

PACIFIC SARDINE SUBALLOCATION

Situation: Concern has been noted that northern participants in the Pacific sardine fishery could be disadvantaged during years of lower sardine abundance, particularly, if sardines are not available in the North until later in the fishing season. Specifically, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) put forward a proposal for a suballocation of the Pacific sardine harvest guideline for the area north of California (Exhibit E.3, ODFW Proposal). ODFW requested the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) review the proposal and provide recommendations to the Council.

At the June 2000 meeting, the CPSMT and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) provided preliminary recommendations to the Council regarding the suballocation issue. To further refine analysis of management measures to prevent preemption of the northern fishery, the Council directed the CPSMT to analyze several items related to the sardine fishery: 1) seasonal distribution of the Pacific sardine stock along the West Coast; 2) suballocation options proposed by the ODFW; and 3) the effects of delaying the start of the sardine fishery. Because information about the northern component of the sardine stock is sparse, the Council also requested a review of catch data to assess how much of the northern part of the harvest guideline is taken from January through May. This historical perspective of the amount harvested during the first five months of the fishery could be a basis for establishing a seasonal adjustment to the northern harvest guideline (i.e., limit the amount available during the first five months of the fishery).

The CPSMT has prepared an analysis of management options to address preemption concerns and will report their findings to the Council. In addition, the CPSAS has reviewed the CPSMT analysis and will provide comments to the Council.

Council Action:

1. **At the Council's discretion, provide guidance to the CPSMT and CPSAS for developing alternatives for suballocation of the Pacific sardine harvest guideline.**

Reference Materials:

1. February 9, 2000 letter from ODFW to Dr. Doyle Hanan (CPSMT Chair); includes ODFW suballocation proposal (Exhibit E.3, ODFW Proposal).
2. Exhibit E.3.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
3. Exhibit E.3.b, Supplemental CPSAS Report.

PFMC
10/13/00