

DECISION DOCUMENT
for
**COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS
FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 1
(Spanish Mackerel ACLs)**



**Savannah, GA
March 2014**

Title Change: Previously this amendment was called the South Atlantic and Gulf Joint CMP Framework Action 2014. Some IPT members had recommended changing the system for naming mackerel frameworks to be consistent between both regions (instead of regulatory amendments, framework actions, framework adjustments) and for clarification of when framework actions are in effect (remove the year, add a number). Starting with this amendment (CMP Framework Amendment 1), all framework amendments will follow this modified system for titles.

Framework Actions

1. Modify the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel
2. Modify the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel

Expected Schedule

January 2014 – Scoping meetings

February 2014 – Gulf Council reviews

March 2014 – South Atlantic Council approves for Secretarial Review

April 2014 - Gulf Council approves for Secretarial Review

Summer 2014 - Implementation

The current management objectives in the joint mackerel FMP as amended are:

1. The primary objective of this FMP is to stabilize yield at MSY, allow recovery of overfished populations, and maintain population levels sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment.
2. To provide a flexible management system for the resource which minimizes regulatory delay while retaining substantial Council and public input in management decisions and which can rapidly adapt to changes in resource abundance, new scientific information, and changes in fishing patterns among user groups or by areas.
3. To provide necessary information for effective management and establish a mandatory reporting system for monitoring catch.
4. To minimize gear and user group conflicts.
5. To distribute the TAC of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel between recreational and commercial user groups based on the catches that occurred during the early to mid-1970s, which is prior to the development of the deep water run-around gillnet fishery and when the resource was not overfished.
6. To minimize waste and bycatch in the fishery.
7. To provide appropriate management to address specific migratory groups of king mackerel.

Purpose for Actions

The purpose of this amendment is to revise the ACLs for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel based on the results of recently completed stock assessments.

Need for Actions

The need for this amendment is to ensure the annual catch limits are based on the best available and most recent information, and ensure overfishing does not occur in the coastal migratory pelagics fishery.

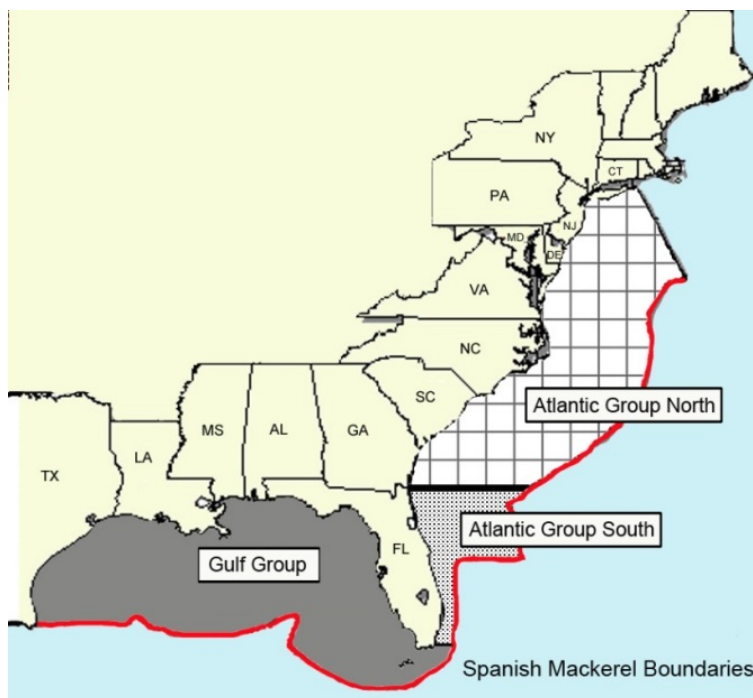


Figure S-1. Boundaries for the Gulf and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel. Management measures are designated for Atlantic Group North and Atlantic Group South.

Action 1. Modify the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the ACLs, optimum yield (OY), and recreational annual catch target ACT for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel:

Current acceptable biological catch (ABC) = 5.69 mp ww, recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) based on the third highest point over a ten-year period (equivalent to the 80th percentile) for the time series ranging from 1999-2008. The recreational ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5], whichever is greater, where the percent standard error (PSE) is an average from MRFSS based on landings in weight from 2005-2009. The average PSE from MRFSS for 2005-2009 is 9.4. The values would remain until modified.

ACL = OY = ABC = 5.69 mp ww
Commercial ACL (55%) = 3.13 mp ww
Recreational ACL (45%) = 2.56 mp ww
Recreational ACT = 2.32 mp ww

South Atlantic Preferred/ Gulf Preferred Alternative 2. Revise the ACL (including sector ACLs), OY, and ACT for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 and 2015. The ABC recommended by the SSC is 6.063 mp ww. Set ACL = OY = ABC, and the recreational ACT = ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5], whichever is greater. The ABC, ACL, and recreational ACT values are based on landed catch only; discards are accounted for in specifying the ABC in terms of landed catch and not total kill. The average PSE from MRIP for 2005-2009 is 13.34. The values would remain until modified.

ACL = OY = ABC = 6.063 mp ww
Commercial ACL (55%) = 3,334,650 lbs ww
Recreational ACL (45%) = 2,728,350 lbs ww
Recreational ACT = 2,364,388 lbs ww

Gulf Council Actions

In February 2014 the Gulf Council selected Alternative 2 as the Preferred.

Public Comments- South Atlantic

Five comments supported Preferred Alternative 2

Committee Actions:

- Approve language to revise the first sentence of Alternative 2 to include 2016. Previous language was drafted for ABC recommendations provided that only included 2014 and 2015, but 2016 ABC recommendation is now included in the document.

South Atlantic Preferred/ Gulf Preferred Alternative 2. Revise the ACL (including sector ACLs), OY, and ACT for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel for ~~2014 and 2015~~ 2014-2016.

Action 2. Modify the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the current ACL for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel:

Current ABC = 5.15 mp ww.

ACL= ABC =5.15 mp ww (single Gulf-wide stock ACL).

Gulf Preferred Alternative 2. Revise ACL for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 through 2016 as shown below, and set ACL = ABC.

Table 2.2. ABCs and ACLs for 2014-2016 from the SEDAR 28 Gulf Spanish mackerel stock assessment and the Gulf Council/SSC-approved projections for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel. 'ww' = whole weight, and 'mp' = million pounds.

| Year | ABC ww | Total ACL ww |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 2014 | 12.7 mp | 12.7 mp |
| 2015 | 11.8 mp | 11.8 mp |
| 2016 | 11.3 mp | 11.3 mp |

Gulf Council Actions

In February 2014 the Gulf Council selected Alternative 2 as the Preferred.

Committee Actions:

- Select a Preferred alternative.

Approve for Secretarial Review:

1) Does the Committee approve the amendment for submission for Secretarial review and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate?

DRAFT MOTION: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 1 FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW, AND DEEM THE REVISED 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.