

Except from Pacific Fishery Management Council’s April Decision Summary Document

<https://www.pcouncil.org/april-2026-decision-summary-document/>

Pacific Sardine Specifications and Management Measures for 2026–27 – Final Action

The Council adopted harvest specifications and management measures for the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine for the 2026-27 fishing year, based on a stock biomass of 30,158 mt projected in the 2025 update assessment ([Attachment 1](#)). In the absence of a stock assessment produced for the 2026-2027 fishing season, the biomass estimate from the 2025 assessment remains the best scientific information available to inform harvest specifications and the SSC determined that rolling over the OFL of 4,645 mt from 2025-26 is appropriate for informing management for 2026-27. Given the lack of new information and the short generation time of Pacific sardine, the SSC also determined the acceptable biological catch (ABC) should be calculated by coupling the OFL value with a Category 3 sigma value of 2.0.

Specifications followed the guidelines of the revised Pacific sardine rebuilding plan approved on May 29, 2025, as Amendment 23 to the CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (90 FR 23461). These specifications included an OFL, ABC with a Tier 3 sigma (uncertainty level), a P* uncertainty buffer, an ACL, and an ACT.

OFL	4,645 mt
P*	0.45
ABC Tier 3	3,613 mt
ACL	2,200 mt
ACT	2,100 mt

Accountability Measures Included:

1. Incidental landing limit in CPS fisheries of 20 percent
2. If the ACT of 2,100 mt is attained, a per-trip limit of 1 mt of Pacific sardine applies to all CPS fisheries
3. An incidental per-landing allowance of 2 mt of Pacific sardine in non-CPS fisheries until the ACL is reached.

The specifications accommodate the exempted fishing permit request of 520 mt.