

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON 2014 PACIFIC
SARDINE STOCK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) received a briefing from Dr. Kevin Hill (Southwest Fisheries Science Center) and reviewed Agenda Item E.5.b, Supplemental Attachment 2: Executive Summary – Sardine Biomass Projection in 2013 for US Management during the first half of 2014.

The CPSAS understands that this “catch-only” projection is a bridge to account for the period January 1 through June 30, 2014, and that a full assessment will undergo stock assessment review (STAR) panel review in March 2014. The outcome of that review will determine the management measures for the new fishing year, commencing July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Management Measures

(1) The CPSAS recommends the following management measures for the interim January-June 2014 sardine fishery, based on the biomass projection of 29,770 metric tons (mt).

Harvest Guideline	29,770mt
Seasonal Allocation (Jan 1-June 30)	10,420mt (35%)
Tribal Allocation	1,000mt
Incidental Set Aside	500mt
Adjusted (Directed) Allocation	8,920mt

(2) After the closure of the directed sardine fishery, the CPSAS recommends a total of 500 mt be set aside for incidental catch of sardine in other CPS fisheries in the January-June 2014 period. The incidental landing allowance in other CPS fisheries should be raised to 45 percent Pacific sardine by weight, to account for the possibility of mixed-fish catches.

The CPSAS notes that the harvest guideline (HG) developed for this interim assessment is more precautionary than any Tier 1 acceptable biological catch specified, highlighting the precautionary nature of the HG control rule.