



## Pacific Fishery Management Council *NEWS RELEASE*

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### **COUNCIL TO CONSIDER PREVENTING HARVEST OF CERTAIN FORAGE FISH**

SAN MATEO, Ca. – The Pacific Fishery Management Council today decided to (what).

The Council's advisory bodies will be looking into various ways to prevent the development of new fisheries for forage fish, such as through the List of Managed Species process. Later, the new rules will be incorporated into the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan, which is now being developed.

It is the Council's intent to recognize the importance of forage fish to the marine ecosystem off the West Coast, and to provide adequate protection for forage fish. The Council's objective is to prohibit the development of new directed fisheries on forage species that are not currently managed by our Council, or the States, until there is an adequate opportunity to assess the science relating to the fishery and any potential impacts to existing fisheries and communities.

After completion of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan, the Council will incorporate needed protections into the current suite of fishery management plans through an amendment process.

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#### **On the Web**

- Pacific Fishery Management Council: <http://www.pcouncil.org>
- Background on coastal pelagic species (which include currently-managed forage fish): <http://www.pcouncil.org/coastal-pelagic-species/background-information/>