

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON NORTHERN ANCHOVY LANDINGS

This report summarizes recent California commercial landings of the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (Figure 1), which ranges from Punta Baja, Baja California, Mexico to San Francisco; and recent Pacific Northwest commercial landings of the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy, which ranges from San Francisco north to British Columbia (Figures 2 and 3).

In November 2013, the National Marine Fisheries Service presented a potential schedule of coastal pelagic species (CPS) stock assessments to the Council, which included the potential for assessments of the northern and central subpopulations of northern anchovy in 2015 and 2016, respectively. Anticipating a need for biological data to inform these assessments, each state – California, Oregon, and Washington - incorporated northern anchovy into their respective sampling programs, and in 2014 began collecting biological information that could be used in the development of a stock assessment for the subpopulations of northern anchovy.

Landings Summaries

In 2010, the Council adopted Amendment 13 of the CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for implementation in 2011, which set harvest control rules for northern anchovy (Table 1). For the central subpopulation, the overfishing limit (OFL) was set at 100,000 mt, and the acceptable biological catch (ABC) was set equal to the annual catch limit (ACL) at 25,000 mt. For the northern subpopulation, the OFL was set at 39,000 mt, and the ABC was set equal to the ACL at 9,750 mt, and an annual catch target (ACT) was set at 1,500 mt.

Table 1. Harvest specifications for Northern Anchovy

Stock	OFL	ABC	ACL	ACT
Northern Anchovy – Central Subpopulation	100,000 mt	25,000 mt	Equal to ABC	N/A
Northern Anchovy – Northern Subpopulation	39,000 mt	9,750 mt	Equal to ABC	1,500 mt

Central Subpopulation Landings

Unlike other CPS fisheries, California northern anchovy landings have primarily been in Monterey Bay area ports within the last decade with few landings in the Southern California Bight. Additionally, when market squid and Pacific sardine landings are low due to availability to the fishery or closures to the seasons, northern anchovy landings tend to increase. This is the most likely cause of the fluctuations in landings observed in Figure 1 and Table 2. Landings of anchovy vary greatly depending on availability of other CPS to the fishery, market demand, and market price. Compared to the prior five years, there was a clear increase in landings in 2014. As of May 6, 2015, preliminary California Department of Fish and Wildlife records indicate that over 5,000 mt of northern anchovy have been landed.

