

DRAFT
SUMMARY REPORT –MACKEREL COMMITTEE
March 9-10, 2016
Jekyll Island, GA

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the December 2015 meeting. SERO staff provided a briefing on the status of commercial and recreational landings. Council staff updated the Committee on the January 2016 Gulf Council meeting, the February 2016 Mackerel AP meeting, and the public comment summary for CMP Amendment 26. These recommendations are incorporated into the decision document for Amendment 26.

Amendment 26 (King mackerel ACLs and stock boundary)

Council staff reviewed the decision document for Amendment 26. The Committee approved the following motions:

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE IPT-PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

PURPOSE AND NEED

THE PURPOSE OF THIS AMENDMENT IS TO MODIFY THE STOCK BOUNDARY AND REVISE THE ACLS FOR ATLANTIC AND GULF MIGRATORY GROUP KING MACKEREL; TO MODIFY THE COMMERCIAL ZONE QUOTAS FOR GULF MIGRATORY KING MACKEREL; TO REVIEW RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR GULF MIGRATORY KING MACKEREL; TO INCREASE THE RECREATIONAL BAG LIMIT FOR GULF MIGRATORY KING MACKEREL; TO CREATE AN INCIDENTAL CATCH ALLOWANCE OF ATLANTIC MIGRATORY KING MACKEREL FOR THE SHARK GILLNET FISHERY; AND TO REVISE OR CREATE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR ATLANTIC MIGRATORY GROUP KING MACKEREL IN THE ~~FLORIDA EAST COAST SUBZONE.~~ **ATLANTIC SOUTHERN ZONE.**

MOTION #2: CHANGE THE PREFERRED IN ACTION 2-2 FROM ALTERNATIVE 3 TO ALTERNATIVE 2. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Action 2-2. Revise the ACLs, Commercial Quotas, and Recreational ACT for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 2: Revise the ACL and recreational ACT based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1. ACL = OY = ABC, recreational ACT = [0.5 or (1-PSE), whichever is greater].

MOTION #3: ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE IN ACTION 7. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Action 7. Revise the Commercial Zone Quotas for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 4: Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel as follows: 40% for the Western Zone; 18% for the Northern Zone; 21% for the Southern Zone Handline component; and 21% for the Southern Zone Gillnet component.

MOTION #4: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 AS THE PREFERRED FOR ACTION 8. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Action 8. Revise the Recreational and Commercial Allocations of Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 1: No action – Maintain the current recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel (68% recreational, 32% commercial).

MOTION #5: DESELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED AND SELECT ALT 2 AS THE PREFERRED IN ACTION 9. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Action 9. Modify the Recreational Bag Limit for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 2: Increase the bag limit to three fish per person per day.

DRAFT MOTION: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AMENDMENT 26 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW, AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

2016 Recreational Season for Atlantic Cobia

MRIP estimates indicated that the recreational landings for Atlantic cobia in 2015 were 910,776 lbs, which exceeded the recreational ACL of 630,000 lbs. The recreational accountability measure for Atlantic cobia is to shorten the subsequent season based on previous years' landings, in order to avoid another overage. On March 9, 2016, NMFS published a notice that the recreational season for 2016 would close on June 20, 2016.

Dr. Mike Larkin, SERO staff, provided an overview of the analysis and process for selecting the closure date. Following, Council Deputy Director John Carmichael reviewed fishery information for Atlantic cobia to provide context for a discussion on next steps for cobia management to avoid exceeding the recreational ACL and to lengthen the recreational season in future years. The Committee reviewed a list of potential options for a framework amendment and provided direction to staff to start work on a framework amendment.

The framework amendment will include actions for vessel limits, increased minimum size limits, decreased bag limit, change of fishing year start date, and modified accountability measures. The Committee approved the following motions:

MOTION #6: DIRECT STAFF TO LOOK AT VESSEL LIMITS FOR 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 AND 6 FISH. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

MOTION #7: LOOK AT A COMBINED VESSEL LIMIT DECREASE WITH INCREASED MIN SIZE LIMIT.

- 33-39 INCHES FORK IN 1-INCH INCREMENTS
- 1-6 FISH VESSEL LIMIT.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

MOTION #8: LOOK AT A 1/PERSON BAG LIMIT FOR COBIA. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

MOTION #9: LOOK AT A COMBINED BAG LIMIT OPTIONS WITH INCREASED MIN SIZE LIMIT.

- 33-39 INCHES FORK IN 1-INCH INCREMENTS
- 1/PERSON BAG LIMIT
- 2/PERSON BAG LIMIT

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

MOTION #10: DIRECT STAFF TO LOOK AT CHANGING START OF FISHING YEAR TO MAY 1. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

MOTION #11: EXPLORE MODIFYING THE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES:

If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings.

If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species, or one or more species in a species complex, is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Task and Timing Motion:

MOTION #12: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:

1. PREPARE DRAFT AMENDMENT 26 FOR GULF COUNCIL MEETING IN APRIL 2016.
2. UPON APPROVAL BY THE GULF COUNCIL, PREPARE AMENDMENT 26 FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.
3. STAFF TO DEVELOP ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE COBIA FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW IN JUNE 2016.