

PACIFIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT FOR 2008-2009

The Council is scheduled to review the current Pacific mackerel stock assessment and adopt a harvest guideline for the 2008-2009 Pacific mackerel fishing season, which opens July 1, 2008 and closes June 30, 2009.

Full assessments for Pacific mackerel typically occur every third year, necessitating a three-year cycle for the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process. The last STAR process for Pacific mackerel occurred in 2007. New modeling efforts were a major focus of the 2007 STAR process but, unresolved technical issues led the Council to recommend no changes to Pacific mackerel assessment methodology for this year's assessment update. The next full assessment and STAR process for Pacific mackerel is scheduled for 2009.

The National Marine Fisheries Services, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, took the lead in developing the 2008 updated assessment of Pacific mackerel for the 2008-2009 fishing season (Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 1). The assessment update was reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee's CPS Subcommittee, the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) during a series of meetings May 13-15 2008 in Long Beach California. The CPSMT and CPSAS statements with recommendations on the harvest guideline and management measures for 2008-2009 are included in the reference materials under Agenda Item G.1.c. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will prepare a supplemental statement at the June meeting.

The CPSMT has completed a draft of the eighth annual Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery and Recommended Acceptable Biological Catches – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation 2008 document (Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1). Once adopted, the 2008 Pacific Mackerel Stock Assessment and 2008-2009 management measures will be included in the 2008 CPS SAFE.

Council Action:

1. Approve Stock Assessment, Harvest Guideline, and Management Measures for the 2008-2009 Fishery.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1 *Draft Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery and Recommended Acceptable Biological Catches – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation 2008 (electronic copy on Council Briefing Book CD)*.
2. Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 1: *Pacific Mackerel (Scomber japonicus) Stock Assessment for U.S. Management in the 2008-2009 Season*.
3. Agenda Item G.1.c, CPSMT Report.
4. Agenda Item G.1.c, CPSAS Report.
5. Agenda Item G.1.c, Supplemental SSC Report
6. Agenda Item G.1.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Approve Stock Assessment, Harvest Guideline,
and Management Measures

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