

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON  
COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

Recent Regulatory Activities

**Amendment 20 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan — Management**

**Categories:** NMFS published a Notice of Availability on March 23, 2023 ([88 FR 17515](#)), a proposed rule on April 6, 2023 ([88 FR 20456](#)), and a final rule on July 3, 2023 ([88 FR 42652](#)) announcing the approval of and implementing Amendment 20.

**2023–2024 Exempted Fishing Permits:** Following the Pacific Fishery Management Council’s recommendation at the April 2023 meeting, NMFS published a notice of receipt of two EFP applications in the *Federal Register* on May 19, 2023 ([88 FR 32200](#)). The two EFPs were subsequently issued in July 2023.

**2023–2025 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications:** Following the Council’s recommendations at the June 2023 meeting, NMFS published a proposed rule on September 29, 2023 ([88 FR 67222](#)) and a final rule on December 15, 2023 ([88 FR 86838](#)).

**Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (CSNA) Harvest Specifications:** The Council recommended new multi-year harvest specifications for CSNA at the June 2022 meeting. NMFS published a proposed rule on December 27, 2023 ([88 FR 89358](#)). The comment period closed on January 26, 2024, and the final rule is expected to publish in early April 2024.

**Amendment 21 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan — Housekeeping:** NMFS published a Notice of Availability on February 20, 2024 ([89 FR 12810](#)). The comment period is open until April 22, 2024.

Upcoming Regulatory Activities in 2024

**2024–2025 Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications:** The Council is slated to make recommendations to NMFS at the April 2024 meeting. NMFS expects to subsequently publish a proposed rule in May 2024 and a final rule in June 2024 to implement specifications by the start of the season on July 1, 2024.

**2024–2025 Exempted Fishing Permits:** The Council is slated to make recommendations to NMFS after reviewing EFP applications at the April 2024 meeting. NMFS would subsequently review and, after publishing a notice of receipt of the EFP applications in the *Federal Register* and considering any comments received, potentially issue any EFPs in summer of 2024.

**Amendment 22 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan — Essential Fish**

**Habitat:** The Council took final action at the June 2023 meeting to update the CPS EFH description in the CPS FMP. In the coming months, NMFS expects to publish a Notice of Availability of Amendment 22 for the updated EFH appendix to the CPS FMP.