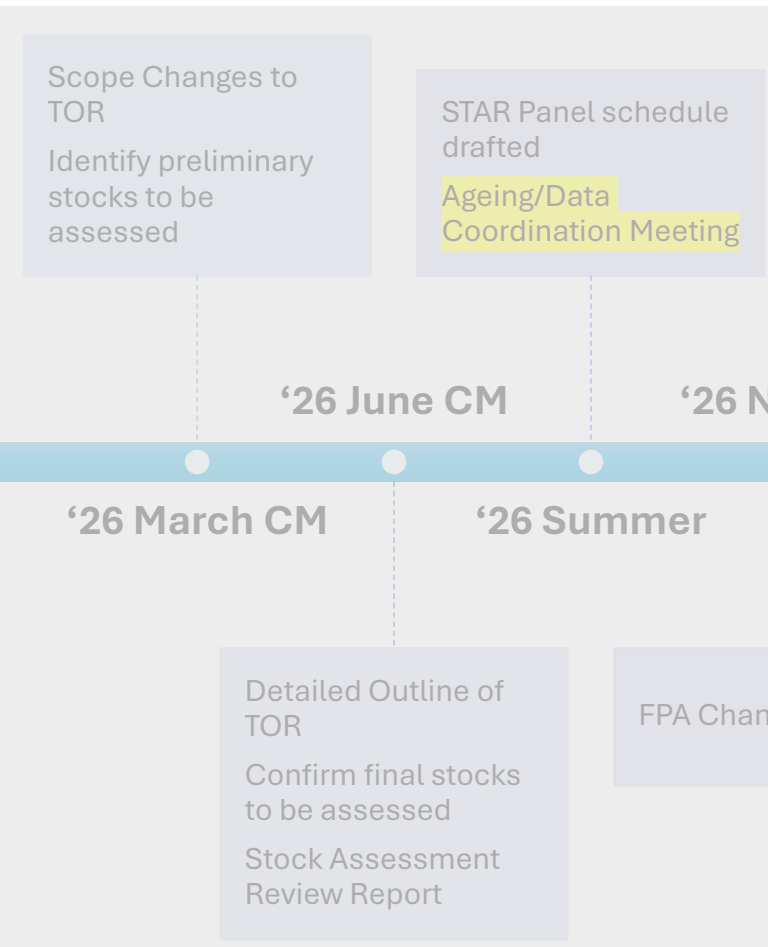
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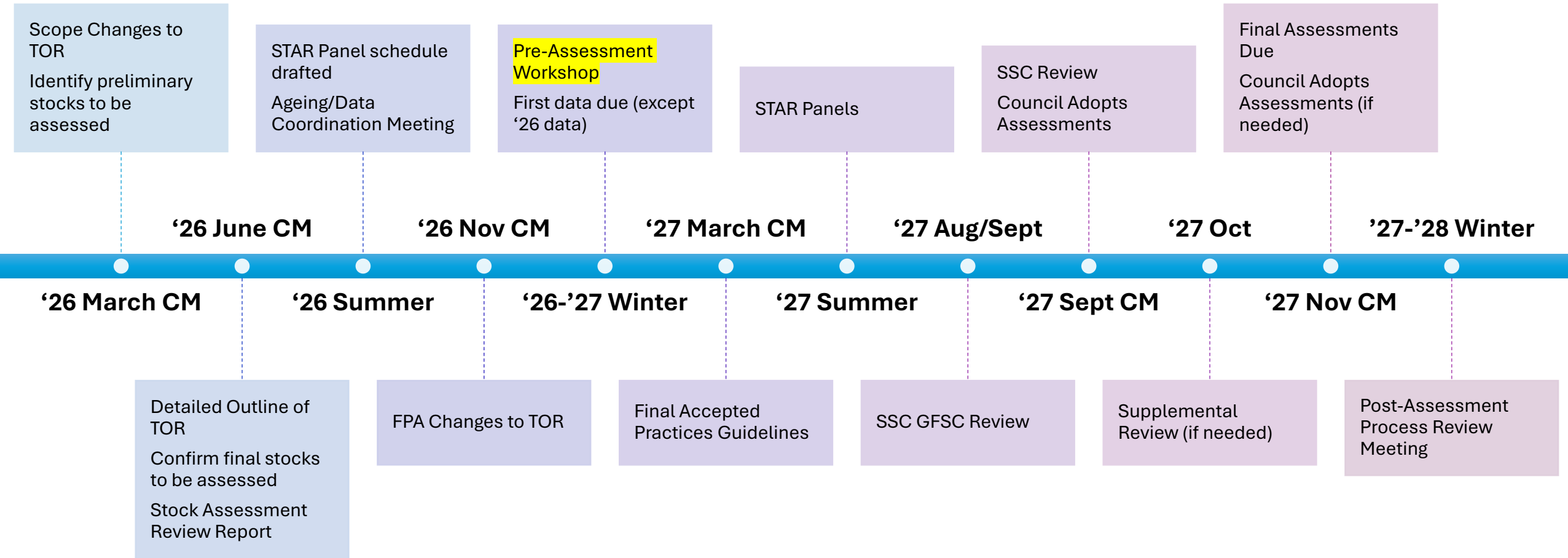


