

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Coastal Migratory Pelagics
Joint Amendment 24
(allocation/ACL shifts)

MACKEREL ADVISORY PANEL



March 2014

Background

The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils are considering ways to increase the opportunity for the total ACL to be reached for Gulf migratory group king mackerel and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel. In multiple fishing seasons over the past ten years in both the Gulf migratory group king mackerel fishery and the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel fishery, the commercial sector has exceeded the commercial ACL while the recreational sector has landed increasingly lower proportions of the recreational ACL (**Tables 1 and 2**).

Ways to increase opportunity to reach total ACL

- change restrictions for a sector that is not reaching its sector ACL (bag/trip limits, minimum size limits, seasonal closures, etc)
- revise sector allocations
- in-season ACL shift
- use a stock ACL (no allocations)
- others?

Table 1. Proportion of sector ACLs landed and proportion of total ACL landed for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel (South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic regions)

Fishing Year	Total ACL	TOTAL ACL Landed	% of Sector ACL Landed	
			Comm ¹	Rec ²
2000-01	7.04 MP	70.7%	68.9%	72.8%
2001-02	7.04 MP	72.6%	79.2%	64.6%
2002-03	7.04 MP	69.2%	83.5%	51.8%
2003-04	7.04 MP	79.5%	96.8%	58.5%
2004-05	7.04 MP	67.0%	86.7%	42.9%
2005-06	7.04 MP	75.5%	94.7%	52.0%
2006-07	7.04 MP	75.2%	94.1%	52.2%
2007-08	7.04 MP	68.0%	79.5%	54.0%
2008-09	7.04 MP	74.1%	81.9%	64.6%
2009-10	7.04 MP	89.5%	108.3%	66.5%
2010-11	7.04 MP	89.8%	117.7%	55.7%
2011-12	5.69 MP	92.1%	128.1%	48.1%

¹Commercial allocation = 55% ²Recreational allocation = 45%
 Fishing year = March to February Source: SERO

Table 2. Proportion of sector ACLs landed and proportion of total ACL landed for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Fishing Year	Total ACL	Total ACL Landed	% of Sector ACL Landed	
			Comm ¹	Rec ²
2000-01	10.2 MP	60.8%	94.3%	45.0%
2001-02	10.2 MP	64.7%	89.8%	52.9%
2002-03	10.2 MP	59.3%	99.0%	40.6%
2003-04	10.2 MP	62.7%	97.5%	46.3%
2004-05	10.2 MP	56.4%	98.9%	36.5%
2005-06	10.2 MP	58.9%	92.3%	43.2%
2006-07	10.8 MP	60.5%	93.5%	45.0%
2007-08	10.8 MP	56.3%	99.8%	35.8%
2008-09	10.8 MP	57.6%	111.9%	32.0%
2009-10	10.8 MP	68.0%	110.4%	48.0%
2010-11	10.8 MP	53.0%	102.4%	29.7%
2011-12	10.8 MP	54.3%	99.3%	33.2%

¹Commercial allocation = 32%
Fishing year = July to June.

