



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Pete Hassemer, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 24, 2025

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel and Interested Persons

FROM: Katrina Bernaus, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: November 2025 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in person November 13-19, 2025, in Costa Mesa, California. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) will meet in person November 16-17. The Council is scheduled to take up CPS matters on November 17. Major topics for discussion at this meeting are below. For more detailed information, please refer to the situation summaries in the Briefing Book materials.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report (J.1)

NMFS will provide a regulatory update.

Methodology Review (J.2)

When new stock survey or data methodologies are developed for potential inclusion in Council products, the Council provides a process for peer review and evaluation. Upon approval by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the methodology can then be included in stock assessments or other Council products. The Council will consider the Southwest Fisheries Science Center's proposal (Agenda Item J.2.a, NMFS Report 1) as well as recommendations from the SSC and other Council advisory bodies, providing guidance to schedule the review, adopting the review-specific Terms of Reference (TOR), and providing any other relevant considerations. The CPSMT and CPSAS should provide recommendations for the Council to consider in scheduling a potential methodology review and the draft TOR for this review (Agenda Item J.2, Attachment 1).

Pacific Sardine Stock Definitions (J.3)

The Council has determined it is appropriate to reevaluate the fishery management unit (FMU) in the CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP), particularly the stock definition of sardine. The Council will need to consider two sequential questions in their review of the FMU defined in the CPS FMP under this action: (1) Which species of sardine should be included in the FMU? and (2) How should stocks of those species be identified and delineated? In other words, how should the FMU be

revised to cover the population and population dynamics of Pacific sardine in U.S. waters and second, should the Council consider adding Japanese sardine to the FMU, now that it is in U.S. waters. Attachment 1 covers the framework and supporting information for the Council to make this determination and align stock definitions with new information.

The CPSAS and CPSMT should make a recommendation to the Council on adopting a purpose and need for this action, adopting a range of alternatives, and adopting a preliminary preferred alternative.

Marine Planning (D.3)

The Council's Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online October 31, 2025, primarily to consider the recently issued [Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement](#) (FEIS) on the establishment of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) in the Southern California Bight (SCB). There are 10 defined geographic areas that have been evaluated to determine their potential suitability for commercial aquaculture. Maps, shapefiles, and additional information can be found on the Southern California AOA [webpage](#). No applications for commercial development have been publicly issued at the time of the advanced Briefing Book, although a [notice of intent](#) to develop commercial scale kelp aquaculture at site N2-D in Federal waters off Ventura was submitted at the end of 2024. The CPSAS and CPSMT should generally discuss and consider potential impacts to commercial and recreational fishing, habitat and ecosystems, navigation and transit, and other impacts (positive or negative) as appropriate. Although there is no comment period open currently, the MPC will be prepared to work with the Habitat Committee on developing comments for Council consideration, should a public notice of commercial development be issued.

Council Operations and Priorities (D.4)

At this meeting, the Council will receive an update on the progress to date implementing the Council recommendations to improve Council operations (Supplemental Attachment 1). These recommendations are intended to address the Council's ongoing budget constraints, staff and advisor workload concerns, and the need to address these challenges while maintaining and enhancing the Council's decision-making process. Advisory Subpanels will be given a set of discussion questions to facilitate their response.

Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning (C.6)

The CPSAS and CPSMT should consider future meeting agendas.

KNB:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.3 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item D – Cross-FMP

4. Agenda Item C – Administrative Matters
5. Agenda Item J – Coastal Pelagic Species Management
6. CPSMT Agenda
7. CPSAS Agenda
8. Informational Reports
9. General Information and Council Roster

PFMC

10/23/25