

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PACIFIC MACKEREL ASSESSMENT AND BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES – FINAL ACTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS), and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received presentations from Dr. Peter Kuriyama and Dr. André Punt on the most recent benchmark stock assessment of Pacific mackerel. In April 2023, a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, CA reviewed the draft benchmark assessment. The CPSMT commends the Stock Assessment Team (STAT) on their efforts and supports the SSC's approval of the final base model as put forward by the STAT for use in setting management measures for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fishing years.

The STAT was unable to make use of the 2022 acoustic trawl (AT) survey data; the STAR panel report ([G.2, Attachment 2](#)) noted this as a deficiency in the assessment. The CPSMT reiterates the importance of a viable, regular survey that encompasses the full distribution of this stock including the Mexican portion of its range. The STAR panel meeting report also noted the importance of the AT surveys for CPS assessments. The STAR panel report provided research recommendations regarding Pacific mackerel, which the CPSMT supports pursuing.

Harvest and Management Specifications

Based on the estimated biomass and overfishing limits (OFL) endorsed by the SSC (Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1), the CPSMT recommends the acceptable biological catch (ABC) and harvest guideline (HG) values as presented in Tables 1 and 2 below. These values are based on a Category 2 assessment as recommended by the SSC, and a P-star value of 0.45, which the CPSMT recommends. The CPSMT also recommends an annual catch limit (ACL) equal to ABC and an annual catch target (ACT) 1,000 mt less than the HG to allow for an incidental set aside of 1,000 mt each fishing year. Should the Council select a P-star value other than 0.45, the harvest specifications would follow from the appropriate values presented in the tables found in Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1.

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, up to 1,000 mt, with a 45 percent incidental landing allowance when Pacific mackerel are landed with other CPS, and a 3 mt per landing limit of Pacific mackerel when landed in non-CPS fisheries.

Table 1. CPSMT Proposed 2023-2024 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications (in metric tons)

Biomass	55,681
OFL	11,693
ABC P*=0.45 (Category 2)	9,754
ACL (=ABC)	9,754
HG	7,871
ACT	6,871
Incidental	1,000

Table 2. CPSMT Proposed 2024-2025 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications (in metric tons)

Biomass	60,785
OFL	12,765
ABC P*=0.45 (Category 2)	10,073
ACL (=ABC)	10,073
HG	8,943
ACT	7,943
Incidental	1,000

PFMC
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