

## PACIFIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT FOR 2010-2011

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to review the current Pacific mackerel stock assessment and adopt a harvest guideline for the 2010/2011 Pacific mackerel fishing season, which runs from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. The Council is also scheduled to review the 2010 Status Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document, which includes a Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) recommendation on the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) five-year review.

When setting harvest specifications and management measures for Pacific mackerel for the 2009-10 fishing season in June of 2009, the Council also recommended foregoing the scheduled 2010 assessment update. Rather, a full Pacific mackerel assessment is scheduled for 2011 and will serve as the basis for management recommendations in the 2011-12 fishing year. In July 2009, the Council sent a letter to the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 2) requesting work be done on the research and data needs identified during the review of the 2009 full assessment. In response, the SWFSC, sent a letter to the Council outlining research plans in support of a full assessment in 2011 (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 3).

In the absence of an updated assessment in 2010, harvest and management recommendations for the 2010-11 fishing season will be based, in part, on the 2009 full assessment. The CPSMT will consider the 2009 assessment results, the ongoing 2009-10 fishing season, and any new research results when developing its recommendations for 2010-11. The harvest specifications and management measures in place for 2009-10 could be considered for the 2010-11 fishing year as well. These included an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) of 55,408 metric tons (mt), and a Harvest Guideline (HG) of 10,000 mt with a 2,000 mt set-aside for incidental harvest. This reserve was to be used for incidental landings following a potential closure of the directed fishery.

The CPSMT completed the tenth annual Status of the Pacific Coast CPS Fishery and Recommended Harvest Guidelines – Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) – 2010 document. This is included in the briefing book as Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1 with stock assessment and management recommendations available in Chapter 3 and Chapter 11.

Finally, the SAFE document also includes a section on the five-year review of CPS EFH. The Magnuson Act requires periodic reviews of EFH descriptions and potential impacts from fishing and non-fishing activities. The last CPS review was completed in 2005, with no recommended changes to CPS EFH. For the 2010 review, the CPSMT compiled and reviewed recent relevant information, which is discussed in Chapter 14 of the SAFE document.

**Council Action: Approve Stock Assessment and Essential Fish Habitat review; Harvest Guideline; and Management Measures.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1: *Draft Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery and Recommended Acceptable Biological Catches - Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation 2010.*
2. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 2: July 29, 2009 letter from Dr. McIsaac to Dr. Bartoo regarding Pacific mackerel assessment schedule and research needs.
3. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 3: August 4, 2009 letter from Dr. Bartoo to Dr. McIsaac regarding research plans in support of Pacific mackerel assessment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kerry Griffin
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve Stock Assessment and Essential Fish Habitat review; Harvest Guideline; and Management Measures

PFMC  
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