

## REPORT TO PACIFIC COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

### 1. Final Regulations

On December 15, 1999, final regulations implementing the FMP were published in the *Federal Register* (64 FR 69888). Those provisions pertaining to the issue of limited entry permits were effective immediately. Other provisions such as the harvest guidelines were effective on January 1, 2000.

### 2. Harvest Guidelines

On January 25, 2000, harvest guidelines for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel were published in the *Federal Register* (65 FR 3890), effective January 1, 2000. A harvest guideline of 186,791 metric tons (mt) was established for Pacific sardine, based on a biomass estimate of 1,581,346 mt. A harvest guideline of 42,819 mt was established for Pacific mackerel based on a biomass estimate of 239,286 mt. The sardine harvest guideline is in effect until December 31, 2000, or until it is reached and the fishery closed. The harvest guideline for Pacific mackerel is in effect until June 30, 2000, or until it is reached and the fishery closed.

### 3. Limited Entry Program

- As of February 15, 2000, 84 applications have been received for limited entry permits and for the transfer of permits.
- 59 limited entry permits have been issued.
- 18 Permits have been denied.
- There have been five transfers.
- One permit from a lost vessel remains assigned to a replacement vessel.
- There have been five appeals
  - Three resulted from an error in our query of PacFIN, which misread the data base for a portion of 1997 only. The error was corrected and the three permits were issued. We rechecked the landings of all denied permits and no changes were warranted.
  - Two appeals were based on hardship. There are no hardship provisions in the implementing rules; therefore, the two appeals were denied.
- We have received approximately a dozen complaints from individuals who claimed to have harvested significant amounts of coastal pelagic species before 1993, but have not landed enough coastal pelagic species during the qualifying period to qualify for a permit.
- Makeup of the fleet:
  - Average age of permitted vessel = 32 years
  - Average net tonnage of permitted vessel = 48 mt.

### 4. Services

A regularly updated list of permitted vessels with their Coast Guard documentation number is available on the Southwest Region Website ([swr.ucsd.edu](http://swr.ucsd.edu)). For those interested in purchasing a

permit, the addresses of the vessel owners may be obtained on the Coast Guard Website ([psix.uscg.mil/Default.asp](http://psix.uscg.mil/Default.asp)), where public records of all documented vessels are maintained. The application form is also available on the Southwest Region Website, as are the implementing rules and information about the coastal pelagic species fishery. On February 15, 2000, a news release was sent to newspapers along the Pacific coast reminding potential applicants for limited entry permits that no permit applications will be accepted after July 1, 2000.