DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
50 CFR Part 660
Docket No. 0912281446–0111–02
RIN 0648–XW90
Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure
AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.
ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.
SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific sardine off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. This action is necessary because the directed harvest allocation total for the first seasonal period (January 1–June 30) is projected to be reached by the effective date of this rule. The above in-season harvest restrictions are not intended to affect the prosecution of the live bait portion of the Pacific sardine fishery.
Classifications:
This action is required by 50 CFR 660.509 and is exempt from Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866.
NMFS finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30–day delay in effectiveness for this action. This measure responds to the best available information and is necessary for the conservation and management of the Pacific sardine resource. A delay in effectiveness would cause the fishery to exceed the in-season harvest level. These seasonal harvest levels are important mechanisms in preventing overfishing and managing the fishery at optimum yield. The established directed and incidental harvest allocations are designed to allow fair and equitable opportunity to the resource by all sectors of the Pacific sardine fishery and to allow access to other profitable CPS fisheries, such as squid and Pacific mackerel.

Many of the same fishermen who harvest Pacific sardine rely on these other fisheries for a significant portion of their income.

Carrie Selberg,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.