

## PACIFIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT STATUS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to adopt management and harvest specifications for Pacific mackerel, including Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), and Annual Catch Limit (ACL). The Council will also consider moving Pacific mackerel from active to monitored status. If Pacific mackerel remains in the active management category, the Council action would be to set annual harvest specifications (status quo). If mackerel is moved to monitored status, the Council would set multi-year specifications and would not have to set new specifications annually.

In 2011, the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) conducted a full assessment (Agenda Item I.2.b, Attachment 1, *available on briefing book website and CD Only*) that was approved by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Council. That assessment estimated the age 1+ biomass to be 211,126 mt. The Council adopted an Annual Catch Target (ACT) of 30,336 mt, and an incidental set-aside of 10,128 mt. The Council also adopted a “check in” provision to consider the possibility of re-allocating the incidental set-aside to the directed fishery. However, landings have remained well below the ACT, and therefore no action was warranted. The Council also recommended foregoing an assessment in 2012, and maintained the same management measures for the 2012-2013 fishing year, based on the 2011 assessment.

The SSC and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) recommended (in June 2012 and November 2012, respectively) that the SWFSC develop a catch-only projection estimate of Pacific mackerel biomass (Agenda Item I.2.b, Attachment 2) to be used setting 2013-2014 harvest management specifications. Subsequently, the CPSMT recommended consideration of moving mackerel to the monitored status, based on very low catches, limited additional sample information, and indications that the population’s sustainability is not presently being compromised by fishing pressure. The SSC will consider the projection estimate and method, and will recommend an OFL to the Council.

If the Council adopts a status change from active to monitored, the National Marine Fisheries Service and Council staff would develop appropriate regulatory and Council Operating Procedure changes, for adoption at a subsequent Council meeting.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt Change from Active to Monitored Status.**
- 2. Adopt Harvest and Management Specifications.**
- 3. Provide guidance on Regulatory and Council Operating Procedure Changes.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item I.2.b, Attachment 1: 2011 Pacific Mackerel Assessment (*Available on Briefing Book Website and CD Only*).
2. Agenda Item I.2.b, Attachment 2: Pacific Mackerel Biomass Projection Estimate.

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:** Consider Change in Management Status and Adopt Management Measures for Pacific Mackerel

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