

SARDINE ASSESSMENT, SPECIFICATIONS, AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

At this meeting, the Council will consider a report on the 2014 Pacific sardine stock assessment, and will adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2014-15 Pacific sardine fishing season. The 2014 assessment (Agenda Item H.1.b, Stock Assessment Report) is a full assessment, conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC).

In March 2014, the results of the stock assessment were reviewed by a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel consisting of two Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) members and two independent reviewers provided by the Council of Independent Experts (CIE). The STAR Panel produced a report on the assessment (Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 3). Representatives of the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) also attended in an advisory capacity to the CPSAS. This peer review process endorsed the stock assessment for the 2014-15 season that shows reasonably similar values as those in the November 2013 projection estimate, for spawning stock biomass, 1+ biomass, and age-zero recruits.

At this Council meeting, the SSC will review the Pacific sardine assessment and make an Overfishing Limit (OFL) recommendation on which to base management measures. The Council will consider a range of Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) levels associated with various P* alternatives, and will establish harvest specifications and management measures. The CPSMT and the CPSAS will also be in session and will provide recommendations to the Council on the 2014-15 sardine management.

The Quinault Indian Nation provided notice of their intent to participate in the upcoming sardine fishery, with an anticipated allocation need of 4,000 mt (Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1). Agenda item H.1.a, Attachment 2 is a letter from Jerry Thon, Principal with the Northwest Sardine Survey (NWSS), withdrawing their request for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) allocation for 2014. Also included in the briefing book is a sampling report from the NWSS on its 2013 aerial survey (Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 4), as well as public comment (Agenda Item H.1.d, Public Comment).

Council Action:

- 1. Approve the Pacific Sardine Assessment and Pacific sardine OFL.**
- 2. Select P*, ABC, ACL and, if appropriate, ACT Specifications and Management Measures; Including Consideration of a Quinault Tribal Allocation.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1: Letter from Ed Johnstone, Quinault Fisheries Policy Spokesperson, regarding the Quinault Indian Nation's intent to establish a tribal allocation and to enter the 2014-15 Pacific sardine fishery.
2. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 2: Letter from Jerry Thon, NWSS Principal, withdrawing the EFP request for the upcoming fishing year.
3. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 3: 2014 Pacific Sardine STAR Panel Report.

4. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 4: Northwest Aerial Sardine Survey Sampling Results in 2013.
5. Agenda Item H.1.b, Stock Assessment Report Executive Summary: *Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2014 for U.S.A Management in 2014-15.*
6. Agenda Item H.1.b, Stock Assessment Report (**ELECTRONIC ONLY**): *Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2014 for U.S.A Management in 2014-15.*
7. Agenda Item H.1.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Assessment Report
 - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Consider Pacific Sardine Assessment, and adopt final Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2014-2015 Sardine Fishery
- Kerry Griffin
Kevin Hill

PFMC
03/24/14