

Discussion Document

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Joint Amendment 26

(Changes in Allocations, Stock Boundaries and Sale
Provisions for Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Migratory
Groups of King Mackerel)

South Atlantic Mackerel Advisory Panel
April 2015



March 27, 2015

ACTIONS FOR AMENDMENT 26

- Modify the Management/Stock Boundary for Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups of King Mackerel
- Update the biological parameters and revise the ABC, OY, ACLs and Recreational ACT for Atlantic group king mackerel
- Incidental catch allowance of Atlantic group king mackerel caught in the shark gillnet fishery
- Establish a [new] Florida East Coast subzone for Atlantic group king mackerel
 - Boundary
 - Sub-Quota of the Southern Zone commercial quota
 - Management Measures
- Update the biological parameters and revise the ABC, OY, and ACLs for Gulf group king mackerel
- Revise the zone and subzone commercial quotas for Gulf group king mackerel
- Revise the recreational and commercial allocation of Gulf group king mackerel
- Modify the recreational bag limit for Gulf group king mackerel

TENTATIVE TIMELINE FOR AMENDMENT 26

- ✓ December 2014- South Atlantic approves for scoping
- ✓ January 2015- South Atlantic scoping
- ✓ January 2015- Gulf AP reviews potential actions and alternatives
- ✓ January 2015- Gulf Council approves for scoping
- April 2015- South Atlantic Mackerel AP reviews actions and alternatives
- April 2015- Gulf scoping
- June 2015- Joint Gulf and South Atlantic meeting in Key West- review public input, provide direction on actions and alternatives
- August 2015- Gulf Council reviews document, selects preferred alternatives and provides direction to staff
- September 2015- South Atlantic Council reviews document, selects preferred alternatives, and approves for public hearings
- October 2015- Gulf Council reviews document, selects preferred alternatives, and approves for public hearings
- November 2015- South Atlantic/Gulf public hearings
- December 2015- South Atlantic Council Final Action
- January 2016- Gulf Council Final Action
- April/May 2016- Implementation

Background

SEDAR 38 (SEDAR 2014) was completed in August 2014 and included assessments for Gulf and Atlantic king mackerel. SEDAR 38 used a different approach than the current management stock boundary to designate the Gulf and Atlantic stocks, and the mixing zone. In December 2014, the South Atlantic SSC provided recommendations to the South Atlantic Council for new ABCs for Atlantic king mackerel. The Gulf SSC provided their recommendations for Gulf king mackerel to the Gulf Council in January 2015. The catch limits for both stocks (and zone/subzone quotas) will need to be updated based on SEDAR 38 in addition to changes due to the modified stock boundary. The Gulf Council is also considering revising sector allocations for Gulf king mackerel and modifying the recreational bag limit for Gulf king mackerel.

In addition, the South Atlantic Council is considering a provision to allow fishermen who participate in the shark fishery using gillnets to retain and sell incidental catch of Atlantic king mackerel. Prior to Amendment 20A, fishermen with federal commercial shark permits and federal commercial king mackerel permits would sell small numbers of king mackerel caught on shark gillnet trips. However, because gillnet is not an authorized gear for king mackerel, the king mackerel cannot be sold under the federal king mackerel permit. Currently under the prohibition on bag limit sales, the king mackerel are discarded.

