

NMFS Report—CPS Regulatory Activities

2004-2005 Pacific mackerel landings

The 2004-2005 Pacific mackerel harvest guideline was 13,268 metric tons (mt) with a directed fishery of 9,100 mt and a reserve of 4,168 mt. The Pacific mackerel season began on July 1, 2004, and ends on June 30, 2005. A landings update will be given at the April Council meeting.

NMFS will be releasing the unused portion of the Pacific mackerel directed fishery to allow for the incidental take of Pacific mackerel in the Pacific sardine fishery.

Pacific sardine 2005 harvest guideline

Based on a biomass estimate of 1,193,515 mt, the harvest guideline for Pacific sardine for January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005, is 136,179 mt. The harvest guideline will be allocated one-third for the northern subarea, which is north of 39° 00' N. latitude (Pt. Arena, California) to the Canadian border, and two-thirds for southern subarea, which is south of 39° 00' N. latitude to the Mexican border. For 2005, the northern subarea allocation would be 45,393 mt; the southern subarea allocation would be 90,786 mt.

A proposed rule was published on December 8, 2004 (69 FR 70973) that solicited public comment on the Council's harvest guideline recommendations. The public comment period ended on December 23, 2004. The final rule has been slowed by the need for an Endangered Species Act section 7 formal consultation. A final rule should be published by the beginning of May 2005. A 2005 Pacific sardine landings update will be given at the April Council meeting.

Krill Alternative Analysis

An update on the krill alternative analysis and timeline options will be given at the April Council meeting.

CPS observer program

An update on the NMFS-SWR's pilot observer program covering California purse seine fishing vessels landing CPS will be given at the April Council meeting.

Coordination with California Sea Grant

NMFS is assisting California Sea Grant in a project to provide information on current and potential trends of Santa Barbara Channel commercial fisheries. The objectives of the project are threefold: 1) to develop profiles of the current commercial fisheries and associated infrastructure needs of the four harbors in the Santa Barbara Channel region; 2) to identify factors that may alter the current fisheries profiles over the next 5 to 10 years, and describe how these changes may impact infrastructure needs, and 3) to identify potential alternatives for supporting the infrastructure needs of the various commercial fisheries.