

PACIFIC SARDINE FISHERY UPDATE

Situation: The Pacific sardine fishing season began January 1, 2001 with a harvest guideline (HG) of 134,737 mt. The harvest guideline is allocated for Subarea A, north of 35° 40' N latitude (Pt. Piedras Blancas) to the Canadian border, and Subarea B, south of 35° 40' N latitude to the Mexican border. The northern allocation is 33% of the HG (44,912 mt); the southern allocation is 66% of the HG (89,825 mt). The HG is in effect until December 31, 2001, or until it is reached and the fishery closed.

Per the fishery management plan (FMP), nine months after the start of the fishing season (in this case, October 1, 2001) any uncaught portion of the harvest guideline will be totaled and reallocated with 50% of the total allocated to the northern area and 50% of the total allocated to the southern fishery area. The FMP authorizes National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to reallocate the HG as an "automatic measure," which is an action that could be initiated by NMFS without prior public notice, opportunity to comment, or a Council meeting.

Landings information for the 2001 fishery will be reported to the Council. Fisheries occur in waters off California, Oregon, and Washington; and each state monitors their respective fisheries. The states may also report to the Council about specific aspects unique to their fisheries.

Council Action: Consider inseason management measures.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit H.3.b, Supplemental Reports from Coastal States
2. Exhibit H.3.c, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
3. Exhibit H.3.c, Supplemental CPSAS Report.

PFMC
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