PACIFIC SARDINE STOCK ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2007

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) and management measures for the 2007 Pacific sardine fishing season. The current HG (which expires December 31, 2006) is 118,937 mt. The results of the most recent stock assessment indicate a 2007 HG recommendation of 152,564 mt. (Agenda Item F.1.b, NMFS Report).

The Council approved and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has implanted a new long term allocation formula for Pacific sardine as Amendment 11 to the CPS FMP. 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.

In addition to approving the 2007 HG, the Council may also consider management measures for the 2007 fishery such as incidental landing allowances and set-asides for incidental sardine landings which may occur in other CPS fisheries should a seasonal allocation be reached.

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS), and the CPS Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the assessment in October 2006, and final CPSMT and CPSAS written statements are included under Agenda Item F.1.d. The full 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 and Management Measures for 2007.**

**Reference Materials:**

Agenda Order:

a. Agenda Item Overview                          Mike Burner
b. NMFS Report                                      Kevin Hill
c. Agency and Tribal Comments
 d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
e. Public Comment
f. **Council Action:** Adopt Pacific Sardine HG and Management Measures for 2006

PFMC
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