

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES REPORT ON COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ACTIVITIES

Recent Regulatory Activities:

Final Rule to implement annual harvest specifications and management measures for Pacific mackerel: On June 21, 2018, NMFS published a final rule ([83FR28783](#)) establishing annual harvest specifications for Pacific mackerel through June 30, 2019.

Final Rule to implement annual harvest specifications and management measures for Pacific sardine: On June 25, 2018, NMFS published a final rule ([83FR29461](#)) establishing annual harvest specifications for Pacific sardine for the 2018-2019 fishing year. The proposed rule ([83FR24269](#)) was published on May 25, 2018, with a public comment period that ended June 11, 2018.

Current Fishery Status:

Pacific Sardine 2018-2019 Landings: The Pacific sardine fishery is closed to directed non-tribal fishing for the July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 fishing year because the estimated 2018 biomass has dropped below the biomass threshold of 150,000 metric tons (mt) specified in the harvest guideline control rule. Pacific sardine may still be harvested as part of the live bait or tribal fishery, as minor directed fishing,¹ or as incidental catch in other fisheries, limited by an ACL of 7,000 mt. Since July 1, 2018, approximately 125 mt of Pacific sardine have been landed.

¹ Under Amendment 16, minor directed fishing may continue until the applicable harvest guideline or ACL is taken, provided the amount retained does not exceed 1 mt per day per vessel or person, and which is limited to 1 fishing trip per day by any vessel.