

PACIFIC SARDINE STOCK ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2006

Per the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan (FMP) annual cycle, the Council is scheduled to review the Pacific sardine stock assessment and adopt a recommendation to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for a harvest guideline (HG) for the 2006 Pacific sardine fishing season. The current HG (which expires December 31, 2005) is 136,175 mt. The results of the most recent stock assessment, as presented to the CPS Advisory Bodies in October 2005, indicate a 2006 HG recommendation of 118,937 mt. The stock assessment document was not available for the briefing book. The Executive Summary of the 2005 Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment will be presented in the supplemental materials (Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 1).

In June 2005, the Council approved a new long term allocation formula for Pacific sardine. Under this new allocation framework, the Pacific sardine HG is allocated seasonally in the following manner:

- (1) January 1, 35% of the HG to be allocated coastwide;
- (2) July 1, 40% of the HG, plus any portion not harvested from the initial allocation, to be reallocated coastwide; and
- (3) September 15, the remaining 25% of the HG, plus any portion not harvested from earlier allocations, to be reallocated coastwide.

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) have reviewed the assessment and the recommended HG and provided statements to be presented under Agenda Item D.1.c. The Scientific and Statistical Committee is scheduled to review the assessment at the November meeting and will present their advice to the Council in a supplemental report.

Council Action:

Adopt Pacific Sardine HG for 2006.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 1: 2005 Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment Executive Summary.
2. Agenda Item D.1.c, CPSAS Report.
3. Agenda Item D.1.c, CPSMT Report.
4. Agenda Item D.1.c, Supplemental SSC Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Agency and Tribal Comments
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Pacific Sardine HG for 2006

Mike Burner

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
SARDINE ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met October 6, 2005 in La Jolla, California. At the meeting, the CPSAS heard a presentation from Dr. Kevin Hill reviewing the preliminary results from the Pacific sardine stock assessment utilizing the Age-Structured Assessment Program (ASAP) model. The report included the recommended preliminary harvest guideline (HG) of 118,937 mt for the 2006 fishery. The CPSAS unanimously agrees the stock assessment represents the best available science at this time. The CPSAS supports the recommended preliminary HG, which is based on the harvest formula, defined in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, the CPSAS voiced unanimous and strong concern that research on Pacific Northwest (PNW) sardine has not been adequately incorporated in the model to date. Furthermore, additional research is needed to evaluate the migration rates, spawning contribution, and relationship of PNW sardine to the spawning biomass as a whole.

The CPSAS is encouraged about plans for a synoptic surveys of the sardine resource in April 2006. The CPSAS recommends that data collected during research surveys in the PNW be analyzed and included in the assessment model for the next year's stock assessment. The CPSAS recommends further that a spotter pilot program similar to the California program be included in the PNW in future years. The PNW industry has offered to collaborate to implement this program.

The CPSAS recommends the Council encourage National Marine Fisheries Service to continue to fund comprehensive annual CPS research, including the survey off the PNW and explore a possibility to encourage similar surveys in Canada and Mexico.

The CPSAS continues to strongly believe that coordinated international management of CPS fisheries is essential to avoid the potential for coastwide overfishing. Moreover, the CPSAS also agrees that inclusion of complete Mexican catch statistics is vital to the CPS assessment process.

PFMC
10/14/05

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PACIFIC SARDINE STOCK ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2006

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) met October 5, 2005 in La Jolla, California and received a presentation from Dr. Kevin Hill on results from the latest Pacific sardine stock assessment, which will be used to set a harvest guideline (HG) for the 2006 season. The report included the recommended preliminary HG of 118,937 mt for the 2006 fishery. The CPSMT agrees the stock assessment is as complete as the best available science and the new Age-Structured Assessment Program (ASAP) model allows. The CPSMT supports the recommended preliminary HG, which is based on the harvest formula, defined in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The HG of 118,937 mt is 13% below the 2005 HG but 22,049 mt above the peak U.S. harvest in 2002.

The CPSMT was encouraged by reports from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southwest Fisheries Science Center that a coastwide Pacific sardine survey is planned for April of 2006. The CPSMT notes that the results of this survey could improve Pacific sardine stock assessments in the future, particularly if repeated over several years. The CPSMT noted that existing data from surveys in the Pacific Northwest in recent years are still unprocessed and not available for use in assessment efforts.

The CPSMT reviewed recent landings of Pacific sardine in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico and reports that while U.S. fisheries have remained below the established HGs, at the international level, the Pacific sardine HG has been exceeded in recent years. The CPSMT notes informal international collaboration is occurring, but recommends the Council and NMFS continue to pursue cooperative arrangements with Mexican fishery management agencies to establish formal government-to-government arrangements.

PFMC
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