

PACIFIC SARDINE ASSESSMENT, HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS, AND
MANAGEMENT MEASURES – FINAL ACTION

At this meeting, the Council will consider the 2020 Pacific sardine stock assessment and will adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2020-21 Pacific sardine fishing season, which runs July 1 through June 30. The 2020 assessment (Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1) is a full benchmark model-based assessment. Sardine stock assessments are typically done in a three-year cycle, with a benchmark assessment followed by two update assessments. The assessment was reviewed by at stock assessment review (STAR) panel in February 2020, whose report is included as Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 2. The full Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the assessment and the STAR Panel report, and will make recommendations on the overfishing limit (OFL) and corresponding acceptable biological catch (ABC) to the Council.

For the past five fishing years, the biomass estimates in the stock assessments have been below the sardine harvest control rule Cutoff threshold of 150,000 mt. Aside from small-scale directed fishing under Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan Amendment 16 and live bait fishing, directed fishing has therefore been prohibited. The 2019 stock assessment indicated a biomass estimate below the minimum stock size threshold of 50,000 mt, a value that corresponds with the overfished threshold. Thus in July 2019 the Pacific sardine stock was declared overfished by the National Marine Fisheries Service, necessitating the development of a rebuilding plan (see Agenda Item D.5).

At this meeting the Council will adopt the stock assessment and set management measures and harvest specifications for the 2020 – 2021 Pacific sardine fishing year.

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.**
- 3. Adopt incidental catch allowances for CPS and non-CPS fisheries.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1: Stock Assessment Report Executive Summary: *Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2019 for U.S. Management in 2019-20. (Full document Electronic Only)*
2. Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 2: STAR Panel Report. (*Electronic Only*)
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.3 Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures - Final Action Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Pacific Sardine Assessment, Final Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures for the 2020-2021 Pacific Sardine Fishery

PFMC
03/16/20