

CONSIDERATION TO SCHEDULE EMERGENCY ACTION FOR CHANGES TO THE 2014-2015 PACIFIC SARDINE FISHERY

Under this agenda item, the Council will consider whether to schedule consideration of emergency in-season changes in the current Pacific sardine fishery. A request under Agenda Item B.1 (Open Comment) to immediately close directed fishing was presented, and subsequent Council discussion resulted in a change to the April Council meeting agenda, to add this agenda item under the Council's authority to consider emergency action.

The sardine fishing year runs July 1 through June 30 of the following year, and is divided into three periods: July 1-September 14, September 15-December 31, and January 1-June 30. The annual harvest guideline (HG) is allocated to each fishing period on a basis of 35 percent, 40 percent, 15 percent, respectively. When the HG in any single period is reached, the directed fishery is closed. There are incidental landings allowances to account for sardines that may be landed with other coastal pelagic species (CPS). The allocation for the current fishing period (January 1-June 30) is 5,084 mt, comprised of the original allocation, overages/underages from prior periods, and a Tribal fishery rollover amount, with an additional 500 mt incidental allowance reserved to be caught once the directed fishery is closed.

There are procedural steps that the Council needs to take to consider an emergency in-season action on the current fishery, as this matter was not on the original April 2015 Council meeting agenda. This includes satisfaction of emergency action criteria and public notice that emergency action will be considered. Agenda Item J.1, Attachment 1 contains procedural information relative to possible action under J.1, and if the Council chooses to schedule an emergency action consideration under Agenda Item J.2.

There have been questions about the scientific basis for the 2014-2015 sardine fishery, whether overfishing is occurring and what the biological benefits are of reducing the remaining catch or closing the fishery. Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental SSC Report and J.1 Supplemental Attachment 2 provide information on these questions.

The current status of catch limit attainment is a key consideration on any potential emergency action, along with the current catch rate. There is also socio-economic information the Council should take into consideration. Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report and Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report provide information to these questions.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider Scheduling Emergency Action to Consider Changes to the 2014-15 Pacific Sardine Fishery.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.1, Supplemental Attachment 1. Procedural Considerations for Emergency Council Action for Changes to the 2014-15 Pacific Sardine Fishery.

2. Agenda Item J.1, Supplemental Attachment 2. Long-term Productivity of Pacific Sardines under Four Different Harvest Control Rules.
3. Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
4. Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report.

Agenda Order:

- J.1 Consideration to Schedule Emergency Action for Changes to the 2014-15 Pacific Sardine Directed Fishery Kerry Griffin
 - a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Consider Scheduling Emergency Action to Consider Changes to the 2014-15 Pacific Sardine Fishery

PFMC
04/12/15