

STOCK ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE – PRELIMINARY PREFERRED
ALTERNATIVE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Stock Assessment Review Process. Katrina Bernaus (Council Staff) provided details on these topics. The major changes to the current version of the TOR (last updated in 2024) include 1) re-organization to reflect national guidance and to align with the Council's groundfish stock assessment TOR, 2) clarity for different assessment types, 3) removal of outdated requirements, and 4) improvements to facilitate better coordination between the stock assessment team, Council staff, and the SSC's CPS subcommittee. Most of the edits were similar to concurrent revisions to the groundfish TOR. Some small typographical errors, omissions, and other minor corrections were identified and will be rectified by Council staff. The SSC recommends adopting the revised TOR with these minor changes.

Minor corrections include two items in *Section 5.2.3*:

- "where: σ_{final} is the larger of $\sigma_{category}$ or σ_{model} ..." - this should state " σ_{base} " rather than " σ_{final} "
- "*The baseline uncertainty (σ_{base}), is defined as the larger of: the category-specific default value ($\sigma_{category}$); defined in Appendix D; ...*" - this is confusing, since the categories, rather than the sigmas, are defined in Appendix D. Remove the phrase "*defined in Appendix D;*".

PFGC
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