

## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES

### **Recent Regulatory Activities**

**Pacific Sardine Start Date:** On February 28, 2014, NMFS issued a final rule to change the starting date of the annual Pacific sardine fishery from January 1 to July 1. This changed the fishing season from one based on the calendar year to one based on a July 1 through the following June 30th schedule. No other changes to the annual allocation structure were made and the existing seasonal allocation percentages remain as specified in the FMP; as do the current quota roll-over provisions (78 FR 11343).

### **Current Fishery Status:**

**Pacific Mackerel: 2013-2014 Landings:** The Pacific mackerel season began on July 1, 2013 and ends on June 30, 2014. The 2013/ 2014 annual catch limit (ACL) for Pacific mackerel is 52,358 metric tons (mt). The annual catch target (ACT), which is the directed fishing harvest target, is 39,268 mt. If the fishery attains the ACT, NMFS will close the directed fishery, reserving the difference between the ACL and ACT (which is 13,089 mt) as a set aside for incidental landings in other CPS fisheries and other sources of mortality. As of May 21, 2014, approximately 10,100 mt of Pacific mackerel had been landed.

**Pacific Sardine: 2014 Interim Harvest Specifications:** One April 22, 2014, NMFS published a final rule implementing the 2014 interim Pacific sardine harvest specifications. This included an adjusted initial directed non-tribal harvest allocation for the period of January 1, 2014, to June 30, 2014, of 5,446 mt. This value was reduced from the total period allocation of 6,946 mt for potential harvest by the Quinault Indian Nation of up to 1,000 mt during this period as well as a 500 mt incidental set aside for the non-tribal commercial fishery. On April 21, 2014, the Quinault Indian Nation released 800 mt of their set-aside to be fished by the non-tribal fishery. This increased the amount allocated for the non-tribal directed fishery to 6,246 mt. As of May 21, approximately 5,400 mt of Pacific sardine had been landed during this allocation period.