

REVISED FINAL

REPORT OF THE MACKEREL MEETING **HELD APRIL 23, 2007 AT THE NMFS SER OFFICE**

Dr. Roy Crabtree, NMFS Regional Administrator, arranged for a meeting to resolve king mackerel mixing/boundaries to be included in the “terms of reference” for the 2008 King Mackerel SEDAR and to resolve any remaining differences in the Amendment 19 scoping document. The group also discussed Amendment 18.

Attendees: Roy Crabtree, Joe Kimmel & Steve Branstetter, NMFS SERO; Alex Chester and Clay Porch, NMFS SEFSC; Robin Riechers, Degraff Adams & Rick Leard, GMFMC; and George Geiger, David Cupka & Gregg Waugh, SAFMC. Mike McLemore and Monica Smit-Brunello, NOAA GC were unable to attend due to a prior meeting. John Carmichael, SEDAR staff, was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

The group discussed the following:

1. SEDAR Assessment in 2008 – The group discussed the mixing/boundary issue and concluded that future assessments would be done with the best available science on mixing at the time the assessment is conducted. SFA parameters will be provided for the Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups as currently defined (i.e., using the shifting seasonal boundary shown in Figure 1) using the most current mixing data. The SEDAR assessment will provide an Atlantic ABC based on counting all fish north of a line at the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line as Atlantic fish and a Gulf ABC based on counting all fish south of this line as Gulf fish. In addition, for the 2008 SEDAR assessment, ABC values will be provided for the Atlantic and Gulf Migratory Groups as currently defined (i.e., using the shifting seasonal boundary shown in Figure 1) but counting all fish in the mixing zone as Gulf fish and also counting 50% of the fish in the mixing zone as Gulf fish. This will provide continuity as the Councils evaluate changes resulting from the SEDAR assessment.

The Terms of Reference for the 2008 SEDAR Assessment will include the above alternatives for the mixing/boundary issue. The TOR should discourage use of continuity as a rationale for making decisions.

The current timing for SEDAR 16 – King Mackerel is as follows:

- A. Data Workshop – January 14-18, 2008 in Charleston, SC
- B. Assessment Workshop – May 5-9, 2008 in Miami, FL
- C. Review Workshop – August 11-15, 2008 in Atlanta, GA

The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils will make final appointments for SEDAR 16 during their June Council meetings. Final appointments are to be provided to John Carmichael by July 31, 2007 at the latest.

2. Mackerel Amendment 18 – The group discussed Mackerel Amendment 18 and agreed that the SAFMC could proceed with completion of the document. The SAFMC was requested to revise the document to frame the rationale less about using the 50/50 mixing rate and more about addressing uncertainty. In addition, the new SEDAR deliverables as described above will be included. Also, the Gulf Council's intent to modify their TAC once results of the SEDAR 16 assessment are available will be described.

The following timing for Amendment 18 was agreed to by consensus:

- A. SAFMC review and finalize document during June 10-15, 2007 meeting
- B. GMFMC review and approve document for Secretary of Commerce review during July 30 – August 2, 2007 meeting
- C. SAFMC review complete document and approve for Secretary of Commerce review during September 17-21, 2007 meeting

3. Scoping for Mackerel Amendment 19 – The group discussed the items included for scoping and the timing. Concern was expressed about the impacts on permits and the rationale for separate FMPs was reviewed. The group requested that Gregg and Rick work to revise the scoping document and have the scoping document ready for the Gulf Council to approve at their June 4-7, 2007 meeting. The group also requested the staffs to get a determination of EA versus EIS and to get input from NOAA GC on the specific steps to separate the FMP. It was noted that this was done with the Coral FMP. The group agreed that the South Atlantic staff would take a first cut at preparing Amendment 19; Gregg will work very closely with Rick, Steve and NOAA GC to prepare the draft document. The group agreed to the following draft timing:

- A. Gregg and Rick revise the scoping document asap
- B. GMFMC review and approve scoping document at their June 4-7, 2007 meeting
SAFMC review and approve scoping document at their June 10-15, 2007 meeting
- C. GMFMC and SAFMC scope during July/August
- D. SAFMC review draft document and approve for public hearings at September 17-21, 2007 meeting
- E. GMFMC review draft document and approve for public hearings at November 12-15, 2007 meeting
- F. Public hearings December/January
- G. Both Councils review and approve at March 2008 meeting

4. Other Business – The group briefly discussed SEDAR benchmark assessments beginning with a blank slate versus keeping some of previous assessments. It was agreed that this would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