²Recreational allocation = 68%
Source: SERO

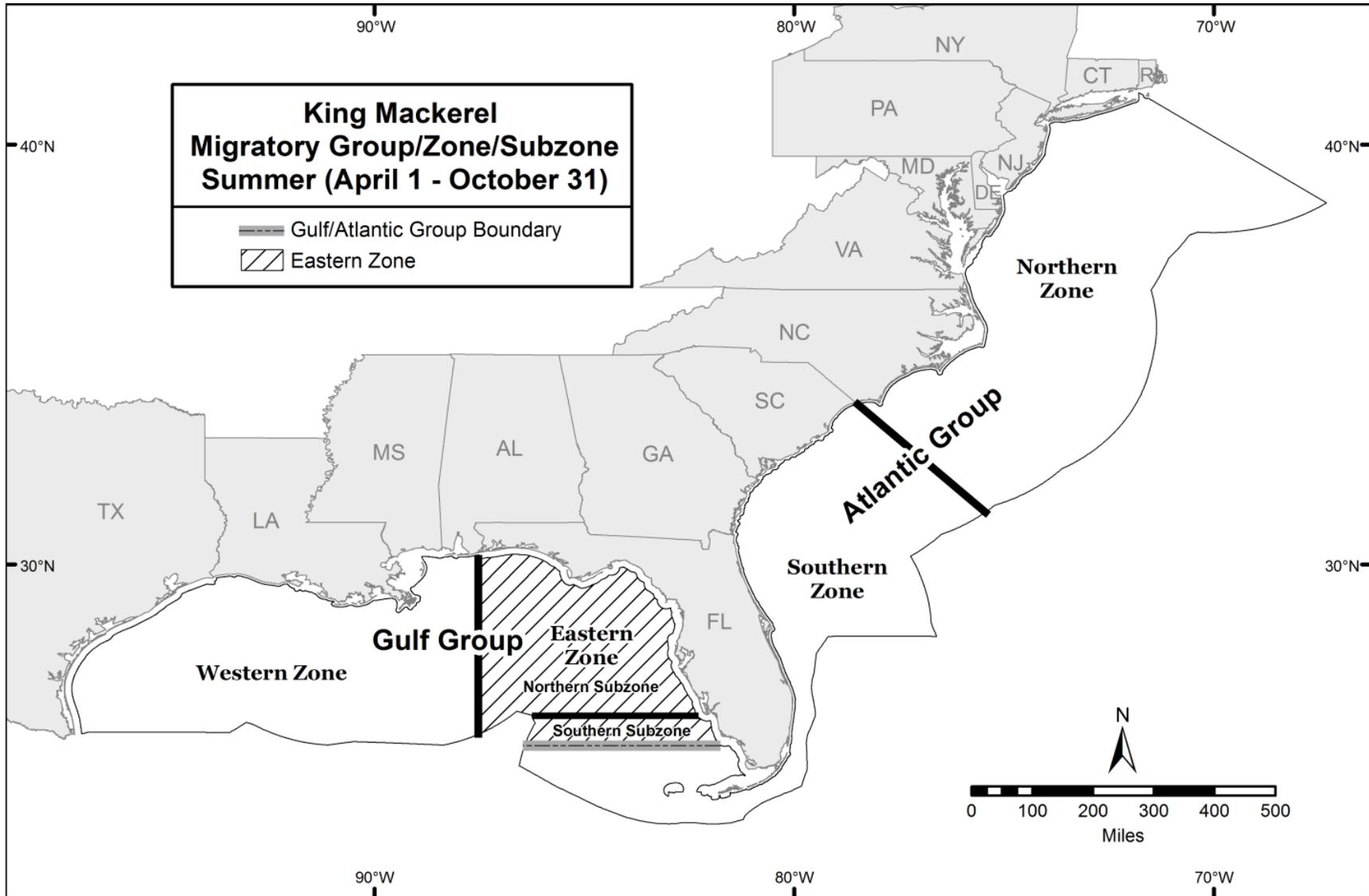


Figure S-1. King mackerel seasonal boundaries April 1-October 31, with the proposed Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group (pending submission and approval of CMP Amendment 20B).