Summary of Scoping Comments on Amendment 26 Items*

- Set the ACL at the highest level possible (high recruitment ABC) because of the abundance of small fish and high recruitment in recent years; also some commenters supported the medium recruitment ABC
- Allow unused quota to be rolled over to the next year.
- Concern about lack of information about the dynamics of stock mixing in SEDAR 38
- Update the stock boundary and mixing zone.
- Concern about how the Northern and Southern Zone quotas (set up in Amendment 20B) would work with the new stock boundary and ACLs for king mackerel. Some individuals did not support a separate Northern Zone quota.
- Concern that the Florida East Coast subzone quota would be moved to the other Gulf zones or be allocated to the Northern Zone quota.
- Gulf Eastern Zone/Northern Subzone should have the largest proportion of the Gulf ACL, because it has the largest number of participants and potential new entrants.
- Allow sale of incidental catch of king mackerel in the shark gillnet fishery. One commenter recommended that this should only be allowed if it can be strictly enforced so that only a small number (bag limit) can be sold.
- Do not establish an endorsement to fish king mackerel in the Florida East Coast subzone, because if endorsements are set up in other zones/subzones, this would affect the traveling fishermen; an endorsement would be a step toward catch shares and they were opposed to catch shares.
- Set a subquota for the Florida East Coast subzone.
- Move the Florida East Coast subzone boundary south of the Flagler/Volusia line.
- Wait until the new ACLs are in place before addressing management in the FLEC subzone.
- Change the fishing year for the Florida East Coast subzone to March 1.

* Commenters and meeting participants made additional comments and recommendations on other mackerel-related topics outside of Amendment 26. All comments during scoping are available at www.safmc.net or ask Kari for a copy.

ACTION 1. Modify the Management Boundary for Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups of King Mackerel

NOTE: South Atlantic Council will review, edit and approve language in alternatives in June 2015.

Alternative 1 (No action). Maintain the current mixing zone designation and management boundaries for Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel (**Figure 1**).

