

PACIFIC MACKEREL ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will adopt management and harvest specifications for Pacific mackerel, including overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL), for two consecutive fishing years (2015-16 and 2016-17). The Council may also choose to adopt an annual catch target (ACT), as was done for the past two fishing years. The fishing year for Pacific mackerel begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the following year.

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center produced a benchmark stock assessment (Agenda Item G.2.a, Full Stock Assessment Report), which was reviewed by a stock assessment review (STAR) Panel in April 2015. The full stock assessment is included in June Briefing Book materials electronic only, and an executive summary of the assessment is included as hard copy (Agenda item G.2.a, Stock Assessment Report Executive Summary). The STAR Panel's report is included as Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1.

Commercial and recreational catches in the past 10 years have ranged between approximately 2,000 mt and 11,000 mt, and have been well below the ABC. However, there is some speculation that with the closure of the directed Pacific sardine fishery, there may be increased targeting of Pacific mackerel in the coming year.

Council Action:

- 1. Approve the Pacific Mackerel Biomass Projection Estimate and OFL.**
- 2. Adopt harvest specifications, including P*, ABC, ACL and, if appropriate, ACT.**
- 3. Adopt management measures.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1: STAR Panel Report.
2. Agenda Item G.2.a, Stock Assessment Report Executive Summary.
3. Agenda Item G.2.a, Full Stock Assessment Report (*Electronic Only*).
4. Agenda Item G.2.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

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| G.2 Pacific Mackerel Assessment and Management Measures | Kerry Griffin |
| a. Stock Assessment Report | Kevin Hill |
| b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities | |
| c. Public Comment | |
| d. Council Action: Adopt Final Harvest Specifications and Management measures for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Fisheries | |