

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

AS AMENDED THROUGH AMENDMENT [XX21](#)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 History of the Fishery Management Plan

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[Amendment XX adopted a revised rebuilding plan for the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine and updated the scientific name for Pacific sand lance.](#)

1.2 Stocks in the Fishery Management Plan

1.2.1 Management Unit Species

Table 1-1 includes the fishery management unit species which are “in the fishery” and subject to provisions of the CPS FMP.

Table 1-1. Stocks managed under this FMP.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Pacific sardine Northern subpopulation	<i>Sardinops sagax</i>
Pacific (chub) mackerel	<i>Scomber japonicus</i>
Northern anchovy Central and northern subpopulations	<i>Engraulis mordax</i>
Market squid	<i>Doryteuthis opalescens</i>
Jack mackerel	<i>Trachurus symmetricus</i>
Krill or Euphausiids Including these eight dominant species. First two species are common and are most likely to be targeted by fishing	<i>All Species in West Coast EEZ</i> <i>Euphausia pacifica</i> <i>Thysanoessa spinifera</i> <i>Nyctiphanes simplex</i> <i>Nematocelis difficilis</i> <i>T. gregaria</i> <i>E. recurva</i> <i>E. gibboides</i> <i>E. eximia</i>

Stocks may be added or removed from the management unit through the framework process described in Section [Error! Reference source not found.2-0](#).

1.2.2 Ecosystem Component Species

Table 1-2. EC species under this FMP:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Pacific herring	<i>Clupea pallasii pallasii</i>
Jacksmelt	<i>Atherinopsis californiensis</i>

Table 1-3. EC species shared between all four of the Council’s FMPs, including the CPS FMP.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Round herring	<i>Etrumeus teres</i>
Thread herring	<i>Opisthonema libertate</i> , <i>O. medirastre</i>
Mesopelagic fishes	Families: <i>Myctophidae</i> , <i>Bathylagidae</i> , <i>Paralepididae</i> , and <i>Gonostomatidae</i>
Pacific sand lance	<i>Ammodytes hexapterus personatus</i>
Pacific saury	<i>Cololabis saira</i>
Silversides*	<i>Atherinopsidae</i>
Smelts	<i>Osmeridae</i>
Pelagic squids	Families: <i>Cranchiidae</i> , <i>Gonatidae</i> , <i>Histioteuthidae</i> , <i>Octopoteuthidae</i> , <i>Ommastrephidae</i> except Humboldt squid (<i>Dosidicus gigas</i>), <i>Onychoteuthidae</i> , and <i>Thysanoteuthidae</i>

*Silversides include jacksmelt, which is also listed in Table 1-2 as an EC species specific to the CPS FMP. Jacksmelt is subject to the same directed fishing prohibition as other Shared EC Species, but it may also be subject to additional management and monitoring requirements that the Council develops for the Table 1-2 EC species particular to this FMP.

4.5.1 Rebuilding Plan for Pacific Sardine

In July 2019, the National Marine Fisheries Service notified the Council that it had declared the Pacific sardine stock overfished. The declaration came as a result of the 2019 Pacific sardine stock assessment indicating that the stock had declined below its MSST of 50,000 mt. [The original A-rebuilding plan was adopted by the Council in September 2020 and, which was modified by the Council in November 2024.](#) The rebuilding reference points for Pacific sardine are:

$T_{min} = 12$ years

$T_{max} = 24$ years

$T_{target} = \underline{XX}14$ years

Rebuilding target = 150,000 mt of age 1+ biomass

Total catch limits (i.e., OFL/ABC/ACL) will be set annually based on annual stock assessments and the control rules in the FMP and recommendations from the SSC regarding uncertainty in the assessment and OFL. [The ACL will be set at \[INSERT ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION\].](#)

The management measures under the Pacific sardine Rebuilding Plan include the following:

- The primary directed fishery for Pacific sardine will be closed until the biomass reaches or exceeds 150,000 mt (i.e., the Rebuilding target and CUTOFF in the HG control rule);
- Incidental limits in other primary directed CPS fisheries are restricted to no more than 20 percent Pacific sardine per landing until the biomass reaches or exceeds 50,000 mt (i.e., the MSST for Pacific sardine);
- The minor directed fisheries are limited to 1 mt of Pacific sardine per trip per day;
- Live bait harvest is not specifically constrained under the Rebuilding Plan but is subject to management measures that will be reviewed during the Council’s annual specifications process; and

- Other management measures the Council may recommend (e.g., incidental catch limits in non-CPS fisheries)

The population dynamics of small coastal pelagic fish such as Pacific sardine are highly influenced by environmental conditions. Although fishing pressure can also impact the population dynamics of small pelagics, it is generally agreed that under current sardine management, harvest is a lesser factor in sardine population status than environmental factors. Historical analysis of marine sediment layers (Baumgartner et al, 1992) conclude that the sardine population is prone to long periods of decline even in the absence of fishing.