

DRAFT

COUNCIL STAFF SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL ISSUES AND TIMELINES FOR
 AMENDING THE CPS FMP FOR COMPLIANCE WITH NATION STANDARD 1
 GUIDELINES

ACTIVELY MANAGED STOCKS

Precautionary harvest control rules exist for the actively managed species in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel), control rules which provide a solid foundation for the implementation of new fishery management provisions such as overfishing levels (OFLs) and annual catch limits (ACLs). Pacific sardine is used in the following example.

The harvest control rule for Pacific sardine is as follows.

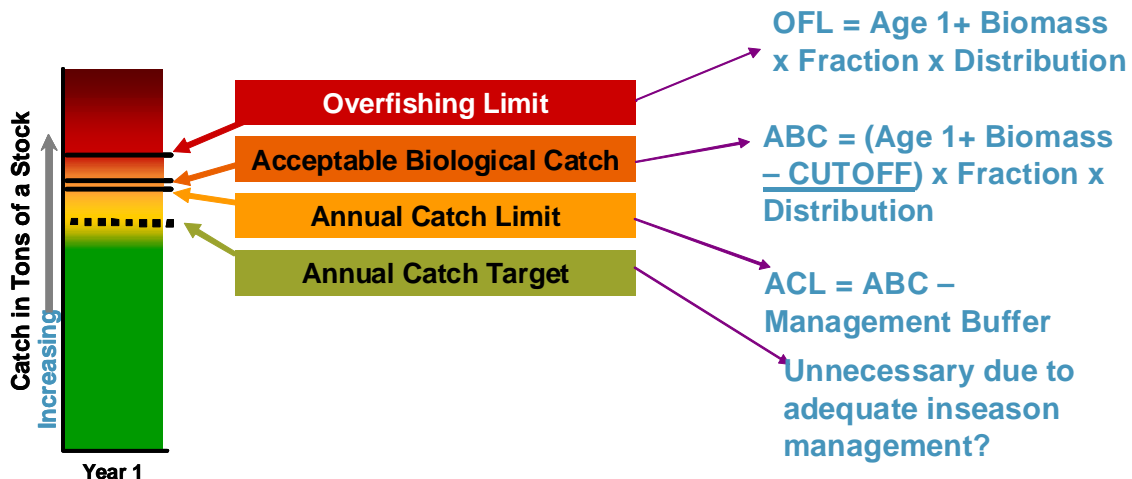
$$\text{HARVEST} = (\text{BIOMASS} - \text{CUTOFF}) \times \text{FRACTION} \times \text{DISTRIBUTION}$$

where:

FRACTION is the fraction of the BIOMASS above the CUTOFF value that can be harvested, this is an environmental driven component that is based on sea surface temperature.

DISTRIBUTION is the percentage of the stock assumed to be in U.S. waters.

CUTOFF is the is the lowest level of estimated biomass at which directed harvest. The general harvest control rule for CPS is compatible with the Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA) and is useful for CPS that are important as forage. If the CUTOFF is greater than zero, then the harvest rate (H/BIOMASS) declines as biomass declines. By the time BIOMASS falls as low as CUTOFF, the harvest rate is reduced to zero. The CUTOFF provides a buffer of spawning stock that is protected from fishing and available for use in rebuilding if a stock becomes overfished. **CUTOFF serves a similar role as the proposed buffer between OFL and acceptable biological catch (ABC) in the NS1 guidelines.**



2009 Pacific Sardine Management

Status Quo compared to proposed mechanism under NS1 Guidelines

Management Parameter	Status Quo	Potential Under NS1 Guidelines
Overfishing Level (OFL)	NA	86,507 mt
Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)	66,932 mt	66,932 mt
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	Directed HG set at 59,232 with 6,500 mt buffer for incidental fishery and management uncertainty.	ACL reduced from ABC to account for management uncertainty.
Annual Catch Target (ACT)	NA	Unnecessary due to inseason monitoring?
Accountability Measures	Preseason Incidental Set asides and inseason monitoring	Preseason Incidental Set asides and inseason monitoring

MONITORED STOCKS

Monitored species in the CPS FMP include northern anchovy, jack mackerel, and market squid. The Council has requested flexibility in the implementation of National Standard 1 (NS1) in regard to these species because of relatively low harvest and less assessment work. Monitored species could present the greatest challenge in implementing NS1.

The CPS FMP's monitored stocks are either exempt from the new requirements because of their short life-cycle (market squid) or are currently harvested at relatively low levels (anchovy, jack mackerel). ACLs for monitored stocks may be appropriately implemented with greater flexibility but greater precaution than the actively managed species because they are assessed with less frequency.

Northern anchovy and jack mackerel currently have threshold harvest levels beyond which the Council will consider moving the species to the actively managed category. These thresholds are based on dated, but valid stock assessments that could be updated should these species experience a substantial increase in harvest. Although relatively data-poor compared to actively managed stocks, with some flexibility, the existing knowledge and biological parameters can serve as the basis for developing a management regime in keeping with NS1.

PROHIBITED HARVEST SPECIES

Currently all species of euphausiids (krill) within the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

It is unclear whether krill would fit the Ecosystem Component as currently defined in the NS1 guidelines:

Ecosystem Component Species

- (A) Be a non-target species or nontarget stock;
- (B) Not be determined to be subject to overfishing, approaching overfished, or overfished;
- (C) Not be likely to become subject to overfishing or overfished, according to the best available information, in the absence of conservation and management measures; and
- (D) Not generally be retained for sale or personal use.
 - (ii) Occasional retention of the species would not, in and of itself, preclude consideration of the species under the EC classification.

Although krill meet the criteria listed in A-D above and the Council prohibited the harvest of krill in recognition of its important ecosystem functions, the broad harvest prohibition across all gear types and in all areas may have more management implications than was intended for the “ecosystem component” species category described in the NS1 guidelines.

Potential Timeline for CPS FMP Amendment

Stage	Most Aggressive Schedule Possible to Meet MRSA	Moderate Schedule to Meet MRSA
Final Rule	January 2009	January 2009
"Council Announces Scoping -EIS or EA Determination -Initiate FMP Amendments"	March 2009	March 2009
First FMP Amendment Drafts, Including Alternatives	June 2009	September 2009
Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Public Review	September 2009	March 2010
Final Council Action	November 2009	June 2010
Secretarial Approval	April 2010	January 2011
Changes in Existing Fishing Regulations	Second Half of 2010	2011

This schedule would likely require additional meetings of the Council’s CPS advisory bodies and a redirection of Council staff, NMFS, and state agency work load.

PFMC
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