

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT
ON PACIFIC MACKEREL STOCK ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE
FOR 2003 THROUGH 2004

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) heard a report from Dr. Kevin Hill of the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) regarding the Pacific mackerel stock assessment and proposed harvest guideline for the 2003-2004 season.

Based on the most recent information, the CPSMT is recommending a harvest guideline of 10,652 mt for the 2003-2004 season.

Based on this harvest guideline, the CPSAS is recommending a directed fishery for 7,500 mt to begin on July 1, 2003. After the directed fishery quota is reached, the fishery will revert to an incidental-catch-only fishery. There will be 3,152 mt as a set aside for the incidental fishery. The CPSAS recommends a 40% incidental catch rate when mackerel are landed with other coastal pelagic species (CPS), except that up to 1 mt of Pacific mackerel could be landed without landing any other CPS.

The CPSAS recommends an inseason review of the mackerel season for the March 2004 Council meeting, with the possibility of re-opening the directed fishery as an automatic action if a sufficient amount of the harvest guideline remains.

PFMC
05/30/03