

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON FUTURE MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed workload planning and has the following updates to its June 2026 statement under this agenda item.

Sacramento River Fall Chinook SMSY peer review occurred August 19-20, 2026 in Sacramento, California with hybrid access for virtual participation with a follow-up webinar September 11, 2026. The SSC (Jason Schaffler) participated in an advisory capacity. A final follow-up meeting is scheduled as a webinar on October 1, 2026.

The Ecosystem and Economics subcommittees will hold a one day webinar on September 29, 2026 to review future topics for the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Ecosystem Status Report.

The Groundfish and Economics subcommittees will hold a methodology review for fishery-dependent and eDNA-based indices of abundance in Seattle, WA on October 6-8, 2026. This methodology review will be chaired by Cheryl Barnes and Jason Schaffler. The SSC requests participation by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP).

An update assessment for the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine is scheduled for early 2027 (likely online). An update assessment for Pacific mackerel is scheduled for early 2027 as an online meeting.

The SSC anticipates that the groundfish subcommittee (GFSC) will conduct pre-assessment workshops for all stocks to be assessed in 2027 as benchmarks or updates. These workshops will take place via webinar in later winter or early spring of 2027 and be co-facilitated by STAR panel chairs and stock assessment teams (STATs). The SSC requests participation by the GAP and GMT.

The SSC recommends that the GFSC hold a virtual meeting to revise the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments document for the 2027-2028 cycle. This meeting would be virtual and include participations by stock assessors, GMT, GAP, and other participants in the stock assessment process.

Finally, the SSC workload has increased markedly over the past year. In the past, SSC meetings were normally two days and were predictably scheduled to start the day before Council meets. In 2026, the SSC has already had three meetings longer than two days and the proposed agenda for November is approximately 2.5 days. This has resulted in some members missing the additional meeting days, because they had only blocked out the expected day before and first day of Council for the SSC meeting. If this increased workload is the new normal, it may boost SSC participation on the additional meeting day and ease planning for Council staff if the potential date(s) for an additional day of SSC meeting are shared well in advance.

Proposed Workshops and SSC Subcommittee Meetings for 2026 and Beyond

Italic items are noted as potential or preliminary

Shaded rows indicate newly added items since the prior statement

Workshop/Meeting	Potential Dates	Tentative Location	SSC Reps.	Additional Reviewers	AB Reps.	Council Staff
Sacramento River Fall Chinook Peer Review	October 1, 2026	Virtual	Schaffler	Buehrens, Copeland, Garrison, Hamazaki, Liermann, Lindley, Rumsey	SSC STT SAS	Angela Forristall
Ecosystem Status Report Science Topics Review (2026 topics)	September 29, 2026	Virtual	Ecosystem and Economics Subcommittees	TBD	EWG EAS	Gilly Lyons
Groundfish Methodology Review - Standardization of fishery-dependent indices, midwater rockfishes	October 6-8, 2026; Occurs 1st: (6th-7th)	Seattle	Groundfish and Economics Subcommittees	CIE	GMT GAP	Diana Perry
Groundfish Methodology Review - eDNA index of abundance for use in groundfish stock assessments	October 6-8, 2026; Occurs 2nd: (7th-8th)	Seattle	Groundfish Subcommittee	CIE	GMT GAP	Diana Perry
Accepted Practices Guidelines for GF Stock Assessments (2027-28)	December 2026	Online	GFSC	NA	GMT GAP	Diana Perry
Sardine stock assessment (update)	February 2027	Online (Council/TBD)	CPS Subcommittee	TBD	CPSMT CPSAS	Katrina Bernaus
Pacific mackerel stock assessment (update)	February 2027	Online	CPS Subcommittee	TBD	CPSMT CPSAS	Katrina Bernaus
Groundfish pre-assessment workshops (benchmark and update assessments)	Winter 2027	Online	GFSC	TBD	GMT GAP	Diana Perry
Special Project #2: Community Resilience Decision Tool Review	Spring 2027	Online	Economics Subcommittee	NA	GMT GAP	Gilly Lyons

PFMC
9/20/26