

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

At this meeting, the Council will consider the 2019 Pacific sardine stock assessment and will adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2019-20 Pacific sardine fishing season, which runs July 1 through June 30. The 2019 assessment (Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1) is an update assessment, based on the 2017 full assessment. Sardine stock assessments are typically done in a three-year cycle, with a benchmark assessment followed by two update assessments. The assessment will be reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee via webinar on March 28, 2019. The full SSC will review the Subcommittee's report, and will make recommendations on the overfishing limit (OFL) and corresponding acceptable biological catch (ABC) to the Council.

For the past four fishing years, the biomass estimates in the stock assessments have been below the sardine harvest control rule Cutoff threshold of 150,000 mt. Aside from small-scale directed fishing under CPS Fishery Management Plan Amendment 16, and live bait fishing, directed fishing has therefore been prohibited. The draft stock assessment indicates a biomass estimate below the Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) of 50,000 mt, a value that corresponds with the overfished threshold. If the final assessment is endorsed by the SSC, approved by the Council, and remains below the MSST, the Council should initiate discussion of a rebuilding plan and consideration of other management measures (e.g., directed fishing, live bait, and incidental allowances) relative to Pacific sardine harvest for the 2019 – 2020 fishing year.

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.**
- 3. Adopt incidental catch allowances for CPS and non-CPS fisheries.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1: Stock Assessment Report Executive Summary: *Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2019 for U.S. Management in 2019-20. (Full document electronic only)*
2. If received, Public Comments Will Be Electronic Only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.3 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 2019-2020 Sardine Fishery