



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DECLARATION OF FISHERIES RESTRICTION
DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT
CAUSED BY ELEVATED LEVELS OF DOMOIC ACID IN PACIFIC SARDINE

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I find and declare that

I.

On May 9, 2025, the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in consultation with the State Public Health Officer at the California Department of Public Health determined that Pacific sardine in ocean waters south of Point Conception (34° 27.000' N. lat.) to the California/Mexico border, pose a human health risk due to elevated levels of domoic acid and recommended to restrict the commercial and recreational take of Pacific sardine for human consumption in the affected area.

II.

THEREFORE, under the authority granted by Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I am restricting the commercial and recreational take of Pacific sardine in ocean waters south of Point Conception (34° 27.000' N. lat.) to the California/Mexico border. Under the restriction, Pacific sardine taken from the affected area shall not be possessed or sold for human consumption, except:

1. Commercial take for use as live bait is allowed.
2. The recreational take for use as bait is allowed.

This restriction of take for human consumption will remain in place until I am notified by the public health agencies named above, that a health hazard regarding Pacific sardine no longer exists.

Charlton H. Bonham, Director

Date/Time