

## PACIFIC SARDINE HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2025-2026– FINAL ACTION

At this meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2025-26 Pacific sardine fishing season, which runs July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

A stock assessment team from the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center produced an update assessment (Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1). The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the assessment in February 2025 and produced a report (Agenda item G.3, Attachment 2). The SSC will consider the assessment and Subcommittee 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 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, considering the recommendations for the revised Pacific sardine rebuilding plan adopted by the Council in November 2024.

The Council adopted Alternative 6 as their final preferred alternative, as outlined in November 2024 Agenda Item J.2, [Attachment 1: Revised Draft Pacific Sardine Rebuilding Plan](#).

Alternative 6 sets the following annual catch limits (ACLs) to support rebuilding of the northern subpopulation of the Pacific sardine stock:

When stock age 1+ biomass  $\leq$  50,000 mt; ACL = 2,200 mt or the ABC, whichever is less  
When stock age 1+ biomass  $>$  50,000 mt; ACL = 5 percent of the stock age 1+ biomass or the ABC, whichever is less

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 G.2). In recent years, the biomass estimates have been below the sardine harvest control rule CUTOFF of 150,000 mt and aside from small scale and live bait fishing, directed fishing has been prohibited since 2015.

The current (2024-2025 fishing year) incidental allowance for sardine landed in other CPS fisheries is 30 percent. When the 1+ biomass estimate is below 50,000 metric tons, the Council may adopt an incidental landing allowance between 0 – 20 percent for sardine landed in other CPS fisheries. When 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. (CPS FMP Section 5).

### **Council Tasks:**

- 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: Update Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2024 for U.S. Management in 2025-2026 (*Electronic Only*).
2. Attachment 2: Re-evaluation of the Recruits-Per-Spawner and CalCOFI SST Relationship in Pacific Sardine.
3. Attachment 3: Pacific sardine nearshore aerial biomass estimates in 2024 for the 2025 update and other stock assessments.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

#### Agenda Order:

- G.3 Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications and Management Katrina Bernaus  
Measures for 2025 – 2026 - 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 2025-26 Pacific Sardine Fishery

PFMC  
03/25/25