

PACIFIC SARDINE HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND
MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2024-2025– FINAL ACTION

At this meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2024-25 Pacific sardine fishing season, which runs July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

A stock assessment team from the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center produced a benchmark assessment (Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1). A Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panel reviewed the assessment in February 2024 and produced a report (Agenda item I.3, Attachment 2). The Scientific and Statistical Committee will consider the assessment and STAR panel report, and provide a recommendation on the adoption of the assessment, biomass estimate, as well as an overfishing limit (OFL) and category designation. The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) advisory bodies and the Council should make recommendations on a P* to determine the acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), and other management measures as appropriate.

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 I.2). Aside from small scale and live bait fishing, directed fishing has been prohibited since 2015. In recent years, including the current 2023 – 2024 fishing season, the biomass estimates have been below the sardine harvest control rule CUTOFF of 150,000 mt, and below the overfished threshold of 50,000 metric tons (mt).

The current incidental allowance for sardine landed in other CPS fisheries is 20 percent, which is the maximum allowed when the 1+ biomass estimate is below 50,000 mt. If the 1+ biomass estimate is above 50,000 metric tons, the Council may adopt an incidental landing allowance between 0 – 45 percent for sardine landed in other CPS fisheries.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt an OFL and biomass estimate.**
- 2. Adopt a P*, ABC, ACL, 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: Benchmark Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2023 for U.S. Management in 2024-2025 (*Electronic Only*).
2. Attachment 2: STAR Panel Report.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.3 Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications and Management Kerry Griffin
Measures for 2024 – 2025 - Final Action
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2024-25 Pacific Sardine Fishery

PFMC
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