

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
PACIFIC MACKEREL HARVEST GUIDELINE AND OTHER SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2001

Dr. Kevin Hill of the California Department of Fish and Game presented the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) with a summary of the status of the Pacific mackerel resource in 1999 and recommendations for the fishery in 2000-2001.

Evidence from model estimates of biomass indicate the population is in a downward trend. Recruitments have been low for nearly 20 years, and the downward trend in abundance is expected to continue as long as present environmental conditions persist. Harvest guidelines (HGs) were derived from a formula specified in the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan. If the formula performs as expected, the HG will allow for stock rebuilding, depending on environmental conditions. Based on our summary review, the SSC supports the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team's (CPSMT) recommendation regarding the 2000-2001 HG.

The SSC also discussed the utility of establishing a formal outside review process for CPS stock assessments. The SSC recommends the agencies and CPSMT consider developing a set of options that describe how such a review process could be implemented. The process would not necessarily need to be modeled after the relatively intensive Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel process used for groundfish. The process might, for example, involve the periodic assembly of an outside review panel to review modeling procedures for multiple CPS species at the same time, rather than an annual stock assessment review cycle.

PFMC
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