

MINIMUM STOCK SIZE THRESHOLDS REPORT

As a result of the *Oceana v. Pritzker* settlement agreement (Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 1), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for compiling information on Minimum Stock Size Thresholds (MSST) for Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) stocks and presenting a report to the Council at its September meeting. The CPS stocks include Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA), the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy (NSNA), and jack mackerel. Although it was not available in time for the advanced briefing book, the report (Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report) is expected to describe the available information and provide possible methods for calculating MSSTs.

MSSTs are status determination criteria designed to gauge whether a stock is overfished. If a stock's biomass falls below its designated MSST, that stock is considered overfished. The current MSSTs for CPS finfish stocks are:

Stock	MSST
Pacific sardine	50,000mt
Pacific mackerel	18,200mt
NSNA	Not specified
CSNA	Not specified
Jack mackerel	Not specified

The *Oceana v. Pritzker* settlement agreement states that

“NMFS shall compile and examine scientific information available at the time of NMFS’s analysis pertaining to MSSTs for (CPS finfish stocks); develop recommendations based on that evaluation, which might or might not include recommendations to revise or establish MSSTs; and present a report of the results to the Council at or before the September 2016 Council meeting.”

The agreement also states that the Council should determine by the close of the March 2017 Council meeting, whether action is warranted to revise or establish one or more of the five MSSTs. If the Council determines that one or more of the MSSTs should be revised or established, the Council would need to complete the appropriate process to implement the new MSST(s).

Council Task:

1. **Consider the NMFS report on MSSTs.**
2. **Consider whether the information in the report warrants revising or establishing MSSTs for CPS finfish stocks.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 1: *Oceana vs. Pritzker Settlement Agreement*.
2. Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report.

Agenda Order:

E.1 Minimum Stock Size Thresholds Report

Kerry Griffin

- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Review and Provide Guidance on Future Process and Schedule as Appropriate

PFMC
8/23/16