

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PACIFIC MACKEREL BIOMASS PROJECTION ESTIMATE AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) on May 31, 2017 jointly received, via webinar, a presentation from Dr. Paul Crone on the catch-only projection assessment update of Pacific mackerel for use in management. The CPSMT commends the Stock Assessment Team (STAT) on their efforts to update the 2015 H3 assessment model, and supports the approval of the catch-only projection estimates as put forward by the STAT and reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee in June 8, 2017.

Starting in 2015, the Council began a new stock assessment and management schedule for Pacific mackerel based on a four-year cycle, with the next full assessment scheduled for 2019. Catch-only projection estimates were also scheduled to be conducted every four years starting in 2017. The Council also began implementing annual harvest measures on a biennial basis. Accordingly, management measures for both the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 will be set based on model projection estimates.

Harvest and management specifications

The CPSMT recommends the overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and harvest guideline (HG) values contained in Table 3 in the catch-only projection estimate (Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 1), using the baseline model. Specifically, these values are shown in Tables 1 and 2 below. These values are based on a P-star value of 0.45, which the CPSMT also recommends. The CPSMT also recommends an incidental set-aside of 1,000 mt each fishing year, with associated annual catch targets (ACTs) 1,000 mt less than the HG. These values are included below. Should the Council select a P-star value other than 0.45, the harvest specifications would follow those in Appendix B, Tables B1A and B1B.

The CPSMT further recommends that for each separate fishing year, should the directed fishery realize the ACT, the National Marine Fisheries Service should close the directed fishery and shift to an incidental-only fishery for the remainder of the fishing season, with a 45 percent incidental landing allowance when Pacific mackerel are landed with other coastal pelagic species (CPS), with the exception that up to 3 mt of Pacific mackerel per landing could be landed in non-CPS fisheries.

Pacific mackerel research and review needs

The CPSMT strongly supports recommendations made by the STAT to: (1) further develop research for standardizing catch-only projection methods used for Pacific Mackerel and other CPS; and (2) assess the utility of using the Acoustic Trawl Method (ATM) to assess Pacific mackerel biomass during the upcoming ATM review scheduled by the Council in 2018.

Table 1. 2017-2018 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications

Biomass	143,403 mt
OFL	30,115 mt
ABC _{0.45}	27,510 mt
ACL (=ABC)	27,510 mt
HG	26,293 mt
ACT	25,293 mt
Incidental	1,000 mt

Table 2. 2018-2019 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications

Biomass	131,724 mt
OFL	27,662 mt
ABC _{0.45}	25,269 mt
ACL (=ABC)	25,269 mt
HG	23,840 mt
ACT	22,840 mt
Incidental	1,000 mt

PFMC
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