

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON COUNCIL
OPERATIONS AND PRIORITIES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) considered the [Agenda Item D.4 Revised Supplemental Attachment 2](#) on Council guidance for scheduling Fishery Management and Ecosystem Plan (FMP/FEP) actions.

The proposed FMP/FEP schedule intended for implementation in 2026 and beyond in Table 1 of Attachment 2 to drop the June meeting does not meet the needs of CPS management.

Pacific Mackerel

A Pacific mackerel benchmark stock assessment is scheduled for June once every 4 years ([Schedule 3, COP 9](#)). The proposed change would move these assessments to April. We question the feasibility of conducting two benchmark stock assessments for the April meeting in years when a Pacific sardine benchmark assessment is also scheduled. Consultation on workload capacity from the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, West Coast Regional Office, and the Science and Statistical Committee may be necessary. One near-term option would be having the flexibility to schedule a June meeting for Pacific mackerel during years when two CPS benchmark assessments are scheduled in April. A long-term solution would be to develop a framework for managing Pacific mackerel, similar to the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA; Figure 1 in COP 9), thereby reducing the workload needed for Pacific mackerel.

Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy

If the June meeting does not include CPS moving forward, the CPSMT recommends that the Council have flexibility in scheduling a June meeting every 2 years if an action is triggered in the CSNA framework.