## Ageing/Data Coordination Meeting

- Federal and state agency scientists
- Discuss ageing data availability since the last assessment
- Discuss current ageing work and data available for upcoming cycle



# Current Stock Assessment Process



# Current Stock Assessment Process

## Pre-Assessment Workshop

- Review and evaluate proposed data sources for each stock assessment
- Discuss planned modeling approaches
- Solicit input from data stewards, stakeholders, and resource managers

Scope Changes to TOR  
Identify preliminary stocks to be assessed

STAR Panel schedule drafted  
Ageing/Data Coordination Meeting

Pre-Assessment Workshop  
First data due (except '26 data)

'26 June CM

'26 Nov CM

'27 Ma

'26 March CM

'26 Summer

'26-'27 Winter

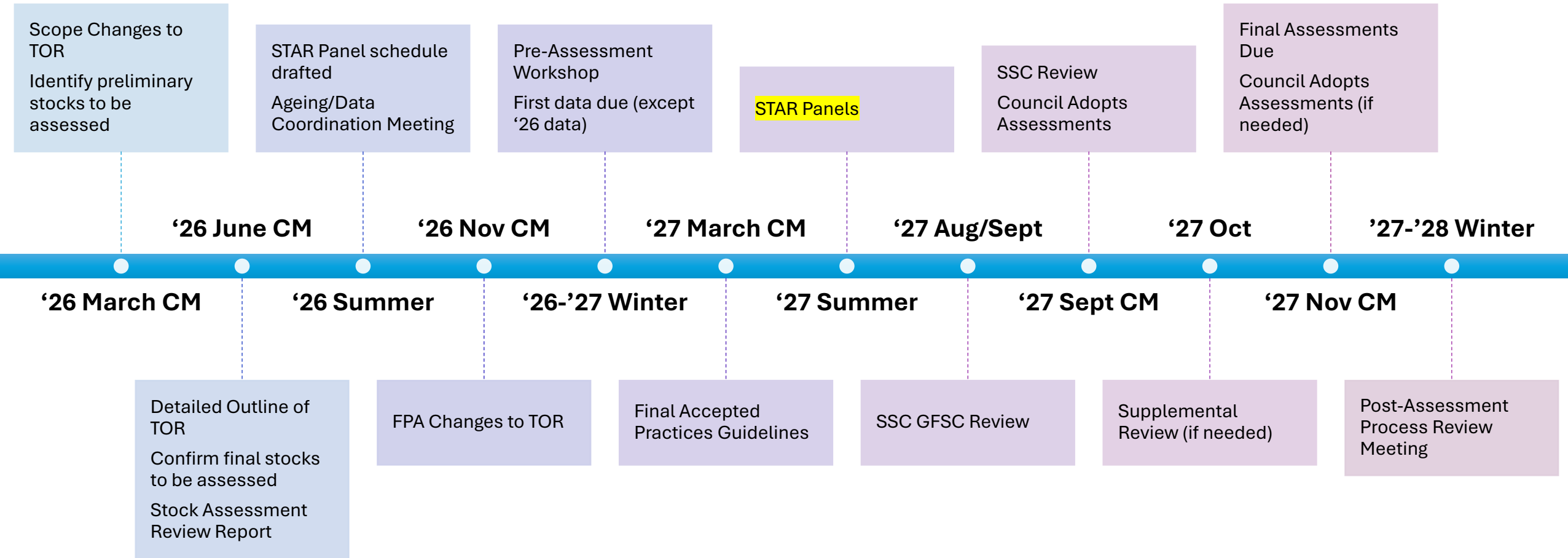
Detailed Outline of TOR  
Confirm final stocks to be assessed  
Stock Assessment Review Report

