

Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment and Harvest Guideline for 2008

For the 2008 sardine fishing season, even though the proposed harvest (HG) for sardine's coast wide is lower than the 2007 HG, the sardine HG is still at a level that will be sufficient for a tribal sardine "test" fishery to occur without any disruption to the non-Indian sardine fleet.

The tribes that are participating in a sardine fishery will develop tribal regulations and procedures for 2008, and coordinate their fishing plans with NMFS Southwest Region.

Beyond 2008, the tribes will likely request an allocation of sardine and present their proposals to the PFMC Coastal Pelagic Species Tribal Allocation Committee.

One concern that the tribes do have is that there is not a coast wide sardine survey being conducted off the coast of Washington. A coast wide survey would give a better comprehension of the sardine biomass that is in the Pacific Northwest fishery.