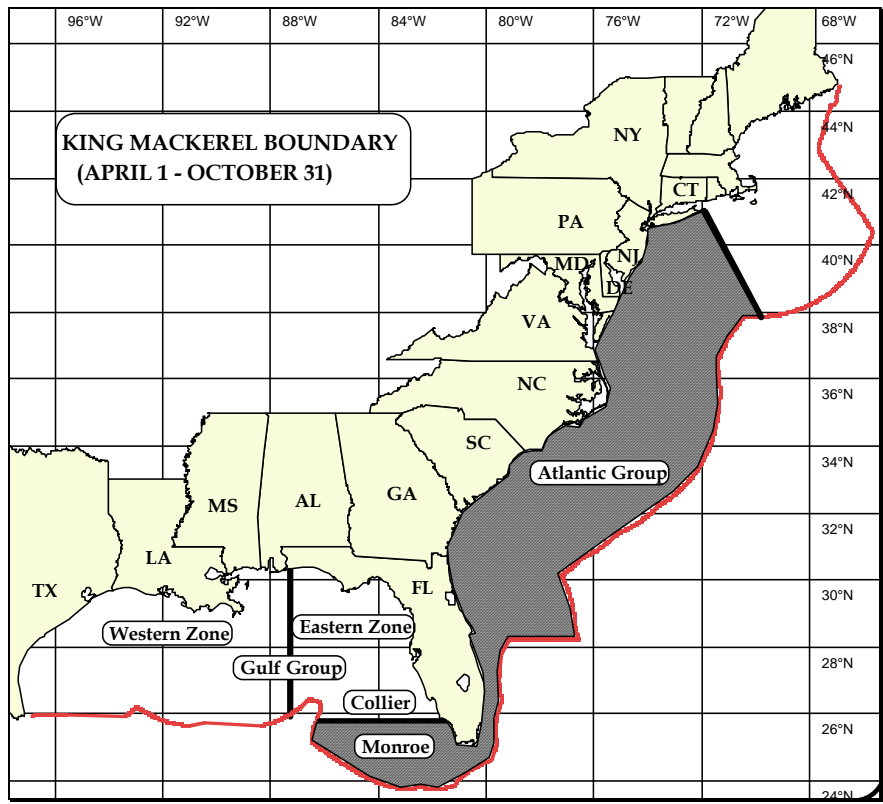
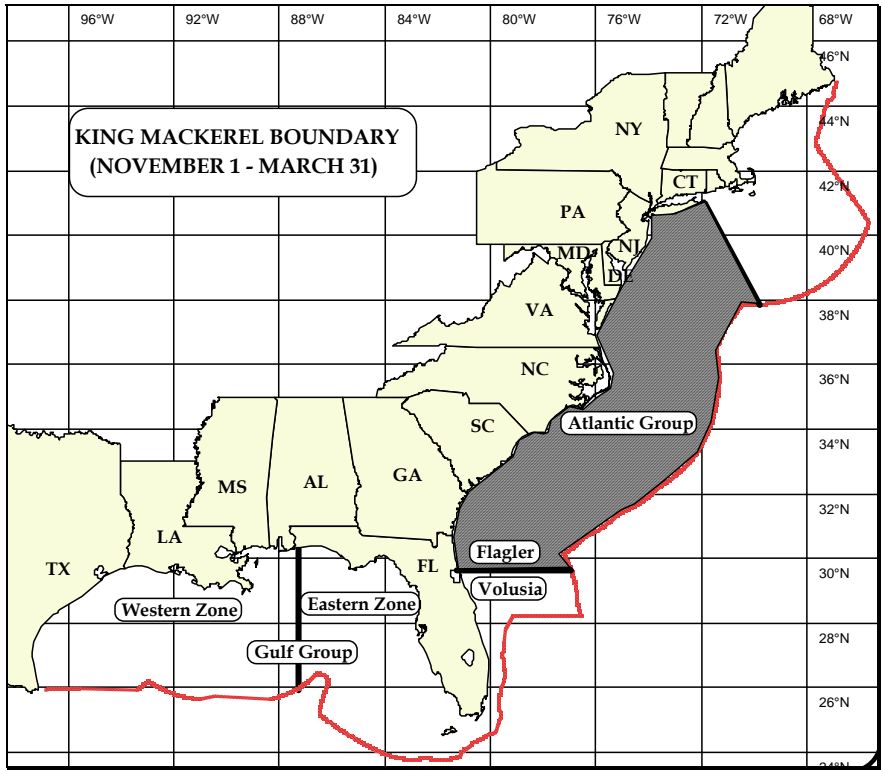


Figure 1. Seasonal boundary between Atlantic and Gulf Migratory Groups of king mackerel. Source: Council staff.