FPA Changes to TOR

Final Acceptance Practices C



# Current Stock Assessment Process



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Scope Changes to TOR  
Identify preliminary stocks to be assessed

STAR Panel schedule drafted  
Ageing/Data Coordination Meeting

Pre-Assessment Workshop  
First data due (except '26 data)

STAR Panels

SSC Review  
Council Adopts Assessments

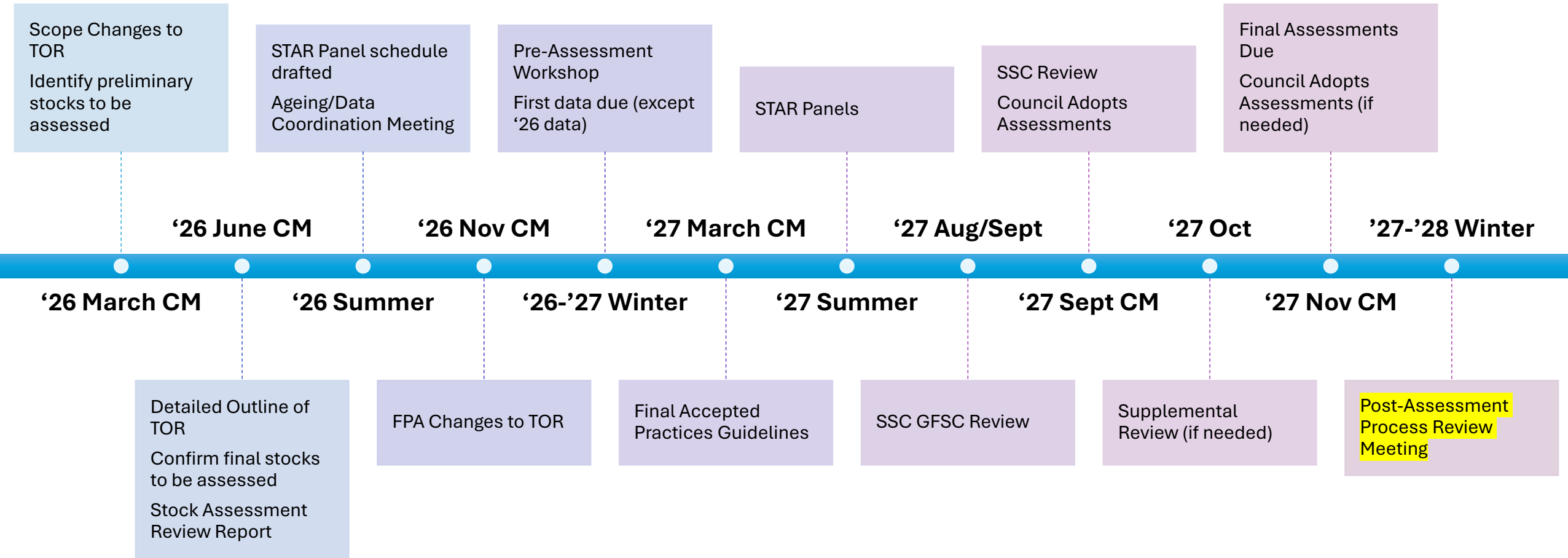
Final Assessments Due  
Council Adopts Assessments (if needed)

## STAR Panels

- Review draft stock assessment documents, data inputs, and analytical model, and other relevant information
- Review technical merits and deficiencies of data and analytical methods
- Work with STAT to improve assessment where possible



# Current Stock Assessment Process



# Current Stock Assessment Process

## Post-Assessment Process Review Meeting

- Review how stock assessment process worked in this cycle
- Discuss improvements that could be made for the next cycle
- Work with NOAA to improve assessment process where possible

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'27-'28 Winter

/CM

Post-Assessment  
Process Review  
Meeting



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Transparency, Communication, Stakeholder Engagement,  
Assessment Process Cadence, Feedback for Continuous  
Improvement

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# End of Part 1

