

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

Completed Regulatory Actions

Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (CSNA) Harvest Specifications

The Council recommended new multi-year CSNA harvest specifications in June 2022.

- NMFS published a proposed rule on December 27, 2023 ([88 FR 89358](#)). The 30-day comment period ended on January 26, 2024.
- NMFS published a final rule on April 19, 2024 ([89 FR 28679](#)).

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 60-day comment period ended on April 22, 2024.
- NMFS approved Amendment 21 on May 20, 2024, and published a notice of agency decision on May 28, 2024 ([89 FR 46035](#)).

2024–2025 Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications

The Council recommended 2024–2025 Pacific sardine specifications in April 2024. A court order was issued in *Oceana v. Raimondo, et al.* (No. 5:21-cv-05407-VKD N.D. Cal.) on April 22, 2024. A description of the subsequent court orders and judgment as they related to the review and timing of the 2024–2025 harvest specifications were reported to the Council in September 2024 ([G.1.a NMFS Report 1](#)).

- NMFS published the proposed specifications on June 21, 2024 ([89 FR 52005](#)), with a 15-day comment period ending on July 8, 2024. NMFS published interim specifications on July 12, 2024 ([89 FR 57093](#); effective July 11 – August 1, 2024), and again on August 1, 2024 ([89 FR 62668](#); effective July 29, 2024, until the implementation of 2024–2025 final specifications).
- NMFS published the final specifications on November 27, 2024 ([89 FR 93522](#); effective December 27, 2024), implementing harvest specifications as recommended by the Council.

2024–2025 Exempted Fishing Permits

Two applications were submitted by the California Wetfish Producers Association for the CPS Nearshore Cooperative Survey program (150 mt) and a biological sampling project (520 mt). Following the Council’s recommendation in April 2024, and NMFS’ publication of the proposed Pacific sardine harvest specifications, NMFS published a notice of receipt of the EFP

applications on June 26, 2024 ([89 FR 53396](#)). The NCS program application was subsequently withdrawn. NMFS issued the biological sampling EFP on December 6, 2024.

Current Regulatory Actions

Amendment 23 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan — Revised Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan

- NMFS published a notice of availability on March 12, 2025 ([90 FR 11817](#)). The 60-day comment period is open until **May 11, 2025**.

Upcoming Regulatory Activities

2025–2026 Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications

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

2025–2026 Exempted Fishing Permits

The Council is slated to make recommendations to NMFS after reviewing EFP applications at the April 2025 meeting. Following submission to NMFS of EFP applications, NMFS would 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 2025.

2025–2027 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications

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