

## FINAL ACTION ON SARDINE ASSESSMENT, SPECIFICATIONS, AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

At this meeting, the Council will consider the 2017 Pacific sardine stock assessment, and will adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2017-18 Pacific sardine fishing season, which runs July 1 through June 30. The 2017 assessment (Agenda Item G.5.a, Stock Assessment Report) is a full assessment, the first since 2014. The assessment was reviewed by a stock assessment review (STAR) panel in February 2017. The full Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the STAR Panel's report (Agenda Item G.5.a, STAR Panel Report), and will make an overfishing limit (OFL) and corresponding acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendation to the Council.

The Quinault Indian Nation provided notice of their intent to participate in the upcoming sardine fishery, with an anticipated allocation need of 800 metric tons (Agenda Item G.5.b, Tribal Report). Public comment is also included in advance briefing book materials (Agenda Item G.5.c, Public Comment).

For the last two fishing years, the biomass estimates in the stock assessments have been below the sardine harvest control rule Cutoff threshold of 150,000 mt, and directed fishing has been precluded. The biomass estimate in this year's assessment again falls below the Cutoff threshold.

In low biomass conditions when the stock is below the Cutoff but above the overfished threshold (50,000 mt), the Fishery Management Plan allows for the establishment of incidental harvest allowances and the continuation of the live bait fishery.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt the Pacific Sardine Assessment and Pacific sardine OFL.**
- 2. Select P\*, ABC, annual catch limit, and, if appropriate, annual catch target specifications and management measures, including consideration of a Quinault tribal allocation.**
- 3. Adopt incidental catch allowance.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.5.a, Stock Assessment Report Executive Summary: *Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2017 for U.S. Management in 2017-18. (Full document electronic only)*
2. Agenda Item G.5.a, STAR Panel Report: Pacific Sardine STAR Panel Meeting Report.
3. Agenda Item G.5.b, Tribal Report: Letter from Ed Johnstone, Quinault Fisheries Policy Spokesperson, regarding the Quinault Indian Nation's intent to establish a tribal allocation and to enter the 2017-18 Pacific sardine fishery.
4. Agenda Item G.5.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

G.5 Final Action on Sardine Assessment, Specifications, and Management Measures

- a. Stock Assessment Report
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Pacific Sardine Assessment and Final Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2017-2018 Sardine Fishery

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