

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON PACIFIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT
 STATUS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the recent analysis of Pacific mackerel status with Mr. Kerry Griffin. The projection provides the best estimate of current biomass and hence the overfishing limit (OFL). However, it is based on an assessment conducted two years ago. Consequently, the recruitments are not individually estimated for several recent years but are instead taken directly from the estimated stock-recruitment relationship. This, along with the concerns raised about the stock assessment during the most recent Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel, suggests that scientific uncertainty is greater than the default sigma of 0.36 would suggest. The SSC consequently recommends setting the sigma for computing the buffer between the OFL and acceptable biological catch (ABC) to 0.72 which is the sigma value for category 2 groundfish stocks. These are groundfish stocks for which recruitments are not estimated or the assessment is not considered as reliable as category 1 stock assessments. This change in sigma is included in Table 1 below.

Table 1. OFL ABC range, and harvest guideline (HG)

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|--|---------|
| Biomass | 272,932 |
| $OFL = \text{Biomass} * F_{msy} * \text{Distribution}$ | 57,316 |
| $ABC_{0.45} = \text{Biomass} * \text{buffer}_{0.45} * F_{msy} * \text{Distribution}$ | 52,358 |
| $ABC_{0.40} = \text{Biomass} * \text{buffer}_{0.40} * F_{msy} * \text{Distribution}$ | 47,759 |
| $ABC_{0.30} = \text{Biomass} * \text{buffer}_{0.30} * F_{msy} * \text{Distribution}$ | 39,292 |
| $ABC_{0.20} = \text{Biomass} * \text{buffer}_{0.20} * F_{msy} * \text{Distribution}$ | 31,269 |
| $HG = (\text{Biomass} - \text{Cutoff}) * \text{Fraction} * \text{Distribution}$ | 53,494 |

The SSC recommends that the Terms of Reference for stock assessments be updated to include stock assessment categories for Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) stocks, and that CPS stock assessments are formally assigned to a category in the future.