

Decision Document

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Joint Amendment 29

(Allocation Sharing and Accountability Measures for
Gulf King Mackerel)

South Atlantic Mackerel Cobia Committee
September 2016



August 25, 2016

ACTIONS FOR AMENDMENT 29

- Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel Allocation Sharing
 - includes options for each sector's access to the Gulf king mackerel ACL
- Adjust the Recreational Accountability Measure (AM) for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel
 - post-season accountability measures

BACKGROUND

The Councils are considering modifying the sector allocations for Gulf king mackerel. Over the past decade, the commercial sector has regularly met or exceeded the commercial ACL while the recreational sector has landed low proportions of the recreational ACL. The Councils did not make any changes to the sector allocations for Gulf king mackerel in CMP Amendment 26; however, they did direct staff to begin an amendment to examine how to utilize underages of Gulf king mackerel ACL, along with any necessary changes to accountability measures (AMs).

TENTATIVE TIMELINE FOR AMENDMENT 29

- ✓ Jan/April 2015- scoping (as a part of Amendment 26)
- ✓ August 2016- Gulf Council reviews options paper and provide direction to staff
 - September 2016- South Atlantic Council reviews the amendment
 - October 2016- Gulf Council reviews public input, selects preferred alternatives, and approves for public hearings
 - November/December 2016- Gulf public hearings
 - December 2016 (March 2017?) - South Atlantic Council reviews public input, selects preferred alternatives, and approves for formal review
 - January 2017- Gulf Council reviews public input, selects preferred alternatives, and approves for formal review
 - February 2017- Finalize amendment and submit for Secretarial review

