

FINAL PACIFIC MACKEREL STOCK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will adopt management and harvest specifications for Pacific mackerel, including overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL), for two consecutive fishing years (2017-18 and 2018-19). The Council may also choose to adopt an annual catch target (ACT), as was done for the past two fishing years. The fishing year for Pacific mackerel begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the following year.

The assessment schedule for Pacific mackerel has full benchmark assessments produced every four years (e.g., 2015, 2019, etc), and catch-only projection estimates produced in alternating four years (e.g., 2017, 2021, etc). The Southwest Fisheries Science Center produced a catch-only projection estimate (Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 1), which was reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Coastal Pelagic Species Subcommittee via webinar, on May 1, 2017. The Subcommittee provided a report to the full SSC, and the full SSC is expected to produce a report with recommendations regarding the adequacy of the biomass estimate, an OFL value, and a category designation for setting the value of sigma used in determining the ABC.

Council Action:

- 1. Approve the Pacific mackerel biomass projection estimate and OFL.**
- 2. Adopt harvest specifications, including P*, ABC, ACL and, if appropriate, ACT.**
- 3. Adopt management measures.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 1: Pacific Mackerel Biomass Projection Estimate.

Agenda Order:

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| D.1 Pacific Mackerel Assessment and Management Measures | Kerry Griffin |
| a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities | |
| b. Public Comment | |
| c. Council Action: Adopt Final Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Fisheries | |