



## D1 Stock Prioritization

October 2022 Council Meeting

### Action Memo

Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram  
Other Presenters: Chris Lunsford, AFSC  
Action Required: Review NMFS recommendations on stock prioritization

### Background

In February 2017, NMFS and the Council developed an approach for applying the National Stock Assessment Prioritization Plan in the North Pacific. The national plan envisions a common approach for all regions to determine how often their stock assessments would be conducted. Under the approach, assessments for some stocks with consistently low catches relative to harvest limits, and no ongoing management concerns, were reduced in frequency such that formerly annual assessments were switched to a longer (2-4 year) cycle. At the time, the Council defined success for the amended assessment frequencies as providing “an increased opportunity for stock assessment authors to address analytical priorities [...] while avoiding any significant decrease in the precision of assessment-based products such as OFL and ABC.”

As part of the February 2017 discussion, the Council requested a review be conducted after one complete cycle of the revised assessment frequencies. At this meeting, NMFS AFSC staff will provide an update on the stock assessment process, along with additional recommendations to continue to improve efficiency while maintaining the ability to meet the need for timely and high-quality assessments. Specifically, NMFS will:

- 1) provide a status report on the Council/AFSC process of presenting and reviewing stock assessments for use in management advice;
- 2) provide an overview of the 2017 prioritization process and current status;
- 3) inform the Council of some improvements AFSC is making to their stock assessment process and products that are provided for management advice; and
- 4) propose a suite of additional stocks to be considered for reduced frequency in addition to those originally chosen following the 2017 stock assessment prioritization exercise.

With respect to item (4), the NMFS recommendations for additional frequency changes for some stocks beginning in 2023, the SSC and Council may choose either to endorse those recommendations at this meeting, or request additional analysis or information from the agency to inform such a discussion at a future meeting.