

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON  
COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

**Recent Regulatory Activities:**

**Proposed Rule to implement biennial harvest specifications for Pacific mackerel:** On August 23, 2019, NMFS published a proposed rule ([84 FR 44272](#)) announcing proposed harvest specifications for Pacific mackerel for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fishing years. The proposed rule solicited public comments through September 23, 2019. The final rule is expected to publish in mid to late November 2019.

**Amendment 17 to the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP):** On August 14, 2019, NMFS published a Notice of Agency Decision ([84 FR 40296](#)) that announced the Secretary's June 2019 approval of Amendment 17 to the CPS FMP.

**Final Rule to implement annual harvest specifications and management measures for Pacific sardine:** On July 1, 2019, NMFS published a final rule ([84 FR 31222](#)) establishing annual harvest specifications for Pacific sardine for the 2019-2020 fishing year. The proposed rule ([84 FR 24459](#)) was published on May 28, 2019, with a public comment period that ended June 12, 2019.

**Final Rule to implement an Overfishing Limit, Annual Biological Catch, and Annual Catch Limit for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy:** On May 31, 2019, NMFS published a final rule ([84 FR 25196](#)) establishing a new overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch, and annual catch limit (ACL) for the central subpopulation of northern anchovy pursuant to a Court-ordered deadline. The proposed rule ([84 FR 13858](#)) was published on April 8, 2019, with a public comment period that ended April 23, 2019.

**Current Fishery Status:**

**Pacific Sardine 2019-2020 Landings:** The Pacific sardine fishery is closed to directed fishing for the July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, fishing year because the estimated 2019 biomass remains below the biomass threshold of 150,000 metric tons (mt) specified in the harvest guideline control rule. In addition, NMFS declared the Pacific sardine stock overfished on June 26, 2019, because the estimated 2019 biomass dropped below the 50,000-mt minimum stock size threshold specified in the CPS FMP. Pacific sardine may still be harvested in small amounts as part of the live bait or minor directed fisheries, or as incidental catch in other fisheries, limited by an ACL of 4,514 mt. Since July 1, 2019, approximately 734 mt of Pacific sardine have been landed.