

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
PACIFIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT FOR 2010-2011

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received an overview of the status of Pacific mackerel from Dr. Kevin Hill.

The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2009 to inform management for the 2009-2010 fishing year. No update was conducted for 2010; however, a new, full assessment is scheduled for 2011. The 2009 assessment indicated that the population had begun to level off following an increase from very low abundance. Dr. Hill noted that the 2009-2010 fishery landings were relatively low, despite El Niño conditions, which usually tend to increase the availability of Pacific mackerel.

A chief source of uncertainty in the Pacific mackerel model is the treatment of the commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) logbook index of relative abundance. One model (AA), with a single CPFV index time block, yielded an acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 55,408 mt, while a two period model (AB) resulted in an ABC of 7,729 mt. In June 2009, the SSC endorsed the use of model AA for setting the ABC, but recommended taking the results of model AB into account when setting the harvest guideline (HG). The Council subsequently approved an ABC of 55,408 mt and a HG of 10,000 mt with a 2000 mt set-aside for incidental harvest.

Lacking an assessment update, and given that recent catches have remained at low levels (approximately 3,000 mt), the SSC concluded that the ABC and HG recommendations for 2009-2010 would be appropriate for the 2010-2011 fishing year as well.

PFMC
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