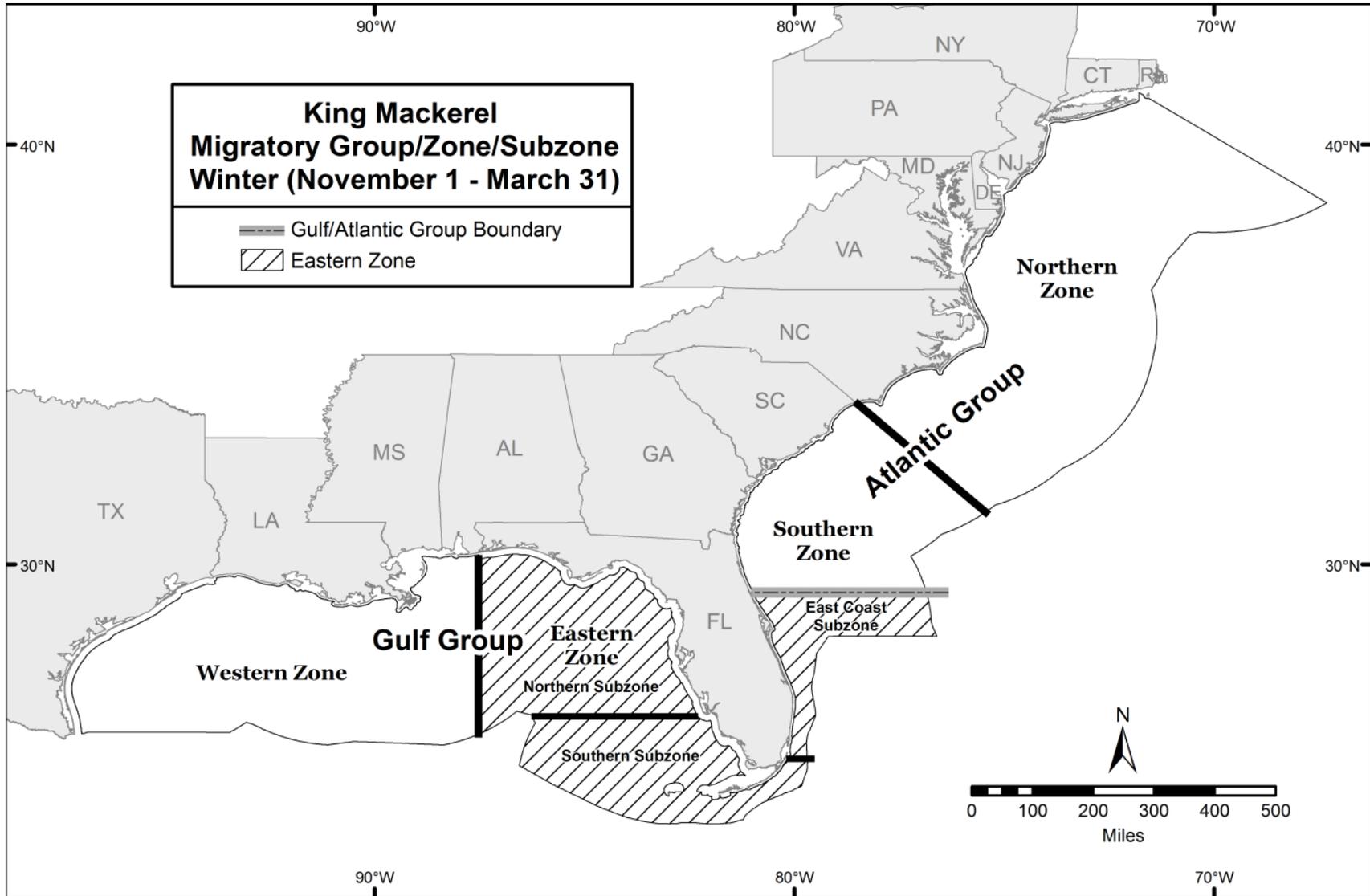


Figure S-2. King mackerel seasonal boundaries November 1- March 31, with the proposed Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group (pending submission and approval of CMP Amendment 20B).

