MAGNUSON – STEVENS ACT/NEPA SCOPING DOCUMENT

Amendment 24
to the Joint Fishery Management Plan
for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region

JANUARY 2014

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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Introduction

The South Atlantic Council may consider modifying sector allocations for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and Gulf migratory group king mackerel in a joint amendment with the Gulf Council. At this time, the South Atlantic Council wants to hear your thoughts and ideas and will review your input and decide what actions and alternatives to include in Amendment 24 at the March 2014 meeting.

This summary document contains basic information and possible ways to modify sector allocations if the Council moves forward.

The South Atlantic Council would like your input on:

- **Should sector allocations be changed? Why or why not?**
- **If so, how could allocations be determined?**

Get involved early and provide your input BEFORE the Council decides which actions to include in the amendment.

- Speak on the record today in the comment room.
- Email comments to CMPAmend24Comments@safmc.net
- Mail written comments to SAFMC, 4055 Faber Place Dr, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405.

**Emailed and written comments received by 5pm on February 3, 2014 will be provided to the South Atlantic Council for the March 2014 meeting in Savannah, GA. Because this would be a joint amendment, your input will also be provided to the Gulf Council.

In multiple fishing seasons over the past ten years in both the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel fishery and the Gulf migratory group king mackerel fishery, the commercial sector has exceeded the commercial ACL while the recreational sector has landed decreasingly lower proportions of the recreational ACL (**Tables S-1** and **S-2**).

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

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

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

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

[1]Commercial allocation = 32% [2]Recreational allocation = 68%
Fishing year = July to June. Source: SERO

What are the current allocations and the history of allocations?

Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel

Current allocations: 55% Commercial, 45% Recreational

NOTE: Pending submission and 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).

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, which was 30% commercial and 70% recreational. However the Councils selected to move 2% of the recreational allocation to the commercial allocation to make up for recreational bag limit sales of Gulf king mackerel. This made the allocation 32% commercial and 68% recreational.

Some ways to allocate ACLs to sectors

- Base allocations on landings over a period of time
    - Time period
        - long period to capture harvest dynamics
        - older period
        - more recent period
        - 50% older + 50% 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
        - 50% older + 50% recent (Bowtie Law)
    - Calculation
        - Average underage
- Average with one or more years dropped (due to hurricanes, oil spill, etc.)
- Others?

Tables S-3 and **S-4** on the following page show the proportion of total landings that each sector harvested for Atlantic Spanish mackerel and Gulf king mackerel.

Table S-3. Landings and proportions landed by each sector for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel (South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic regions)

Fishing Year	Total Atlantic Spanish mackerel Landings	Sector Landings		% of Total Landings by each sector	
		Comm	Rec	Comm	Rec
2000-01	4,975,364	2,668,757	2,306,607	53.6%	46.4%
2001-02	5,112,222	3,066,183	2,046,039	60.0%	40.0%
2002-03	4,874,612	3,233,790	1,640,822	66.3%	33.7%
2003-04	5,599,836	3,746,542	1,853,294	66.9%	33.1%
2004-05	4,717,217	3,357,857	1,359,360	71.2%	28.8%
2005-06	5,316,459	3,668,168	1,648,291	69.0%	31.0%
2006-07	5,296,588	3,643,175	1,653,413	68.8%	31.2%
2007-08	4,789,619	3,079,343	1,710,276	64.3%	35.7%
2008-09	5,216,773	3,169,967	2,046,806	60.8%	39.2%
2009-10	6,299,548	4,192,335	2,107,213	66.5%	33.5%
2010-11	6,319,992	4,556,352	1,763,640	72.1%	27.9%
2011-12	5,240,321	4,008,625	1,231,696	76.5%	23.5%

Fishing year = March to February Source: SERO

Table S-4. Landings and proportions landed by each sector for for Gulf migratory group king mackerel

Fishing Year	Total Gulf king mackerel Landings	Sector Landings		% of Total Landings by each sector	
		Comm	Rec	Comm	Rec
2000-01	6,200,840	3,079,256	3,121,584	49.7%	50.3%
2001-02	6,601,072	2,932,532	3,668,540	44.4%	55.6%
2002-03	6,049,260	3,231,723	2,817,537	53.4%	46.6%
2003-04	6,395,275	3,183,778	3,211,497	49.8%	50.2%
2004-05	5,757,319	3,228,862	2,528,457	56.1%	43.9%
2005-06	6,007,706	3,011,990	2,995,716	50.1%	49.9%
2006-07	6,538,064	3,232,497	3,305,567	49.4%	50.6%
2007-08	6,075,557	3,449,030	2,626,527	56.8%	43.2%
2008-09	6,220,109	3,867,599	2,352,510	62.2%	37.8%
2009-10	7,339,934	3,816,157	3,523,777	52.0%	48.0%
2010-11	5,722,472	3,539,492	2,182,980	61.9%	38.1%
2011-12	5,868,362	3,432,336	2,436,026	58.5%	41.5%

Fishing year = July to June. Source: SERO

Other Ways to Use Excess Recreational Quota?

- Research set-aside
- Tournament allocation
- Others?

Scoping Meeting Dates and Locations

Meetings will be held from 4 - 7 p.m. in the following locations:

January 21, 2014 Bay Watch Resort & Conference Center 2701 S. Ocean Boulevard N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582 Phone:843-272-4600	**January 22, 2014** DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront 2717 West Fort Macon Road Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 Phone: 252-240-115
January 27, 2014 Key West Marriott Beachside 3841 N. Roosevelt Boulevard Key West, FL 33040 Phone: 305-296-8100	**January 28, 2014** DoubleTree by Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront 2080 N. Atlantic Avenue Cocoa Beach, FL 32931 Phone: 321-783-9222
January 29, 2014 Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk 1515 Prudential Drive Jacksonville, FL 32207 Phone: 904-396-5100	**January 30, 2014** Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum 175 Bourne Avenue Pooler, GA 31322 Phone: 912-743-8888

Please send written comments to:
Bob Mahood, Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Please e-mail comments to:
CMPAmend24Comments@safmc.net

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on February 3, 2014