

### 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. As of May 19, 2005, only 4,469 mt of Pacific mackerel had been landed.

### 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 was slowed by the need for an Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 formal consultation. The ESA consultation produced a biological opinion which concluded the proposed action will not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened salmon. The final rule is being reviewed and should be published by the beginning of June 2005. As of May 19, 2005, only 12,938 mt of Pacific sardine had been landed.

### Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Observer Program

The Southwest Region (SWR) initiated a pilot observer program on California purse seine fishing vessels landing CPS in July 2004. The pilot observer program's main focus is to gather data on total catch and bycatch and on interactions between their fishing gear and protected species, such as marine mammals, sea turtles, and sea birds. As of May 4, 2005, observers have completed 56 vessel trips ranging from Morro Bay, California to San Diego, California. Out of 56 trips, 19 targeted Pacific sardine, five targeted northern anchovy, and 32 targeted market squid. NMFS-SWR will be producing a detailed report on bycatch and protected species interactions for the November 2005 Council meeting.

### Krill Update

There will be a meeting of krill experts to discuss krill biology and population dynamics on June 6, 2005 in La Jolla, California as the first step in determining whether the krill biomass can be estimated. The contracted biologists will give an alternatives analysis to the Council at the September 2005 meeting. This alternatives analysis will not include maximum sustainable yield (MSY) which will take more time to define, but this is acceptable as the defined MSY level is only needed when the regulations are written.