

PACIFIC SARDINE HARVEST GUIDELINE

Situation: Per the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan (FMP) annual cycle, the Council is scheduled to review the Pacific sardine stock assessment and adopt for recommendation to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce a harvest guideline for the 2001 Pacific sardine fishing season. The current harvest guideline (which expires December 31, 2000) is 186,791 mt (based on a biomass estimate of 1,581,346 mt). Annually, the harvest guideline is divided between two northern and southern areas. For the 2000 fishery, the northern allocation was 62,264 mt and the southern allocation was 124,527 mt; the line dividing northern and southern allocation areas is Point Piedreas Blancas, on the central California coast. The 2001 fishery opens January 1, 2001. The current stock assessment and harvest guideline recommendation are summarized in Exhibit E.2.a.

The CPS Management Team (CPSMT) and the CPS Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) have reviewed the assessment and the recommended harvest guideline. They will present their respective advice to the Council (Exhibit E.2.b and Exhibit E.2.c).

At the June 2000 meeting, the Council directed the CPSMT to develop a set of recommendations for a process to review CPS stock assessments. The Council's recommendation was for a process similar to (but less intensive than) the groundfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process. That is, periodic outside review of the modeling procedures used to assess the CPS stocks, rather than an annual stock assessment review cycle. The CPSMT discussed this matter at their October 17 - 18, 2000 meeting and will report their findings to the Council.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt 2001 Pacific sardine harvest guideline.**
2. **Provide guidance to the CPSMT about how to proceed with developing a process for reviewing CPS stock assessments.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit E.2.a, Supplemental Report – *Status of the Pacific Sardine Resource and Fishery in 2000 With Management Recommendations for 2001.*
2. Exhibit E.2.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
3. Exhibit E.2.c, Supplemental CPSAS Report.

PFMC
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