

PACIFIC SARDINE 2005 STOCK ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE

Per the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan (FMP) annual cycle, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (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 2005 Pacific sardine fishing season. The current harvest guideline (which expires December 31, 2004) is 122,747 mt. The most recent stock assessment and 2005 harvest guideline recommendation are provided in Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1.

Per the interim allocation framework, the sardine fishery opens January 1 and the harvest guideline is initially allocated 33% to the northern subarea (Subarea A) and 66% to the southern subarea (Subarea B). On September 1, unharvested sardine is pooled and reallocated, 20% to Subarea A and 80% to Subarea B. All unharvested sardine that remain on December 1 are pooled and made available coastwide. The dividing line between the two areas is Point Arena, California (39° N latitude).

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.

Council Action:

Adopt Harvest Guideline for 2005.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2.a, 2004 Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment.
2. Agenda Item G.2.b, CPSMT Report.
3. Agenda Item G.2.b, CPSAS Report.
4. Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental SSC Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Harvest Guideline for 2005

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