

PACIFIC SARDINE STOCK ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2003

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 a recommendation to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for a harvest guideline for the 2003 Pacific sardine fishing season. The current harvest guideline (which expires December 31, 2002) is 118,442 mt (based on a biomass estimate of 1,057,599 mt). The 2002 stock assessment and 2003 harvest guideline recommendation are summarized in Exhibit F.2.b.

Per the FMP, the harvest guideline is annually divided between northern and southern sub-areas. For 2002, the north and south allocations were 39,481 mt and 78,961 mt, respectively. The location dividing the northern and southern subareas is Point Piedras Blancas, on the central California coast.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), 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. The advisors will also present information on establishment of a CPS stock assessment review (STAR) process and schedule.

In setting the harvest guideline for 2003, the Council might consider including incidental catch allowances, which would provide for incidental landings of Pacific sardine in CPS fisheries. The CPSMT and CPSAS will provide their recommendations on incidental allowances.

Council Action:

1. Adopt harvest guideline for 2003.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit F.2.b, Supplemental Status of the Pacific Sardine Resource and Fishery in 2002 With Management Recommendations for 2003.
2. Exhibit F.2.c, Supplemental SSC Report.
3. Exhibit F.2.c, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
4. Exhibit F.2.c, CPSAS Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Report of Stock Assessment Team
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Harvest Guideline for 2003

Dan Waldeck
Ray Conser

PFMC
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