

PACIFIC MACKEREL HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2003 THROUGH 2004

Situation: The Council is scheduled to review the current Pacific mackerel stock assessment and adopt a harvest guideline for the 2003-2004 Pacific mackerel fishing season.

In 2002, a harvest guideline of 12,535 mt was established based on a biomass estimate of 77,892 mt. Because this relatively small harvest guideline could have interfered with the harvest of other coastal pelagic species (CPS), the fishery for Pacific mackerel was conducted as follows.

1. A directed fishery was allotted 9,500 mt, with 3,035 mt of the harvest guideline utilized for incidental landings following the closure of the directed fishery.
2. If necessary, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was to close the directed fishery, after which no more than 40% by weight of a landing of CPS could consist of Pacific mackerel, except that up to 1 mt of Pacific mackerel could be landed without landing any other CPS.
3. If a sufficient amount of the harvest guideline remained before the end of the fishing season, the directed fishery would be reopened.

However, as of May 21, only 3,755 mt of Pacific mackerel has been harvested, and the directed fishery remains open.

The 2003-2004 fishery opens July 1, 2003. The current stock assessment and management recommendations are summarized in Attachment 1, Appendix 2.

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 fourth annual *Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery and Recommended Harvest Guidelines – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) – 2003* document. This is included in the briefing book.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guideline for the 2003 through 2004 Season.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit E.2, Attachment 1, *Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery and Recommended Harvest Guidelines – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) – 2003.*
2. Exhibit E.2.b, CPSMT Report.
3. Exhibit E.2.b, CPSAS Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Adopt Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guideline for the 2003 through 2004 Season
- Dan Waldeck

PFMC
05/30/03