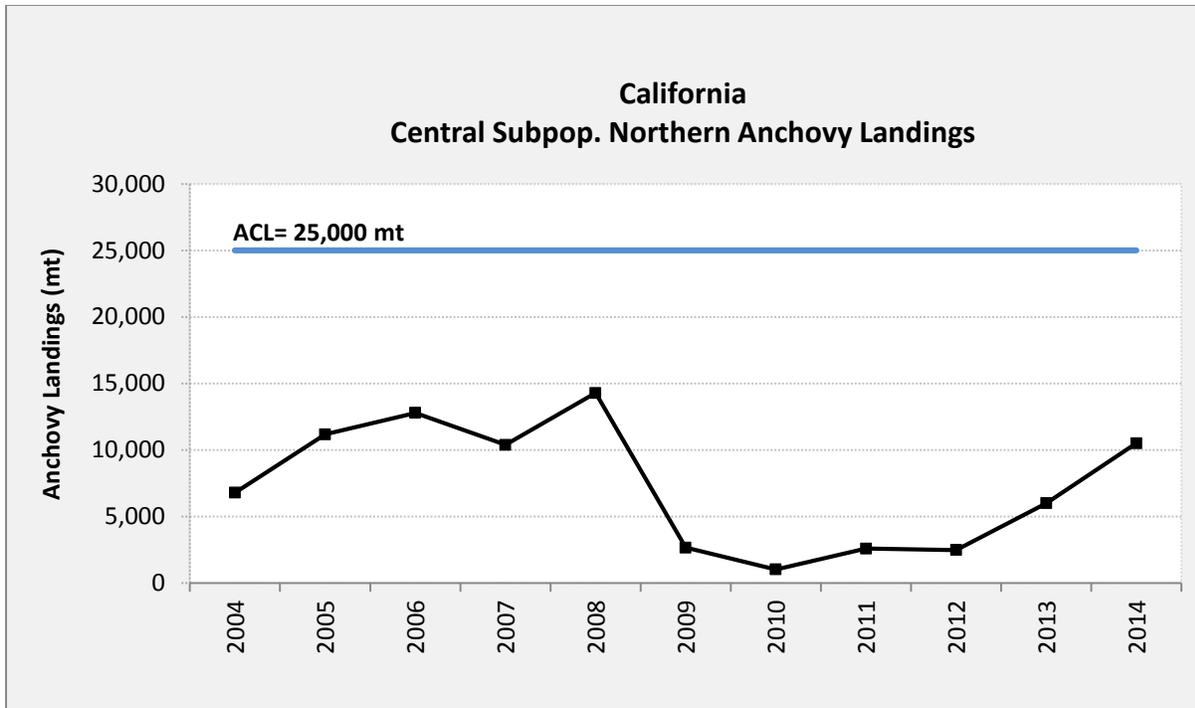


Figure 1. California Landings of Central Subpopulation Northern Anchovy 2004 – 2014; with the ACL of 25,000 mt.

Northern Subpopulation Landings

Although of a smaller magnitude than the Pacific sardine fishery, northern anchovy support fisheries on the Washington and Oregon coasts. Because these are small fisheries, recent landing data from state fish receipts for the two states are combined here to allow catch to be presented for all years (i.e., meet the rule of three; Figure 2 and Table 2). In most years, the majority of landings are into Washington, averaging 215 mt over the past decade compared to 54 mt for Oregon. In 2014, landings totaled 112 mt for Washington, whereas no landings were reported in Oregon.

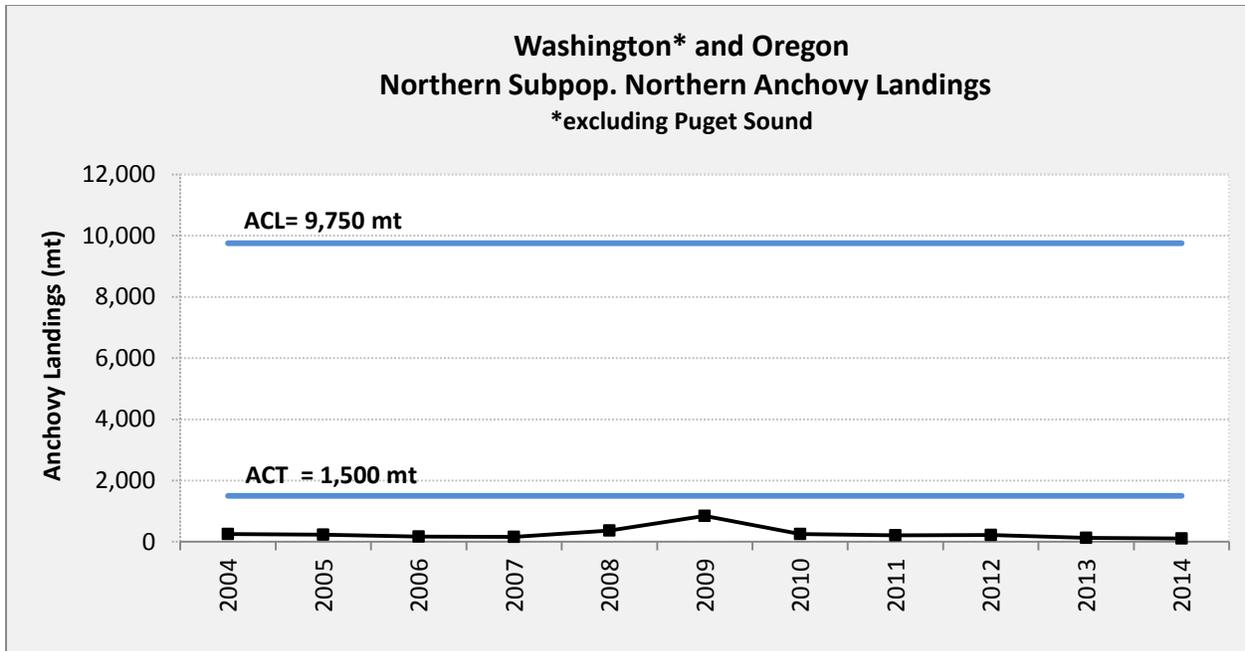


Figure 2. Washington and Oregon Landings of Northern Subpopulation Northern Anchovy, 2004 – 2014; with the ACL of 9,750 mt and ACT of 1,500 mt.

Table 2. Northern anchovy landings, 2004-2014.

Year	Northern Anchovy Landings	
	California (Central Subpop)	Washington and Oregon (Northern Subpop)
2004	6,792	252
2005	11,182	232
2006	12,791	170
2007	10,390	158
2008	14,285	369
2009	2,668	851
2010	1,026	258
2011	2,601	212
2012	2,488	218
2013	6,005	129
2014	10,511	112