

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON
COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Region will briefly report on recent developments relevant to coastal pelagic species (CPS) fisheries and issues of interest to the Council including an update on the status of Amendment 11 regarding allocation of Pacific sardine and Amendment 12 regarding krill management.

Council Task:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.2.a, Attachment 1: NMFS Southwest Regional Office Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Regulatory Activities
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion

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National Marine Fisheries Service Report Coastal Pelagic Species Regulatory Activities

Pacific Sardine:

Long-term Allocation—Amendment 11 to CPS FMP: NMFS published a Notice of Availability for Amendment 11 in the Federal Register on October 28 and the proposed rule to implement Amendment 11 on November 16, 2005. On January 26, NMFS sent a letter to the Council approving Amendment 11 to the CPS FMP. NMFS expects to publish the final rule for the amendment in early June.

Based on the new long-term allocation scheme, 35% of the harvest guideline would be released coastwide on January 1; 40% of the harvest guideline, plus any portion not harvested from the initial 35% would be released coastwide on July 1; and on September 15 the remaining 25%, plus any portion not harvested from the earlier releases would then be available for harvest.

2006 Harvest Guideline: Based on the estimated biomass of 1,061,391 mt, and the formula in the FMP, a harvest guideline of 118,937 mt was calculated for the 2006 sardine fishery. NMFS published the proposed rule to implement the 2006 sardine harvest guideline in the Federal Register on January 17, 2006. The final rule for the 2006 harvest guideline will be published concurrently with the final rule for Amendment 11 to the CPS FMP.

Under the new allocation scheme 41,628 mt of Pacific sardine were released on the January 1 start date. 14,727 mt had been landed as of May 15.

Pacific Mackerel:

2005-2006 Landings: NMFS published the final rule to implement the annual harvest guideline for Pacific mackerel in October 2005. The 2005-2006 Pacific mackerel harvest guideline was 17,419 mt with a directed fishery of 13,419 mt and a reserve of 4,000 mt. The Pacific mackerel season began on July 1, 2005, and ends on June 30, 2006. As of May 15, 2006, 4,372 mt of Pacific mackerel had been landed.