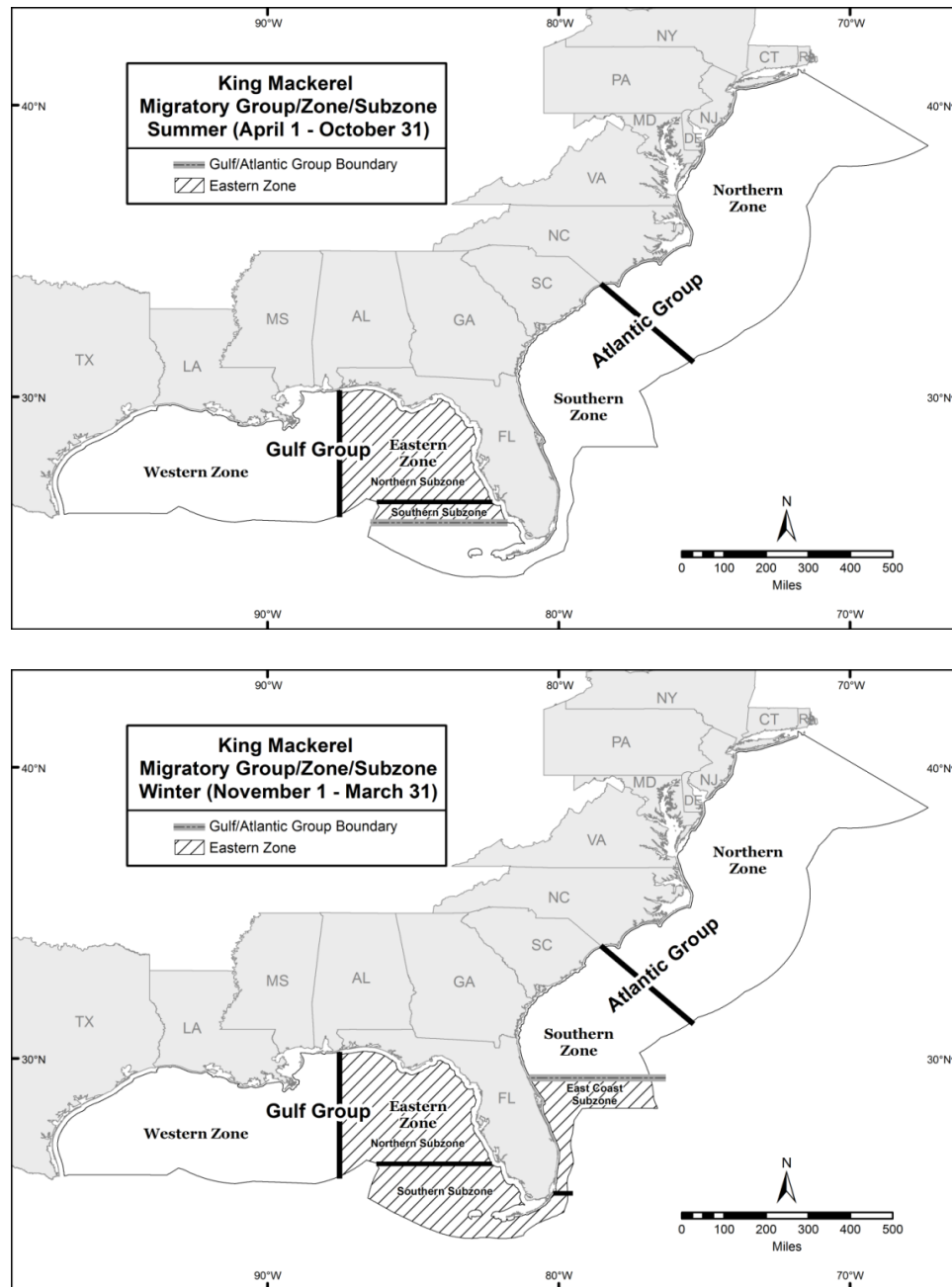


Figure 1. Current king mackerel seasonal boundaries.

Alternative 2. Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating management of the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Gulf/South Atlantic Council boundary (**Figure 2.1.2**). The mixing zone would be designated as the area south of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, demarcated in the west by a line west from Key West to the Dry Tortugas at 24°35' North latitude, then south at 83° West longitude from the Dry Tortugas (the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Council boundary) to the shelf edge, and in the east from the Dade-Monroe county line to the shelf edge. The South Atlantic Council would be responsible for management measures in the mixing zone. From November 1 – March 31, king mackerel landings in the mixing zone would be counted as 50% toward the Gulf King Mackerel ACL and 50% towards the Atlantic King Mackerel ACL.

The IPT Leads are recommending a revised Alternative 2:

Alternative 2. Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating management of the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Gulf/South Atlantic Council boundary (**Figure 2.1.2**). The mixing zone would be designated as the area south of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, demarcated in the west by a line west from Key West to the Dry Tortugas at 24°35' North latitude, then south at 83° West longitude from the Dry Tortugas (the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Council boundary) to the shelf edge, and in the east from the Dade-Monroe county line to the shelf edge. The South Atlantic Council would be responsible for management measures in the mixing zone.

Allocate the percentage of the Gulf commercial hook-and-line ACL equal to the average commercial hook-and-line landings attributable to the Gulf migratory group in the mixing zone to the Atlantic commercial ACL and the Atlantic Southern Zone commercial quota. Allocate the percentage of the Gulf recreational ACL equal to the average recreational landings attributable to the Gulf migratory group in the mixing zone to the Atlantic recreational ACL.

Sub-Alternative 2a. Allocate the proportions of the Gulf sector ACLs to the Atlantic sector ACLs using the average landings from the most recent 10 years (2005-2014).

Sub-Alternative 2b. Allocate the proportions of the Gulf sector ACLs to the Atlantic sector ACLs using the average landings from the most recent 15 years (1999-2014).

Sub-Alternative 2c. Allocate the proportions of the Gulf sector ACLs to the Atlantic sector ACLs using 50% of the average landings from the most recent 5 years (2010-2014) and 50% from the previous 10 years (2000-2009).

Sub-Alternative 2d. Allocate the proportions of the Gulf sector ACLs to the Atlantic sector ACLs using the average landings from the most recent 5 years (2000-2014).

Sub-Alternative 2e. AP Suggestions?

