

PACIFIC SARDINE REBUILDING PLAN – FINAL ACTION

The 2019 Pacific sardine stock [assessment](#) indicated that the stock had declined below its minimum stock size threshold and, in response, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) formally declared the stock to be overfished in June 2019 and notified the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in July 2019. The Council is responsible for developing a rebuilding plan to be transmitted to the NMFS within 15 months (October 2020), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires a rebuilding plan to be approved by NMFS within two years (July 2021). At its June 2020 meeting the Council adopted a Range of Alternatives for public review and scheduled final action for the September 2020 meeting to meet the required timeline.

To facilitate technical review of the rebuilding analysis, the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee (Subcommittee) convened July 15-16, 2020, providing review of the draft analysis and guidance to the analysts. The CPS Management Team (CPSMT) also participated as principals in that meeting. The Subcommittee provided a report to the full SSC, which is scheduled to review the analyses and provide scientific advice to the Council on the analyses of the proposed rebuilding plan.

At this meeting, the Council will consider the alternatives and analysis included in Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 1 (Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan Preliminary Environmental Analysis), the rebuilding analysis (Agenda item G.1.a, NMFS Report 1), and subsequent supplemental materials including additional material on the potential economic effects of the alternatives. A CPSMT report (Agenda Item G.1.a, CPSMT Report 1) provides additional information on the nature of the analysis and some of the challenges faced. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel will meet in conjunction with the September Council meeting and is anticipated to provide their perspectives at that time. Additionally, some of the rebuilding alternatives have the potential to affect the allowable incidental catch of sardine in some groundfish fishery sectors and the Advisory Bodies representing those fisheries may also provide recommendations.

The Council is committed to continued efforts to rebuild this important stock and is scheduled to adopt a final preferred rebuilding plan alternative to be transmitted to NMFS in October 2020.

Council Action:

- 1. Review the Proposed Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan.**
- 2. Review the Preliminary Environmental Analysis of the Rebuilding Plan and the Associated Economic Analysis.**
- 3. Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 1: Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan Preliminary Environmental Analysis.
2. Agenda Item G.1.a, NMFS Report 1: Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Analysis Based on the 2020 Stock Assessment.
3. Agenda Item G.1.a, CPSMT Report 1.
4. If Received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.1 Sardine Rebuilding Plan Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative for a Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan

PFMC
08/19/20