NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON COASTAL
PELAGIC SPECIES ACTIVITIES

Recent Regulatory Activities:

Proposed Rule to Implement Harvest Specifications for the 2019-2020 Pacific Sardine Fishing Year: On May 28, 2019, NMFS published a rule (84 FR 24459) proposing harvest specifications and management measures for the 2019-2020 Pacific sardine fishing year. The public comment period ended June 12, 2019. We expect to publish a final rule in time for the start of the fishing year on July 1, 2019.

Final Rule to Implement Multi-year Harvest Specifications for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy: On May 31, 2019, NMFS published a final rule (84 FR 25196) establishing a new overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL) for the central subpopulation of Northern anchovy (CSNA) in response to a January 2018 court decision (Oceana, Inc. v. Ross) that vacated the OFL, ABC, and ACL for the CSNA, followed by subsequent orders requiring NMFS to establish a new OFL, ABC, and ACL through notice and comment rulemaking. NMFS published the proposed rule (84 FR 13858) on April 8, 2019, and solicited public comment through April 23, 2019. The finalized reference points are unchanged from those in the proposed rule. The harvest specifications implemented in the final rule will be effective on July 1, 2019, for the current January 1 through December 31 fishing year.

Amendment 17 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan: NMFS published a Notice of Availability (84 FR 10768) for Amendment 17 on March 22, 2019, and solicited public comment through May 21, 2019. NMFS expects a decision on Amendment 17 prior to the June 2019 Council meeting.

Pacific sardine stock status: NMFS is still in the process of making a formal declaration on a change to the stock status of Pacific sardine to overfished, however we still expect to submit a letter to the Council regarding a change in the status of the Pacific sardine stock in the coming months.