

PACIFIC MACKEREL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES  
FOR 2014-2015

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). The Council may also choose to adopt an annual catch target (ACT), as was done for 2013-2014 management. This action will apply to the Pacific mackerel fishing year that begins July 1, 2014 and ends June 30, 2015.

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center produced a catch-only biomass projection estimate (Agenda Item G.2.b, NMFS Report), using the same base model and other parameters in the 2011 full assessment. The projection estimate report also includes additional biomass estimates derived using alternative recruitment assumptions requested by members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee Coastal Pelagic Species Subcommittee.

While commercial and recreational catches still remain far below the current ABC of 52,358 mt, the 2013-2014 fishing year has seen almost double the catch from the prior fishing year. In the prior fishing year, the total catch was 4,969 mt. As of late May, 2014, the total catch in this fishing year was 10,100 mt.

Starting with the 2015-2016 fishing year, the Council will begin setting annual harvest specifications for two years in a row. Based on Council action in June 2013, Pacific mackerel will remain categorized as actively managed, but will see a change in the assessment and management schedule. The new schedule includes full assessments every four years starting in 2015, and catch-only projection estimates every four years starting in 2017.

**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.b, NMFS Report: Pacific Mackerel Biomass Projection Estimate for USA Management (2014-15).

**Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Pacific Mackerel Biomass Projection
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Biomass Projection, Annual Harvest Specifications, and Management measures for Pacific Mackerel

Kerry Griffin  
Kevin Hill