

OPTIONS PAPER/
DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT

Amendment 24
(Allocations)

to the Fishery Management Plan for the
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in
the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region



December 2013

Background

The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils are considering modifying the sector allocations 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 decreasingly lower proportions of the recreational ACL (**Tables 1 and 2**).

Table 1. Landings, proportion of sector ACLs landed and proportion of total ACL landed for Gulf migratory group king mackerel

	Total TAC/ACL	Landings		% of Sector ACL Landed		% of Total ACL Landed	
		Comm	Rec	Comm ¹	Rec ²	Comm	Rec
2000-01	10.2 MP	3,079,256	3,121,584	94.3%	45.0%	30.2%	30.6%
2001-02	10.2 MP	2,932,532	3,668,540	89.8%	52.9%	28.8%	36.0%
2002-03	10.2 MP	3,231,723	2,817,537	99.0%	40.6%	31.7%	27.6%
2003-04	10.2 MP	3,183,778	3,211,497	97.5%	46.3%	31.2%	31.5%
2004-05	10.2 MP	3,228,862	2,528,457	98.9%	36.5%	31.7%	24.8%
2005-06	10.2 MP	3,011,990	2,995,716	92.3%	43.2%	29.5%	29.4%
2006-07	10.8 MP	3,232,497	3,305,567	93.5%	45.0%	29.9%	30.6%
2007-08	10.8 MP	3,449,030	2,626,527	99.8%	35.8%	31.9%	24.3%
2008-09	10.8 MP	3,867,599	2,352,510	111.9%	32.0%	35.8%	21.8%
2009-10	10.8 MP	3,816,157	3,523,777	110.4%	48.0%	35.3%	32.6%
2010-11	10.8 MP	3,539,492	2,182,980	102.4%	29.7%	32.8%	20.2%
2011-12	10.8 MP	3,432,336	2,436,026	99.3%	33.2%	31.8%	22.6%

1 Commercial allocation = 32%

2 Recreational allocation = 68%

Fishing year = July to June.

Source: SERO

Table 2. Landings, proportion of sector ACLs landed and proportion of total ACL landed for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel (South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic regions)

	Stock TAC/ACL	Landings		% of Sector ACL Landed		% of Total ACL Landed	
		Comm	Rec	Comm ¹	Rec ²	Comm	Rec
2000-01	7.04 MP	2,668,757	2,306,607	68.92%	72.81%	37.91%	32.76%
2001-02	7.04 MP	3,066,183	2,046,039	79.19%	64.58%	43.55%	29.06%
2002-03	7.04 MP	3,233,790	1,640,822	83.52%	51.79%	45.93%	23.31%
2003-04	7.04 MP	3,746,542	1,853,294	96.76%	58.50%	53.22%	26.33%
2004-05	7.04 MP	3,357,857	1,359,360	86.72%	42.91%	47.70%	19.31%
2005-06	7.04 MP	3,668,168	1,648,291	94.74%	52.03%	52.10%	23.41%
2006-07	7.04 MP	3,643,175	1,653,413	94.09%	52.19%	51.75%	23.49%
2007-08	7.04 MP	3,079,343	1,710,276	79.53%	53.99%	43.74%	24.29%
2008-09	7.04 MP	3,169,967	2,046,806	81.87%	64.61%	45.03%	29.07%
2009-10	7.04 MP	4,192,335	2,107,213	108.27%	66.52%	59.55%	29.93%
2010-11	7.04 MP	4,556,352	1,763,640	117.67%	55.67%	64.72%	25.05%
2011-12	5.69 MP	4,008,625	1,231,696	128.09%	48.10%	70.45%	21.65%

1 Commercial allocation = 55%

2 Recreational allocation = 45%

Fishing year = March to February

Source: SERO

Possible Actions in Joint CMP Amendment 24

Action 1. Modify recreational/commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Action 2. Modify recreational/commercial allocations for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Proposed Timeline

- South Atlantic Council provides guidance at December 2013 meeting and approves for scoping
- South Atlantic Scoping meetings Jan 2014
- Councils review public input at March/April 2014 meetings and provide guidance
- Mackerel APs review in April/May 2014
- SSC/SEPs review in April 2014
- Approve for public hearings at June 2014 meetings
- Public hearings August 2014
- Approve for submission in September/October 2014
- Regulations implemented in 2015

Proposed Purpose and Need

The *purpose* of Amendment 24 is to evaluate and modify sector allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

The *need* for action in Amendment 24 is to increase social and economic benefits for the coastal migratory pelagic fishery, and achieve optimum yield for Gulf migratory group king mackerel and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Considerations for Developing Actions and Alternatives

The proposed actions and alternatives should be developed to meet the purpose and need. Each action would contain a range of alternatives, including the no action (the current regulations).

Action: Modify recreational/commercial allocations for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.
Current allocations: 55% Commercial, 45% Recreational

NOTE: Pending approval of Amendment 20B, 21% of the Atlantic group Spanish mackerel commercial ACL will be allocated to the Northern Zone (north of the NC-SC line) and 79% will be allocated to the Southern Zone.

History of sector allocation for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel:

- Amendment 2 (1987): based on landings ratio 1979-1985 (76% Commercial and 24% Rec).
- Amendment 4 (1989): changed to 50/50 because the landings period was during a time when Spanish mackerel was being overfished and recreational participation was low, but at the time the recreational sector had limited access due to the low allocation.
- Amendment 8 (1996): modified the Framework Procedure so that Framework Adjustments could include a 10% shift in sector allocations.
- Framework Adjustment (August 1998): set the current allocations (55/45).

Action: Modify recreational/commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.
Current allocation: 32% Commercial, 68% Recreational

History of sector allocation for Gulf group king mackerel:

- Amendment 1 (1985): based on landings ratio 1975-1979 (32% Commercial and 68% Rec)
- 2% shift of recreational quota to commercial quota

Possible Reallocation Methods

- Base allocations on landings over a period of time
 - Time period
 - long period to capture harvest dynamics
 - older period
 - more recent period
 - older + recent (Bowtie Law)
 - Calculation
 - Average landings
 - Average with one or more years dropped (due to hurricanes, oil spill, etc.)
 - Other?
- Shift underage from one sector to the other
 - Amount of shift
 - Reallocate total underage
 - Reallocate a percentage of the underage
 - Time period
 - long period to capture harvest dynamics
 - older period
 - more recent period
 - older + recent (Bowtie Law)
 - Calculation
 - Average underage
- Average with one or more years dropped (due to hurricanes, oil spill, etc.)
- Others?

Other Ways to Use Excess Recreational Quota?

- Research set-aside
- Tournament allocation
- Others?