

PACIFIC SARDINE ASSESSMENT, HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS, AND
MANAGEMENT MEASURES – FINAL ACTION

At this meeting, the Council will consider the 2018 Pacific sardine stock assessment, and will adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2018-19 Pacific sardine fishing season, which runs July 1 through June 30. The 2018 assessment (Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1) is an update assessment, based on the previous year's full assessment. The assessment was reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee via webinar on March 6, 2018. The full Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the Subcommittee's report, and will make recommendations on the overfishing limit (OFL) and corresponding acceptable biological catch (ABC) to the Council.

The Quinault Indian Nation provided notice of their intent to participate in the upcoming sardine fishery, with an anticipated allocation need of 800 metric tons (Agenda Item C.5.a, Tribal Report).

For the past three fishing years, the biomass estimates in the stock assessments have been below the sardine harvest control rule Cutoff threshold of 150,000 mt, and directed fishing has therefore been precluded. The biomass estimate in this year's assessment again falls below the Cutoff threshold. In low biomass conditions when the stock is below the Cutoff but above the overfished threshold (50,000 mt), the CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) allows for the establishment of incidental harvest allowances and the continuation of the live bait fishery.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt the Pacific Sardine Assessment and Pacific sardine OFL.**
- 2. Select P*, ABC, annual catch limit, and, if appropriate, annual catch target specifications and management measures, including consideration of a Quinault tribal allocation.**
- 3. Adopt incidental catch allowance.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1: Stock Assessment Report Executive Summary: *Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2018 for U.S. Management in 2018-19. (Full document electronic only)*
2. Agenda Item C.5.a, Tribal Report 1: Letter from Ed Johnstone, Quinault Fisheries Policy Spokesperson, regarding the Quinault Indian Nation's intent to establish a tribal allocation and to enter the 2018-19 Pacific sardine fishery.
3. Agenda Item C.5.b, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

C.5 Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management
Measures - Final Action

Kerry Griffin

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Pacific Sardine Assessment and Final Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2018-2019 Sardine Fishery

PFMC
03/22/18