

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PACIFIC
MACKEREL ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2025-27 - FINAL
ACTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center's catch-only stock assessment of the Pacific mackerel ([Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1](#)). The catch-only projection provides harvest guidelines (HGs) for managing the Pacific mackerel resource for fishing years 2025-26 and 2026-27. The next assessment is scheduled to be an update in 2027 ([Agenda Item J.3, November 2024](#)).

Harvest and Management Specifications

The CPSMT recommends adopting the overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL) equal to the ABC, and HG for fishing seasons 2025-26 and 2026-27 as presented in Tables 1 and 2 below. These values are based on a Tier 2 assessment (Table 3) as specified by the SSC ([Agenda Item G.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)). The CPSMT recommends a P* of 0.45 as the risk of exceeding this year's SSC-recommended OFL is very low. Recent landings in U.S. Pacific mackerel fisheries (< 1,400 mt annually since 2020; see Table 2 in the assessment) are very low relative to this OFL. The CPSMT also recommends an incidental set aside of 1,000 mt each fishing year and associated annual catch targets (ACTs) 1,000 mt less than the corresponding HGs. These values are also included in Tables 1 and 2.

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

Table 1. CPSMT Proposed 2025-26 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications (mt)

Biomass	61,737
OFL	12,965
ABC _{0.45} (Tier 2)	10,084
ACL (=ABC)	10,084
HG	9,143
ACT	8,143
Incidental	1,000

Table 2. CPSMT Proposed 2026-27 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications (mt)

Biomass	67,954
OFL	14,270
ABC _{0.45} (Tier 2)	11,099
ACL (=ABC)	11,099
HG	10,448
ACT	9,448
Incidental	1,000

Table 3. Pacific mackerel harvest control rules (HCR) for fishing years from the base model: A) 2025-26; and B) 2026-27. ABC buffers for Tiers 1 and 2 have been corrected to account for years from last assessment. (Source: [Agenda Item G.4, Supplemental SSC Report 1: Catch-Only Stock Assessment of Pacific Mackerel for U.S. Management in 2025-26 and 2026-27 Fishing Years](#))

a) Fishing Year 2025-26

Harvest Control Rule Formulas							
OFL = BIOMASS * E_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION							
ABC _{P-star} = BIOMASS * BUFFER _{P-star} * E_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION							
HG = (BIOMASS – CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION							
Harvest Guideline Parameters							
BIOMASS (ages 1+, mt)	61,737						
P-star	0.45	0.4	0.35	0.3	0.25	0.2	0.15
ABC Buffer _{Tier 1}	0.8469	0.7153	0.6008	0.4998	0.4099	0.3286	0.2540
ABC Buffer _{Tier 2}	0.7778	0.6025	0.4627	0.3504	0.2595	0.1858	0.1258
ABC Buffer _{Tier 3}	0.7778	0.6025	0.4627	0.3504	0.2595	0.1858	0.1258
EMSY (FRACTION)	0.30						
CUTOFF (mt)	18,200						
DISTRIBUTION (U.S.)	0.70						
Harvest Control Rule Values							
OFL =	12,965						
ABC _{Tier 1} =	10,980	9,274	7,789	6,480	5,314	4,260	3,293
ABC _{Tier 2} =	10,084	7,811	5,999	4,543	3,364	2,409	1,631
ABC _{Tier 3} =	10,084	7,811	5,999	4,543	3,364	2,409	1,631
HG =	9,143						

b) Fishing Year 2026-27

Harvest Guideline Parameters							
BIOMASS (ages 1+, mt)	67,954						
P-star	0.45	0.4	0.35	0.3	0.25	0.2	0.15
ABC Buffer _{Tier 1}	0.8206	0.6712	0.5453	0.4381	0.3459	0.2659	0.1957
ABC Buffer _{Tier 2}	0.7778	0.6025	0.4627	0.3504	0.2595	0.1858	0.1258
ABC Buffer _{Tier 3}	0.7778	0.6025	0.4627	0.3504	0.2595	0.1858	0.1258
EMSY (FRACTION)	0.30						
CUTOFF (mt)	18,200						
DISTRIBUTION (U.S.)	0.70						
Harvest Control Rule Values (MT)							
OFL =	14,270						
ABC _{Tier 1} =	11,710	9,578	7,782	6,252	4,936	3,794	2,793
ABC _{Tier 2} =	11,099	8,598	6,603	5,000	3,703	2,651	1,795
ABC _{Tier 3} =	11,099	8,598	6,603	5,000	3,703	2,651	1,795
HG =	10,448						