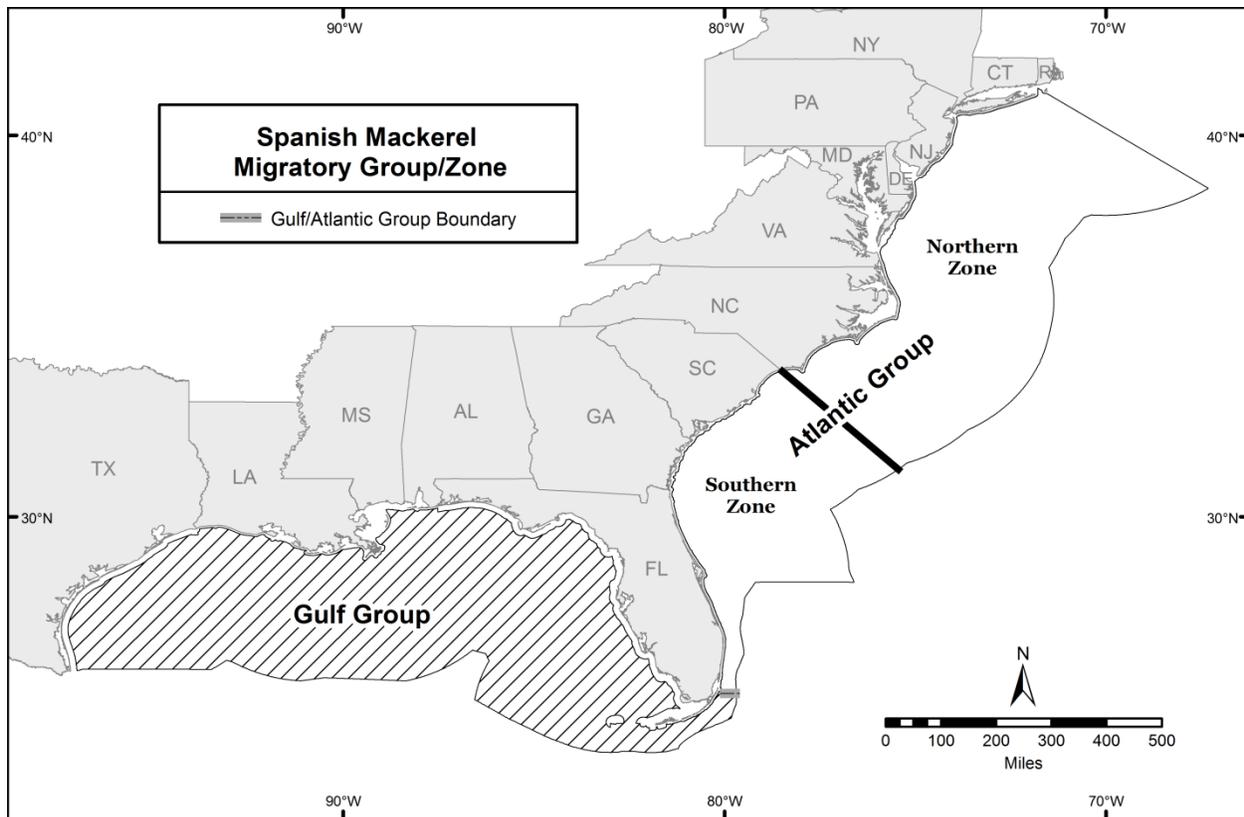


Figure S-3. Fixed boundary between Atlantic and Gulf migratory groups of Spanish mackerel, with the proposed Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group (pending submission and approval of CMP Amendment 20B).

Recent Council Decisions

- In February 2014, the Gulf Council decided to hold further development of the amendment until after the results of the king mackerel stock assessment (SEDAR 38) are final.
- In March 2014, the South Atlantic Council directed staff to provide a paper in June 2014 with options for an in-season ACL shift for Atlantic Spanish mackerel.

Comments Summary for South Atlantic Scoping for CMP Amendment 24

January 2014

General topics from public input (including recorded testimony, written comments, and informal discussion):

- some support for re-allocating to allow the total ACL to be met for each stock
- concern about validity of recreational data/MRIP
- support for an in-season mechanism to move part of a sector ACL to the other sector if one sector has not met a certain percentage of its ACL by a certain time in the year, then going back to original allocations at the start of the new year
- consideration of the variation in recreational and commercial landings in the different zones/sub-zones for Gulf king mackerel
- discussion of the value of leaving fish in the water instead of reallocating some of the recreational ACL to the commercial ACL

The South Atlantic Council is interested in looking at ways to shift ACL from one sector to another during the season. The Interdisciplinary Plan Team (IPT) has drafted actions and alternatives to present to the South Atlantic Council in an options paper in June 2014.

In Amendment 20B, if it is submitted and approved, will establish allocations of the Atlantic Spanish mackerel commercial ACL to a northern zone and a southern zone, separated by the NC/SC boundary. A mechanism may be proposed in Amendment 24 to allow for an in-season ACL shift, and the time of year when the shift occurs could be an important factor. For example, if a shift from recreational to commercial occurs, the commercial ACL would increase and the northern zone and southern zone quotas would also increase proportionately. However access to the resource at the time of an ACL shift will vary throughout the region, and North Carolina may have less opportunity to take advantage of the increase in available quota in late-season shifts.

Action 1 – Establish the Trigger Thresholds for an ACL shift for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel

Alternative 1 (No Action): Do not shift allocation during the fishing year for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

REC-> COMM w/ one trigger

Alternative 2. Shift Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel ACL from the recreational sector to the commercial sector for the current fishing year if:

Sub-Alternative 2a. After the first wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 2 March/April), recreational landings are less than 10% of the recreational ACL

Sub-Alternative 2b. After the second wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 3, May/June), recreational landings are less than 25% of the recreational ACL

Sub-Alternative 2c. After the third wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 4, July/August), recreational landings are less than 40% of the recreational ACL

Sub-Alternative 2d. After the fourth wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 5, Sept/Oct), recreational landings are less than 50% of the recreational ACL

REC-> COMM w/ two triggers

Alternative 3. Shift Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel ACL from the recreational to commercial sector for the current fishing year if:

Sub-Alternative 3a. After the first wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 2, March/April) recreational landings are less than 10% of the recreational ACL and commercial landings are greater than x% of the commercial ACL

Sub-Alternative 3b. the second wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 3, May/June), recreational landings are less than 25% of the recreational ACL and commercial landings are greater than x% of the commercial ACL

Sub-Alternative 3c. After the third wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 4, July/August), recreational landings are less than 40% of the recreational ACL and commercial landings are greater than x% of the commercial ACL

Sub-Alternative 3d. After the fourth wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 5, Sept/Oct), recreational landings are less than 50% of the recreational ACL and commercial landings are greater than x% of the commercial ACL

COMM->REC w/ two triggers

Alternative 4. Shift Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel ACL from the commercial sector to recreational sector for the current fishing year if:

