

PACIFIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT FOR 2009-2010

The Council is scheduled to review the current Pacific mackerel stock assessment and adopt a harvest guideline and management measures for the 2009-2010 Pacific mackerel fishing season, which opens July 1, 2009 and closes the earlier of June 30, 2010 or attainment of the directed fishery harvest guideline.

Full assessments for Pacific mackerel typically occur every third year, necessitating a three-year cycle for the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process. The last STAR process for Pacific mackerel occurred in 2007. New modeling efforts were a major focus of the 2007 STAR process, but unresolved technical issues led the Council to recommend that the next full assessment and STAR process for Pacific mackerel occur in 2009 rather than 2010.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, took the lead in developing the 2009 full assessment of Pacific mackerel for the 2009-2010 fishing season (Agenda Item H.1.b, Attachment 1). The assessment was reviewed by a STAR Panel May 4-8, 2009 where the stock assessment team and the STAR Panel agreed on a base assessment model (Agenda Item H.1.b, Attachment 2). The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) will review the full assessment and STAR Panel recommendations before developing harvest specifications and management measures at the June meeting (see Ancillary Meetings for details).

The first draft of the ninth annual Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery and Recommended Acceptable Biological Catches – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document for 2009 (Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 1) was unavailable for the briefing book, but will be posted as supplemental material on the Council web site in advance of the June Council meeting. Once adopted, the 2009 Pacific Mackerel Stock Assessment and 2009-2010 management measures will be included in the 2009 CPS SAFE.

Council Action:

1. Approve Stock Assessment, Harvest Guideline, and Management Measures for the 2009-2010 Pacific Mackerel Fishery.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 1 *Draft Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery and Recommended Acceptable Biological Catches – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation 2009 (electronic copy posted to Council web site)*.
2. Agenda Item H.1.b, Attachment 1: *Pacific Mackerel (Scomber japonicus) Stock Assessment for U.S. Management in the 2009-2010 Season*.
3. Agenda Item H.1.b, Attachment 2: Pacific Mackerel, STAR Panel Meeting Report.
4. Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental SSC Report.
5. Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
6. Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental CPSAS Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Approve Stock Assessment, Harvest Guideline, and Management Measures

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