

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

In 2008, an updated assessment for Pacific mackerel was completed by Southwest Fisheries Science Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee's Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee met May 13, 2008 in Long Beach, California to review the latest stock assessment of Pacific mackerel. The CPSMT heard a presentation by Dr. Emmanis Dorval of the Stock Assessment Team. The CPSMT supported conclusions from the most recent Pacific mackerel stock assessment update and recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopt the resulting acceptable biological catch (ABC) associated with the harvest control rule stipulated in this species' fishery management plan for the 2008-2009 management season (i.e., July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009). Based on a total stock biomass estimate of 264,732 mt, the ABC for U.S. fisheries is 51,772 mt.

Due to uncertainty associated with changes to modeling parameters recommended by the 2007 Stock Assessment Review Panel and the fact that the U.S. fishery is assumed to be market limited to roughly 40,000 mt, the CPSMT recommends setting the 2008-2009 harvest guideline (HG) no higher than 40,000 mt. This HG recommendation is the same as the HG adopted by the Council for the 2007-2008 fishery.

Recent U.S. annual landings have been well below the established HGs for the directed fishery. However, uncertainty still exists concerning the magnitude of fisheries in Mexico that harvest Pacific mackerel and thus, caution is recommended when evaluating fishery impacts on transboundary Pacific mackerel stocks.

PFMC
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