

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STOCK ASSESSMENT AND METHODOLOGY REVIEW PANELS

Full assessments for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel typically occur every third year, although since 2007 they have occurred on a two-year cycle. Full assessments trigger the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process. If entirely new, structurally changed or significantly revised assessments are developed in a full assessment, a STAR Panel must be convened to review the assessment prior to its use for setting harvest guidelines. Full stock assessment reports are developed and distributed following each STAR Panel review. Updated assessments are conducted during interim years and involve a less formal review process. Full assessments for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel are planned for 2011.

In addition, there are new surveys that have been proposed for inclusion in the next full assessment of Pacific sardine, including acoustic data from the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) coastwide surveys conducted during 2006, 2008, and 2010. New sources of information warrant a methodology review to discuss potential improvements in the survey designs and ways the data could be treated for inclusion in the 2011 full assessments.

To guide and coordinate stock assessment authors and reviewers, two draft documents were developed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), with review by Council staff and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT). These are 1) the draft (revised from the 2009 version) *Terms of Reference for a Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Review Process* (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1); and 2) the draft *Terms of Reference for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Methodology Review* (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 2).

The Council considered these two draft documents at its September 2010 meeting, including comments by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), CPSMT, and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS). The Council directed staff to make changes to the TORs where there was agreement, and to work together at the November Council meeting to reconcile any remaining points of disagreement. Agenda Items I.3.a Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 incorporate Council direction from September 2010. Remaining points of disagreement are anticipated to be resolved, and will be reflected in supplemental statements by the SSC and the CPSMT.

The Council also directed staff to compile a list of proposed methods for review, based on suggestions from CPS advisory bodies, management entities, the SSC, and any interested parties; and submit those for consideration by the SSC for final approval at the November Council meeting. Four proposals were submitted (Agenda Item I.3.c, public comment), although two of the proposals (to use satellite imagery in conjunction with aerial photos and point sets) should be considered as a single proposal. The methodologies to be considered are 1) use of satellite imagery, 2) acoustic trawl surveys, and 3) LIDAR coupled with aerial photography.

Council Action:

1. Approve the Terms of Reference for Stock Assessment and Methodology Review Panels.

2. Approve CPS Stock Survey Methods to be Considered by the Methodology Review Panel.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.3.a, Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference for a Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Review Process.
2. Agenda Item I.3.a, Attachment 2: Draft Terms of Reference for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Methodology Review.
3. Agenda Item I.3.b, Supplemental SSC Report.
4. Agenda Item I.3.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
5. Agenda Item I.3.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview **Kerry Griffin**
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve the Final Terms of Reference for Stock Assessment and Methodology Review Panels

PFMC
10/18/10