

PACIFIC SARDINE AND PACIFIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to review the current Pacific sardine stock assessment and adopt harvest specifications and management measures for the 2008 Pacific sardine fishing season. Additionally, the Council is scheduled to review and potentially approve revised assessment methodologies for Pacific mackerel. Any Council approved assessment methodology changes for Pacific mackerel are intended for use during the 2008 assessment update process and will not affect the ongoing 2007-2008 fishery.

Full assessments and their accompanying Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process for actively managed coastal pelagic species (CPS) typically occur every third year and were last completed in 2004. For this 2007 cycle, the National Marine Fisheries Services, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, took the lead in developing a new full assessment of Pacific sardine for the 2008 fishing season (Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 1). The full assessment was reviewed during the September 18-21, 2007 STAR Panel meeting in La Jolla, California. The STAR Panel and the Stock Assessment Team agreed on an assessment for use in managing the upcoming Pacific sardine season. Unlike previous Pacific sardine assessments, this new assessment utilizes the Stock Synthesis II Assessment Program (SS2). The full report of the STAR Panel can be found under Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 2.

At the June Council meeting, based on recommendations of the Pacific Mackerel Stock Assessment Team, the May 1-4, 2007 STAR Panel, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and the CPS advisory bodies; the Council recommended additional analyses to further explore using an SS2 model for the Pacific mackerel assessment. New analyses were reviewed at the September CPS STAR Panel and the report is available as Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 3.

The SSC will review the Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel assessments and prepare a supplemental statement at the November Council meeting. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) are also scheduled to meet at the November Council meeting and will provide supplemental statements, including recommendations on the harvest specification and management measures for the 2008 Pacific sardine fishery.

Council Action:

Adopt Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures for 2008 and Approve Pacific Mackerel Assessment Methodology for Use in the 2008 Assessment Update.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 1: *Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2007 for U.S. Management in 2008 (Appendix II-SS2 Input files for Base Model J14* is included only with the electronic copy on Council Briefing Book CD).
2. Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 2: *Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment Review Panel Meeting Report.*
3. Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 3: *Pacific Mackerel Stock Assessment Review Panel Meeting Report.*
4. Agenda Item G.1.d, Supplemental SSC Report.
5. Agenda Item G.1.d, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
6. Agenda Item G.1.d, Supplemental CPSAS Report.
7. Agenda Item G.1.e, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. NMFS Report
 - c. Agency and Tribal Comments
 - d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - e. Public Comment
 - f. **Council Action:** Adopt Pacific Sardine Harvest Guideline and Management Measures for 2008; and Approve Pacific Mackerel Assessment Methodology
- Mike Burner
Kevin Hill

PFMC
10/17/07