

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON
PACIFIC MACKEREL STOCK ASSESSMENT HARVEST GUIDELINE

Dr. Kevin Hill discussed the 2002-2003 Pacific mackerel harvest guideline (HG) with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The recommended HG is 12,456 mt based on the maximum sustainable yield control rule in Amendment 8 to the coastal pelagic species (CPS) plan. The SSC notes the HG is based on the same stock assessment methodology and harvest control rule used in 2001, with the addition of one additional year's data. Compared with the 2001 assessment, the biomass time series for the 2002 assessment is 14% lower over the last decade, and the July 1, 2001 biomass, a projection in the 2001 assessment, 30% lower. Dr Hill outlined some planned modifications to the assessment and potential new data sources. The methodology on which this assessment is based is not fully documented in the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report precluding a detailed review by the SSC at this time. The SSC recommends the methodology be reviewed in detail by a stock assessment review panel in 2003. The CPS subcommittee of the SSC will develop Terms of Reference for such a review if it is supported and funded. The timing of any review needs to be coordinated with the timing of the groundfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panels for 2003.

PFMC
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