

**COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
 PACIFIC MACKEREL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR  
 2014-2015**

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) heard a presentation by Dr. Kevin Hill on the catch-only biomass projection estimate for Pacific mackerel, to inform management for the 2014-2015 fishing year (Agenda item G.2.b, NMFS Report). The projection estimate is based on the 2011 full stock assessment, which has now been used for four consecutive management cycles. Catch-only projections were conducted in 2013 and 2014.

In June 2013, the Council established a Pacific mackerel management and assessment schedule such that full stock assessments will be conducted every four years, starting in 2015, and catch-only projection estimates will be conducted every four years, starting in 2017. The Council also directed that annual harvest measures be implemented on a biennial basis beginning with the 2015-2016 fishing year. Thus, the 2014-2015 season is the last season of harvest specifications before the new management regime and the next full stock assessment.

**Harvest and Management Specifications**

For use in the 2014-2015 fishing year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee has identified the biomass estimate presented in agenda item G.2.b (NMFS Report), based on the average recruitment from 2008-2010, as a risk neutral approach, resulting in an estimated biomass of 157,106 mt (Table 1). Accordingly, the CPSMT makes the following recommendations:

- (1) establish an overfishing limit (OFL) of 32,992 mt; a P\* value of 0.45; an acceptable biological catch (ABC) and annual catch limit (ACL) equal to 30,138 mt; and a resulting harvest guideline (HG) of 29,170 mt. The CPSMT concurs with the CPSAS recommendation to have an incidental set-aside of 5,000 mt, resulting in an annual catch target (ACT) of 24,170 mt.
- (2) should the directed fishery realize the ACT (24,170 mt), the CPSMT recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) close the directed fishery and shift to an incidental fishery only, with a 45 percent incidental landing allowance when Pacific mackerel are landed with other coastal pelagic species (CPS), with the exception that up to 1 mt of Pacific mackerel could be landed without landing any other CPS.

<b>Table 1. Pacific Mackerel Harvest Values</b>	<b>MT</b>
Biomass	157,106
$OFL = \text{Biomass} * F_{msy} * \text{Distribution}$	32,992
$ABC_{0.45} = \text{Biomass} * \text{Buffer}_{0.45} * F_{msy} * \text{Dist.}$	30,138
ACL	30,138
$HG = (\text{Biomass} - \text{Cutoff}) * \text{Fraction} * \text{Dist.}$	29,170
$ACT = (HG - \text{incidental set aside})$	24,170
Incidental set-aside	5,000

Table 2 includes ABC values based on alternative P\* choices.

<b>Table 2. Range of ABC Values</b>	<b>MT</b>
Biomass	157,106
ABC <sub>0.45</sub>	30,138
ABC <sub>0.40</sub>	27,491
ABC <sub>0.30</sub>	22,617
ABC <sub>0.20</sub>	17,999
HG	29,170

PFMC  
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