

SARDINE HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2023-2024– FINAL ACTION

At this meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2023-24 Pacific sardine fishing season, which runs July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

In April 2022, based on concerns by the Stock Assessment Team, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Management Team, and CPS Advisory Subpanel recommended postponing the scheduled 2023 benchmark assessment until 2024 until a workshop on stock structure and other uncertainties could be held. The Council supported this recommendation and formalized that recommendation in their stock assessment prioritization process in November 2022 ([November 2022 Decision Summary](#)). At this meeting, the SSC will make recommendations on the overfishing limit (OFL) and corresponding acceptable biological catch (ABC) to the Council based on the [2022 update assessment](#) and other indicators, such as the recent acoustic trawl survey data.

Similar to recent years, the biomass estimates have been below the sardine harvest control rule CUTOFF of 150,000 mt. Aside from small scale and live bait fishing, directed fishing has been prohibited since 2015. The Council will also consider incidental landings in fisheries targeting other CPS stocks, non-CPS fisheries, and take allowed under exempted fishing permits (see Agenda Item H.2).

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt an OFL.**
- 2. Adopt a 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. Attachment 1: Update Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2022 for U.S. Management in 2022-2023 (*Electronic Only*).
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.4 Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures - Final Action Jessi Doerpinghaus
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2023-2024 Pacific Sardine Fishery

PFMC
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