

Agenda Item B.1: Request for Emergency Closure of Current Sardine Fishery

- **Can the Council procedurally take this up in a timely manner?**
- **Should the Council take this up?**
- **When could the Council take this up?**



Can the Council take this up in a timely manner?

- Possible Procedures:
 - CPS FMP ***Point of Concern*** process: requires Council identification of issue and CPSMT report at next Council meeting.
 - Immediate closure of the 2014-2015 season is not noticed as an agenda item for this meeting.
 - SOPP provisions allow for unanticipated emergency to be addressed with “immediate” and “prompt” notice to the public
 - Emergency criteria need to be satisfied
 - MSA Section 305 (c): Independent Secretarial action.



SOPP Option: the Process

- Council would need to decide whether it is an emergency
- Council would need to schedule the time of possible action to determine it is an emergency
- Council would need to provide immediate notice to those affected
- Council would need to conduct the consideration under “normal” Council processes, including public testimony
- If action taken, the Council would need to transmit action and rationale for Secretarial review and possible approval
- Secretarial approval and implementation process would occur after Council transmittal



Should the Council Take This Up?

- Does the situation constitute a conservation emergency?
 - What is the scientific assessment of biological implications? What is the status of the 2014-2015 catches?
 - ACL/ACT=23,294mt; ~4,000mt remaining
 - Current catch rate?
 - Possible catch by the time of completion of Secretarial review and final action?
 - Other necessary information for an informed decision?



Staff Recommendation

1. Consider under B.1 whether to advance this question further.
2. If the answer is yes, gather necessary information, to be provided after agenda item G.1 Sunday, April 12, to consider #3, below.
 - If yes, the Council should indicate information needed.
 - If yes, an agenda item (J.1) will need to be added to consider #3, below.
3. If there is a decision to formally consider an emergency closure, schedule such at this Council meeting, after a number of days to provide notice to the public that a decision may be made.