Current king mackerel zones

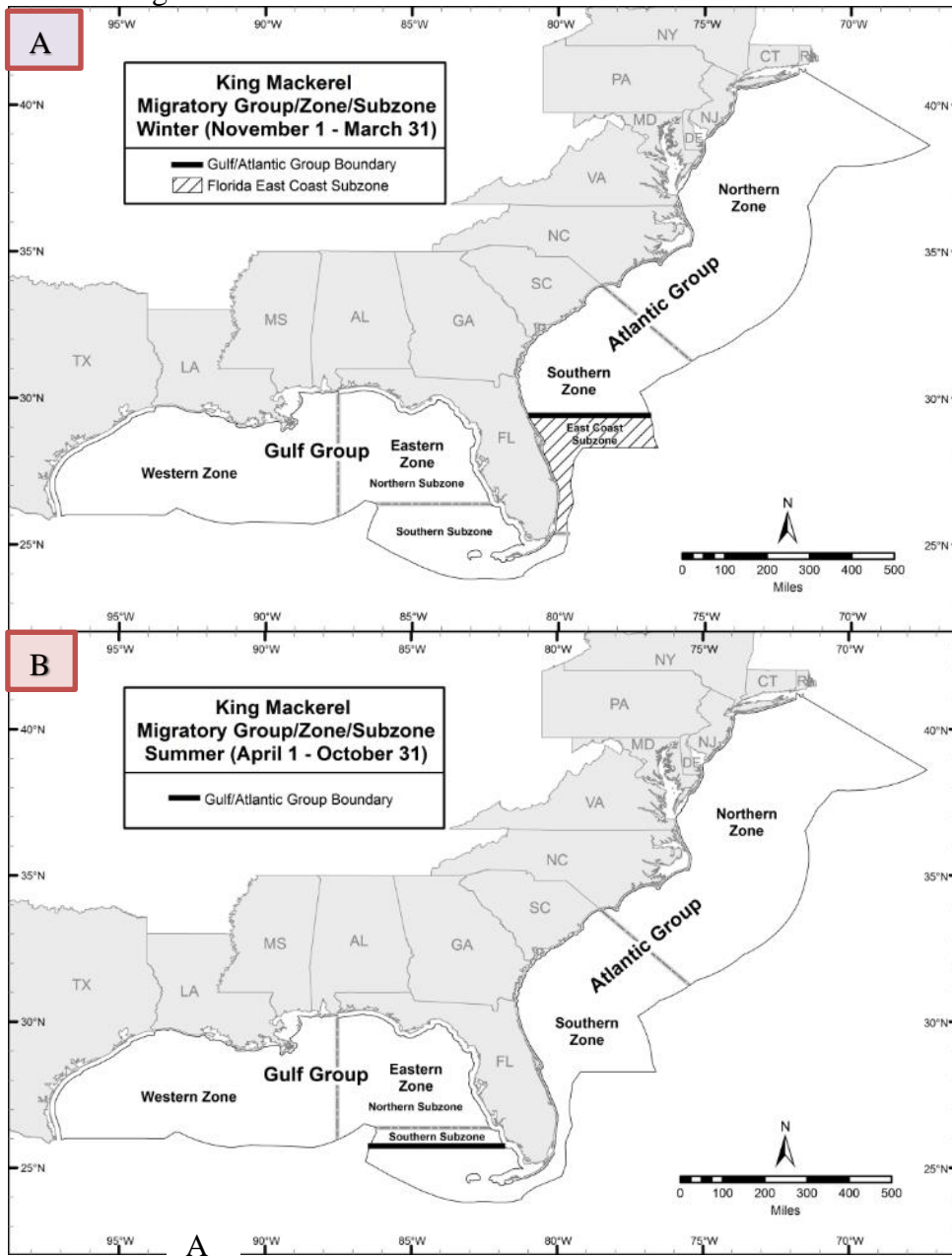


Figure 1. Gulf and Atlantic king mackerel zones for A) November 1 – March 31, and B) April 1 – October 31.

Proposed king mackerel zones

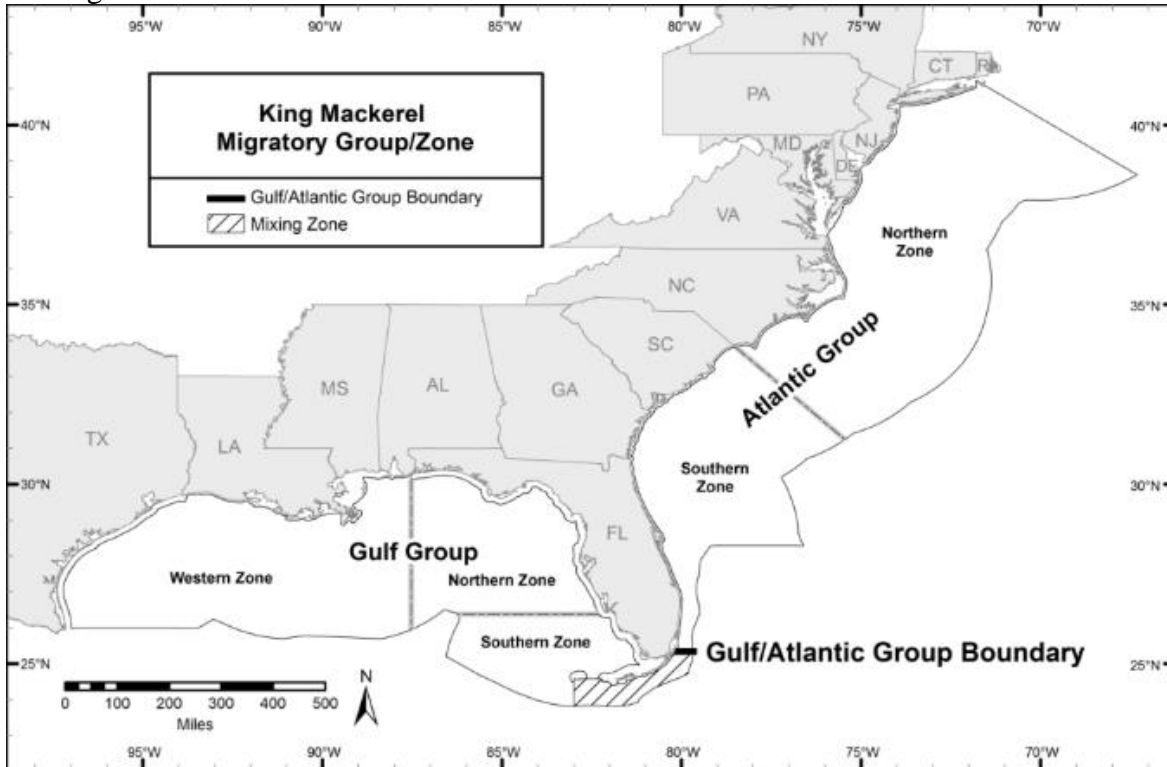


Figure 2. Boundary between Atlantic and Gulf migratory groups of king mackerel, as proposed by SEDAR 38 (2014) and Amendment 26 to the CMP FMP (GMFMC and SAFMC 2016).

PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose for Action

The purpose of this amendment is to consider changes to the recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel and the recreational accountability measure.

Need for Action

The need for this amendment is to achieve optimum yield while ensuring overfishing does not occur in the coastal migratory pelagics (CMP) fishery, thereby increasing social and economic benefits of the CMP fishery through sustainable and valuable harvest of king mackerel.

COMMITTEE ACTION

- 1) Review, edit and approve the purpose and need.

Action 1 – Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel Quota Sharing

Alternative 1: No Action – Do not establish a quota sharing system. Maintain the current recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf of Mexico migratory group king mackerel (68% recreational, 32% commercial).

Alternative 2: Conditionally transfer a certain percentage (*Options 2a-2d*) of the allocation to the commercial sector in the next fishing year, if the minimum recreational landings threshold is not met (*Options 2e-2g*). If the commercial sector does not land at least 90% of its ACL, this transfer will not occur. Landings data from two years prior will be used to determine allocation transfers.

Conditional Quota Transfer (MUST CHOOSE ONE):

Option 2a: Conditionally transfer 5% from the stock allocation to the commercial allocation.

Option 2b: Conditionally transfer 10% from the stock allocation to the commercial allocation.

Option 2c: Conditionally transfer 15% from the stock allocation to the commercial allocation.

Option 2d: Conditionally transfer 20% from the stock allocation to the commercial allocation.

Recreational ACL Minimum Threshold (MUST CHOOSE ONE), if the recreational sector landings are:

Option 2e: less than 50% of its ACL.

Option 2f: less than 65% of its ACL.

Option 2g: less than 75% of its ACL.

Alternative 3: If the stock ACL is not harvested in a fishing year, the [Gulf Council's] Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will be convened to consider increasing the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the following fishing year only. If the SSC recommends increasing the ABC, the amount of the increase (in pounds) would be added to the ACL of the sector which harvested its ACL (within 10%) in the previous fishing year. Consideration of an ABC adjustment by the SSC would only be requested if a minimum percentage of the stock ACL was not harvested in a given fishing season (*Options 3a-3c*). If one of Options 3a, 3b, or 3c is not chosen as preferred, and the stock ACL has not been landed, then the SSC will consider raising the ABC in any year when the stock ACL is not harvested:

Remaining Stock ACL Threshold (CHOOSE ONE):

Option 3a: At least 15% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

Option 3b: At least 20% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

Option 3c: At least 25% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

Note: The recreational fishing year is January – December and the commercial fishing year for most zone quotas is July – June, with the exception of the Gulf Northern Zone. Any quota transfer will be based on recreational landings through December of the previous year, and applied to the commercial allocation for that year's fishing season. This will allow time to receive MRIP and other recreational landings before the start of the commercial season.

COMMITTEE ACTION

- 1) Review, edit and add the Gulf Alternatives 1-3.
- 2) Do you want to add any alternatives or options?

Action 2 – Adjust the Recreational Accountability Measure for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain the in-season recreational accountability measure (AM). If recreational landings reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL, the bag limit will be reduced to zero for the remainder of the fishing year.

Alternative 2: Replace the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If the recreational ACL is exceeded in any fishing year, the length of the following fishing season will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure the landings do not exceed the ACL.

Alternative 3: Replace the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If both the recreational ACL *and* the stock ACL are exceeded in a fishing year, the length of the following recreational fishing season will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure the landings do not exceed the recreational ACL.

COMMITTEE ACTION

- 1) Review, edit and add the Gulf Alternatives 1-3.
- 2) Do you want to add any alternatives or options?