

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

At this meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will consider the 2021 Pacific sardine catch-only projection estimate (Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 1) and will adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2021-22 Pacific sardine fishing season, which runs July 1 through June 30. Because of the lack of surveys in 2020, the assessment will be a catch-only projection estimate rather than an update assessment as is conventional for years between full assessments.

Because the assessment is a catch-only projection estimate, it will be reviewed by the full Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) at this meeting rather than in a separate review meeting. If the catch-only projection is endorsed by the SSC and the Council, it will form the basis for harvest specifications for 2021-22. If an assessment is rejected by the SSC, the SSC would be expected to make recommendations on establishing harvest specifications for the upcoming fishing year

For the past six fishing seasons, the biomass estimates have been below the sardine harvest control rule Cutoff threshold of 150,000 mt. Aside from small scale and live bait fishing, directed fishing has been prohibited. The Council will also consider incidental landings in fisheries targeting other coastal pelagic species (CPS), non-CPS fisheries, and take allowed under exempted fishing permits (see Agenda item E.2).

The 2019 stock assessment indicated a biomass estimate below the minimum stock size threshold of 50,000 mt. Therefore, in July 2019 the Pacific sardine stock was declared overfished by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), necessitating the development of a rebuilding plan. That rebuilding plan was approved by the Council in September 2020 and subsequently transmitted to NMFS.

At this meeting, the Council will consider adopting the catch-only projection estimate, and set management measures and harvest specifications for the 2021 – 2022 Pacific sardine fishing year.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt the Pacific Sardine Catch-Only Projection Estimate 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 E.4, Attachment 1: Catch-Only Projection Estimate.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.4 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 2021-2022 Pacific Sardine Fishery

PFMC
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