

## PACIFIC SARDINE HARVEST GUIDELINE

Situation: On January 25, 2000, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published the harvest guideline (HG) for Pacific sardine and Pacific (chub) mackerel for the fishing year beginning January 1, 2000 (Attachment D.2.a.). The HG for Pacific sardine was set at 186,791 mt, based on a biomass estimate of 1,581,346 mt. This HG is allocated for Subarea A (north of 35° 40' N latitude [Pt. Piedras Blancas] to the Canadian border) and for Subarea B (south of 35° 40' N latitude to the Mexican border). Per the fishery management plan, any unused portion of the HG in either area will be reallocated between areas to help ensure that optimum yield will be achieved. The northern allocation is 62,264 mt; the southern allocation is 124,527 mt. The sardine HG is in effect until December 31, 2000, or until it is reached and the fishery closed.

At the September 1999 meeting, the Council adopted an interim schedule for setting the HG for the 2000 Pacific sardine season. Under the interim schedule, the NMFS Southwest Regional Administrator would announce the year 2000 Pacific sardine HG in time for the start of the fishery on January 1, 2000. At its December 1999 meeting, the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the sardine assessment, and made no changes to the assessment or recommended HG. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel reviewed the assessment on March 7, 2000, and will present their comments to the Council (Supplemental Attachment D.2.b.). At this meeting, the Council will review the Pacific sardine stock assessment and HG (Attachment D.2.c.), and, if necessary, adjust the HG.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. If necessary, adjust the final harvest guideline for the 2000 Pacific sardine season.**

### Reference Materials:

1. *Federal Register*, vol. 65, no.16, pp. 3890-3892, January 25, 2000 (Attachment D.2.a.).
2. Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel report (Supplemental Attachment D.2.b.).
2. Stock Assessment of Pacific Sardine for 1999 with Management Recommendations for 2000 – Executive Summary (Attachment D.2.c.).

PFMC  
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