

APPROVE FINAL REGULATORY AMENDMENT AND ANALYSIS  
FOR CHANGES TO THE SARDINE ALLOCATION

Situation: The Council will review Exhibit G.2.b, CPSMT Report – *Discussion and Analysis of Management Alternatives for an Interim Revision to the Pacific Sardine Allocation Framework within the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan*. This draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared per Council guidance at the November 2002 and March 2003 meetings. Based on its review of the EA, advisory reports, and public comment, the Council is scheduled to take final action on the allocation alternatives and provide guidance for finalizing the regulatory amendment.

At the March 2003 meeting, the Council selected five sardine allocation alternatives for public review:

- Alternative 1 Initial allocation January 1, 66% to southern area, 33% to northern area; dividing line Pt. Piedras Blancas; re-allocation 50%-50% on October 1. **This is status quo or no action.**
- Alternative 2 Initial allocation January 1, 66% to southern area, 33% to northern area; **dividing line Pt. Arena; re-allocation 50%-50% on September 1; coastwide December 1.**
- Alternative 3 Initial allocation January 1, 66% to southern area, 33% to northern area; **dividing line Pt. Arena; re-allocation 80%-20% on September 1; coastwide December 1.**
- Alternative 4 Initial allocation January 1, 66% to southern area, 33% to northern area; dividing line Pt. Piedras Blancas; **re-allocation 50%-50% on September 1; coastwide December 1.**
- Alternative 5 Initial allocation January 1, 66% to southern area, 33% to northern area; **dividing line Pt. Arena; coastwide on September 1.**

The differential impacts of the alternative are analyzed and discussed in the draft EA. If the Council takes final action at this meeting, it is anticipated National Marine Fisheries Service will implement the regulatory amendment in August 2003.

In taking final action, the Council may select a preferred alternative and provide specific direction to complete the regulatory amendment package. Also, the Council may indicate whether the revised allocation framework is a short-term (e.g., 2003 and 2004) measure or intended to be in place for a longer period. If it is an interim measure, the Council could include a sunset provision. The Council could also direct the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and staff to initiate an amendment to the fishery management plan for a longer-term allocation framework.

**Council Action:**

1. **Adopt regulatory amendment and analysis for changes to the sardine allocation.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit G.2.b, CPSMT Report – *Discussion and Analysis of Management Alternatives for an Interim Revision to the Pacific Sardine Allocation Framework within the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan*.
2. Exhibit G.2.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
  - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
  - c. Public Comment
  - d. **Council Action:** Adopt Regulatory Amendment to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan
- Dan Waldeck