COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
PACIFIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT FOR 2012-2013

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) met June 21-22, 2012 to review management and research recommendations for Pacific mackerel for the 2012-13 fishing year, and to discuss these topics with the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS). In May 2011, a full stock assessment for Pacific mackerel was reviewed by a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel in La Jolla, California and subsequently by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in June 2011 in Spokane, Washington. For use in the 2012-13 fishing year, the CPSMT supports all measures adopted by the Council in 2011. These were as follows:

(1) establish an overfishing limit (OFL) of 44,336 mt, acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 42,375 mt (based on the Council's P* choice of 0.45), annual catch limit (ACL) and harvest guideline (HG) equal to 40,514 mt, annual catch target (ACT) of 30,386 mt. This includes an incidental set-aside of 10,128 mt for catch in non-directed fisheries;

(2) should the directed fishery realize the ACT (30,386 mt), the Council recommends that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) close the directed fishery and shift to an incidental catch-only fishery, with a 45 percent incidental landing allowance when Pacific mackerel are landed with other coastal pelagic species (CPS), with the exception that up to 1 mt of Pacific mackerel could be landed without landing any other CPS;

(3) to provide time to address research and data needs associated with this species, as well as the broader CPS assemblage assessment efforts, the Council decided that no assessment be conducted in 2012, with all management decisions applicable for at least two consecutive management cycles, i.e., the 2011-12 and 2012-13 fishing years; and,

(4) in concert with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, review and provide guidance regarding a more adaptive assessment and research schedule that addresses the longer-term dynamics of the CPS assemblage.

PFMC
06/23/12