

## SARDINE REBUILDING PLAN

The Pacific sardine biomass has fallen steadily since a peak over 10 years ago and fell below the 50,000 metric ton (mt) minimum stock size threshold (MSST) in 2019. The stock was declared overfished in July 2019. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires a rebuilding plan to be developed within two years and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is obligated to recommend a proposed rebuilding plan to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) within 15 months of the overfished declaration, which is October 2020. The Council has established a two-meeting process (June and September, 2020) to develop, review, and adopt a rebuilding plan which would then be transmitted to NMFS.

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) discussed the issue at its February and April 2020 meetings and has coordinated with NMFS West Coast Region, the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee CPS Subcommittee. Agenda Item G.1.a, CPSMT Report 1 describes the CPSMT's approach to identifying a range of alternatives (ROA), a rebuilding analysis, and socio-economic considerations.

At this meeting, the Council should review the proposed ROA and plans for analyses, and provide guidance on refining the alternatives, as necessary. The Council may identify a preliminary preferred alternative, as appropriate.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Consider Range of Alternatives.**
- 2. Consider Analytical Approaches and Socio-economic Factors.**
- 3. Provide guidance on a Range of Alternatives.**
- 4. Identify a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, as Appropriate.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.1.a, CPSMT Report 1.
2. If Received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

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|-----|---|---------------|
| G.1 | Sardine Rebuilding Plan   | Kerry Griffin |
|     | a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies  |               |
|     | b. Public Comment   |               |
|     | c. <b>Council Action:</b> Review Draft Rebuilding Plan, Adopt a Range of Alternatives, and Consider a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, As Appropriate |               |