



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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May 4, 2015

Dear Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Participants:

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding the recent actions taken by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) regarding Pacific sardine and to respond to a request that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has received for a targeted mackerel fishing opportunity for the 2015-2016 season.

At their April meeting, PFMC took inseason action to recommend closure of the current 2014-2015 sardine season and, based on the results of the new sardine stock assessment, there will not be a targeted sardine fishery for the 2015-2016 season; see enclosure for more details on these actions.

With regard to the request for a targeted mackerel fishery, PFMC will be reviewing and considering the latest mackerel stock assessment at their June meeting. Given the status of the stock in the previous assessment and the mixed stock nature of the mackerel fishery with Pacific sardine, it is unclear whether and to what degree targeted mackerel fisheries will be allowed next year on the West Coast. We will know more after PFMC's deliberations in June.

WDFW is open to considering a proposed targeted mackerel fishery but potential participants should be aware that, like sardine, mackerel availability and future harvest opportunity is likely to be limited. As such, it may be beneficial to discuss a license structure that allows for harvest of a broader suite of CPS and the legislative changes that are needed to provide for that. We have scheduled a meeting to discuss mackerel and broader CPS fishing opportunities for **June 22, 2015, at 1:00 pm, in Olympia, at the Natural Resources Building, Room 172.**

If you have questions regarding the management of CPS fisheries, please contact Lorna Wargo, Marine Fish Fisheries Manager, at (360) 249-1221 or at Lorna.Wargo@dfw.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Michele K. Culver
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Lorna Wargo