

## ANCHOVY BIOMASS ESTIMATE AND QUOTAS FOR 1999-2000 SEASON

Situation: Since the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) fishery management plan (FMP) is not yet implemented, the procedure used under the anchovy management process will be used this year to set the anchovy quotas for the 1999-2000 season. The Council reviews the status of the anchovy fishery and makes recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the biomass estimate and quotas for the next fishing season. The anchovy season begins August 1 north of Point Buchon and September 15 south of Point Buchon.

There is no revised biomass estimate for anchovy this year. NMFS is relying on the most current biomass estimate from February 1995 of 388,000 mt. Indices of abundance in 1997 indicated the resource was as high or higher in 1997 as in 1995. This biomass estimate results in a U.S. harvest quota for reduction purposes for the 1999-2000 fishing season of 61,600 mt. The fishing industry has previously indicated it is likely to use only 13,000 mt. The nonreduction quota is 4,900 mt. The 1998 harvest was 1,500 mt.

If the CPS FMP is approved by NMFS, the northern anchovy stock becomes a monitored species. The default maximum sustainable yield (MSY) control rule (25% of the MSY catch based on an average biomass of 733,000 mt) applies to anchovy, resulting in a U.S. harvest quota of 25,000 mt for all purposes. This change will occur once NMFS issues final rules implementing the CPS plan. This will occur sometime after the end of the public comment period (July 9, 1999).

Because this change may occur in the next few months, and because there is no new anchovy assessment information, a Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) meeting was not held to review the anchovy biomass estimate. However, the CPSAS members were notified of the estimate and invited to submit any comments in writing.

**Council Action: Recommend U.S. quota for 1999-2000.**

Reference Materials:

1. Letter from NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center regarding anchovy biomass estimate (Supplemental Attachment B.2.a.).

PFMC  
06/02/99