

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON
COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

Recent publications:

Amendment 18 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan - Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a Notice of Availability on March 16, 2021 ([86 FR 14401](#)). Public comments on the draft amendment language must be submitted to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (NOAA-NMFS-2021-0008) by May 17, 2021. NMFS posted the associated draft Environmental Assessment on its [West Coast Region NEPA Documents website](#). Comments on the draft Environmental Assessment must be sent to NMFS by April 15, 2021.

Harvest Specifications for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy: On September 2, 2020, in *Oceana v. Ross et al.*, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California granted summary judgment to Oceana, vacating all reference points (*i.e.*, overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch, annual catch limit) for the central subpopulation of northern anchovy and ordered NMFS to promulgate a new rulemaking within 120 days. NMFS published a final rule ([85 FR 86855](#)) on December 31, 2020, that re-established these reference points. The proposed rule ([85 FR 73446](#)) was published on November 18, 2020, with a 15-day public comment period that ended December 3, 2020.

Expected rulemakings for Spring/Summer 2021:

2021-2022 Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications: NMFS expects to publish the proposed rule in May 2021 and the final rule in June 2021.

Amendment 18 Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan: The Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan must be in place by July 9, 2021. NMFS expects to publish a Notice of Agency Decision in late June or early July 2021.

2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications: NMFS expects to publish the proposed rule in August 2021.