

METHODOLOGY REVIEW

When new stock survey or data methodologies are developed for potential inclusion in Pacific Fishery Management Council (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.

For coastal pelagic species (CPS), the joint CPS and groundfish Terms of Reference (TOR) for methodology reviews describe the review process, including the preliminary stage of determining which methodologies should be considered for a formal review. Typically, the proponents of a methodology bring a preliminary proposal to the Council at the November meeting (also described in Council Operating Procedure 26), and upon approval by the Council, the methodology review meeting is then scheduled for some time during the following year. The joint TOR provides overarching guidance for the methodology review process, but an individual TOR may also be adopted for use in guiding each specific methodology review.

In 2025, the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) integrated their CPS survey with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's Joint U.S.-Canada Integrated Ecosystem and Pacific Hake Survey, resulting in an Integrated West Coast Pelagics Survey (a.k.a. "Integrated Survey"). The Integrated survey maintains the methods and gear as was previously used on the CPS Survey except for a new Multi-Function Trawl (MFT) Net. The SWFSC has proposed a review of this net change, tentatively planned for February 23-27, 2026. Therefore, at this meeting, the Council is being asked to provide guidance on approving and scheduling this formal review of the net change in the acoustic-trawl survey for use in future coastal pelagic species stock assessments.

The Council will consider the SWFSC's proposal (Agenda Item J.2 NMFS Report 1) as well as recommendations from the SSC and other Council advisory bodies, providing guidance to schedule the review, and providing any other relevant considerations regarding the review. At this meeting, the Council will also consider the draft TOR specific to the proposed review (Agenda Item J.2 Attachment 1), provide any edits or recommendations, and approve it for use in guiding the proposed methodology review.

Council Tasks

- 1. Consider proposal for a formal methodology review of the Integrated Survey for 2026 and provide guidance on approving and scheduling a review.**
- 2. Consider and approve the proposed review's draft Terms of Reference.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.2, Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference for Review of Net Change in Acoustic-Trawl Method Survey.
2. Agenda Item J.2.a, NMFS Report 1: Proposal for Methodology Review of Net Change in the Acoustic-Trawl Method Survey.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- J.2 Methodology Review Katrina Bernaus
- a. NMFS Report
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on Methodology Review and Adopt Terms of Reference, as Appropriate

PFMC

10/17/2025