

PACIFIC MACKEREL STOCK ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE

Situation: Per the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan (FMP) annual cycle, the Council is scheduled to review the Pacific mackerel stock assessment and adopt for recommendation to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce a harvest guideline for the 2002-2003 Pacific mackerel fishing season.

For the 2001-2002 fishery, the Council recommended a 6,000 mt harvest guideline for a directed fishery, after which an incidental allowance would be instituted. The directed fishery for Pacific mackerel was closed on November 21, 2001 and an incidental allowance of 45% by weight was put in place. On April 1, 2002, the directed fishery was re-opened and the incidental allowance restriction rescinded. NMFS re-opened the directed fishery, because a significant portion of the Pacific mackerel harvest guideline remained.

The 2002-2003 fishery opens July 1, 2002. The current stock assessment and management recommendations are summarized in Attachment 1.

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) have reviewed the assessment and the recommended harvest guideline. They will present their respective advice to the Council.

The CPSMT has completed the third annual *Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery and Recommended Harvest Guidelines – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) – 2002* document. This is included in the briefing book.

According to the annual management plan, the CPS SAFE document will be prepared and presented in two sections. The main section will be submitted at the June Council meeting. This portion of the SAFE will include the annual Pacific mackerel assessment, evaluation of the fisheries based on the calendar year, and the status of monitored species. The second (supplemental) section will include the Pacific sardine assessment and status of the sardine fishery. The supplemental section will be presented at the November Council meeting.

Council Action:

1. Review Stock Assessments and Adopt Harvest Guideline for Pacific Mackerel.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit G.3, Attachment 1, *Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery and Recommended Harvest Guidelines – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) – 2002*.
2. Exhibit G.3.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
- ✓ 3. Exhibit G.3.b, Supplemental CPSAS Report. received 6/20/02

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Review Stock Assessments and Adopt Harvest Guideline for Pacific Mackerel

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4. Exhibit G.3.b, Supplemental SSC Report.