

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
COUNCIL RESPONSES TO EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) believes that revisions to Pacific sardine management should be the highest priority CPS action for improving seafood competitiveness of West Coast fisheries. The exclusion of Pacific sardine currently identified as ‘southern subpopulation’ from management may severely reduce the value of the Pacific sardine fishery to the U.S. industry. To the extent that measures can be adopted or undertaken without jeopardizing stock sustainability, we believe that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) should request that the National Marine Fisheries Service prioritize:

1. In-season adjustments to sardine catch accounting in the event that counting southern subpopulation sardine catches against the northern subpopulation annual catch limit results in attainment of any of the harvest specification limits and imposition of limits or even closures on fisheries (including live bait and fisheries that land sardine as bycatch).
2. Fully commit its staff to working with the Council to expedite and streamline management revisions that result in management of all sardine in U.S. waters.

PFMC
09/15/25