

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
PACIFIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT FOR 2008-2009

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) heard a report from Dr. Emmanis Dorval and Dr. Kevin Hill of the Pacific Mackerel Stock Assessment Team regarding the Pacific mackerel stock assessment and proposed harvest guideline for the 2008-2009 season.

Based on the current assessment update and the harvest control rule for Pacific mackerel, the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the 2008-2009 is estimated to be 51,772 metric tons (mt). The CPSAS again concurs with the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) recommendation to establish a harvest guideline for the directed fishery at 40,000 mt, providing an 11,772 mt set-aside for incidental landings in other fisheries. The CPSAS recommends that the Council provide guidance to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that, in the event the directed fishery reaches 40,000 mt, NMFS close the directed fishery and revert to an incidental-catch-only fishery with a 45 percent incidental landing allowance when Pacific 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 in-season review of the 2008-2009 Pacific mackerel fishery at the nearest feasible Council meeting, if needed, with the possibility of either releasing a portion of the incidental set-aside to the directed fishery or further constraining incidental landings to ensure total harvest remains below the ABC.

PFMC  
05/21/08