Sub-Alternative 4a. After the first wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 2, March/April) recreational landings are greater than 10% and commercial landings are less than x%

Sub-Alternative 4b. After the second wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 3, May/June) recreational landings are greater than 25% and commercial landings are less than x%

Sub-Alternative 4c. After the third wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 4, July/August) recreational landings are greater than 40% and commercial landings are less than x%

Sub-Alternative 4d. After the fourth wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 5, Sept/Oct), recreational landings are greater than 50% of the recreational ACL and commercial landings are less than x% of the commercial ACL

EITHER WAY w/ two triggers

Alternative 5. Shift Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel ACL from the sector projected to close last to the sector projected to close first during the current fishing year if:

Sub-Alternative 5a. After the first wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 2, March/April) landings from the sector projected to close last are less than 10% of that sector's ACL and landings from the sector projected to close first are greater than x% of that sector's ACL.

Sub-Alternative 5b. After the second wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 3, May/June) landings from the sector projected to close last are less than 25% of that sector's ACL and landings from the sector projected to close first are greater than x% of that sector's ACL.

Sub-Alternative 5c. After the third wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 4, July/August) landings from the sector projected to close last are less than 40% of that sector's ACL and landings from the sector projected to close first are greater than x% of that sector's ACL.

Sub-Alternative 5d. After the fourth wave of the fishing year (MRIP Wave 5, Sept/Oct) landings from the sector projected to close last are less than 50% of that sector's ACL and landings from the sector projected to close first are greater than x% of that sector's ACL.

Action 2 – Determine the Amount of ACL shift

Alternative 1 (No Action): Allocation for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel will remain 55% commercial and 45% recreational for the entire fishing year.

REC->COMM only, goes with **Alts 2,3,5** in Action 1

Alternative 2. If an ACL shift is triggered (based on Action 1), shift a percentage of the total ACL for the remainder of the fishing year. The shift would follow the closed framework procedure, i.e. NMFS will publish a notice in the Federal Register (no action needed by the Council).

Sub-Alternative 2a. Shift 5% of the recreational ACL to the commercial sector.

Sub-Alternative 2b. Shift 8% of the recreational ACL to the commercial sector.

Sub-Alternative 2c. Shift 10% of the recreational ACL to the commercial sector.

Sub-Alternative 2d. Shift 50% of the remaining proportion of the recreational ACL to the commercial ACL. (E.g., if at the time of the trigger, the recreational sector has used 60% of its ACL and 40% is left, then 20% of the recreational ACL will be shifted to the commercial ACL.)

Alternative 3. If an ACL shift is triggered (based on Action 1), shift a percentage of the total ACL for the remainder of the fishing year, in the direction determined by the trigger. The shift would follow the closed framework procedure, i.e. NMFS will publish a notice in the Federal Register (no action needed by the Council).

Sub-Alternative 4a. Shift X% of the ACL to the sector projected to close first.

Sub-Alternative 4b. Shift X% of the ACL to the sector projected to close first.

Sub-Alternative 4c. Shift X% of the ACL to the sector projected to close first.

Sub-Alternative 4d. Shift 50% of the remaining proportion of the ACL of the transferring sector to the receiving sector. (E.g., if at the time of the trigger, the transferring sector has used 60% of its ACL and 40% is left, then 20% of the transferring sector's ACL will be shifted to the receiving sector.)

Action 3 – Modify the CMP Framework Procedure

Alternative 1 (No Action): Do not modify the CMP framework procedure.

Alternative 2. Allow changes up to x% to the amount of the annual ACL shift for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel (as set in Action 2) through the abbreviated open framework procedure

Sub-Alternative 2a. Allow up to 5% change.

Sub-Alternative 2b. Allow up to 8% change.

Sub-Alternative 2c. Allow up to 10% change.

Alternative 3. Allow changes up to x% of the allocation for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel (currently 55% commercial and 45% recreational) through the standard open framework procedure (framework amendment).

Sub-Alternative 3a. Allow up to 5% change.

Sub-Alternative 3b. Allow up to 8% change.

Sub-Alternative 3c. Allow up to 10% change.

Alternative 4. Allow changes up to x% to the amount of the annual ACL shift for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel (as set in Action 2) through the abbreviated open framework procedure **and** allow changes up to x% of the allocation for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel (currently 55% commercial and 45% recreational) through the standard open framework procedure (framework amendment).

Sub-Alternative 4a. Allow up to 5% change.

Sub-Alternative 4b. Allow up to 8% change.

Sub-Alternative 4c. Allow up to 10% change.