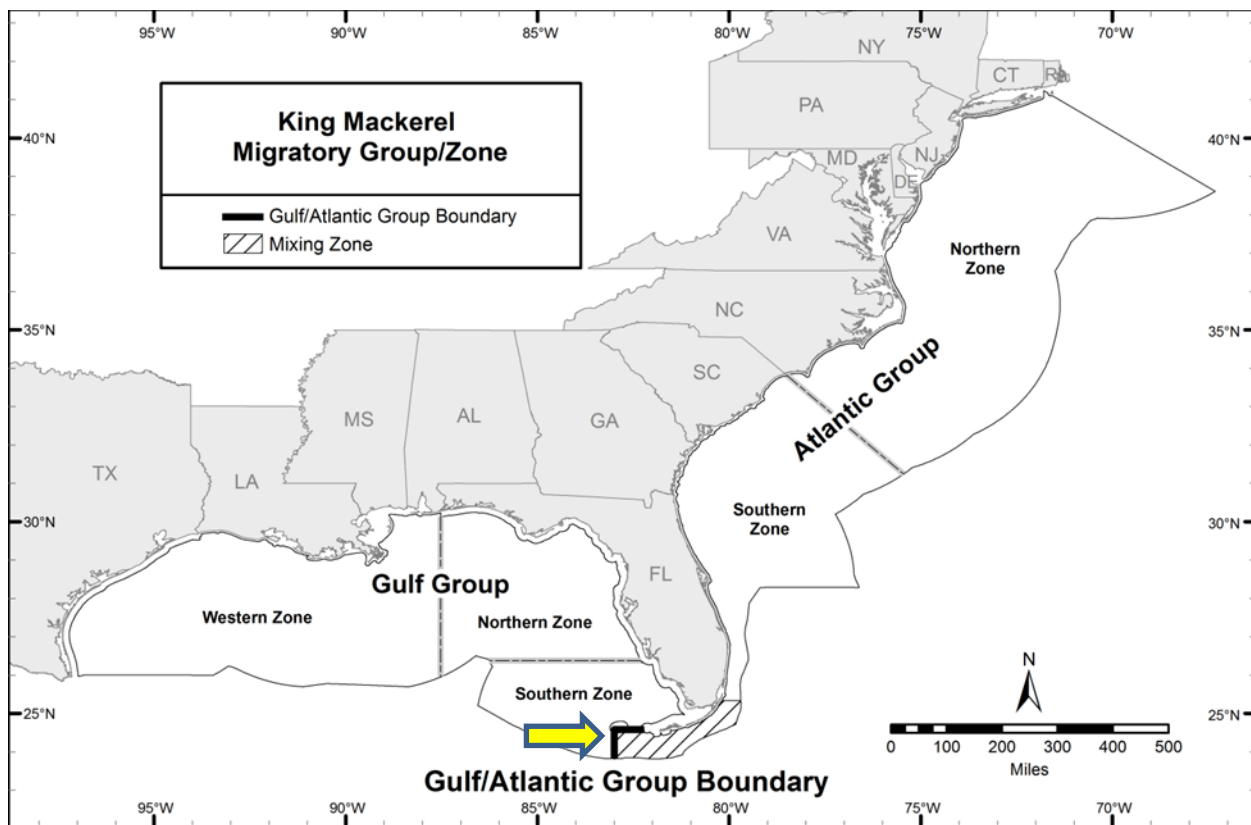


Figure 2. Alternative 2 proposed management boundary for Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel.

Alternative 3. Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Dade/Monroe County line (**Figure 2.1.3**). The mixing zone would be designated as the area south of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, demarcated in the west by a line west from Key West to the Dry Tortugas at 24°35' North latitude, then south at 83° West longitude from the Dry Tortugas (the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Council boundary) to the shelf edge, and in the east from the Dade-Monroe county line to the shelf edge. The Gulf Council would be responsible for management measures in the mixing zone. From November 1 – March 31, king mackerel landings in the mixing zone would be counted as 50% toward the Gulf King Mackerel ACL and 50% towards the Atlantic King Mackerel ACL.

The IPT Leads are recommending a revised Alternative 3:

Alternative 3. Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Dade/Monroe County line (**Figure 2.1.3**). The mixing zone would be designated as the area south of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, demarcated in the west by a line west from Key West to the Dry Tortugas at 24°35' North latitude, then south at 83° West longitude from the Dry Tortugas (the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Council boundary) to the shelf edge, and in the east from the Dade-Monroe county line to the shelf edge. The Gulf Council would be responsible for management measures in the mixing zone. **Gulf AP Preferred**

Allocate the percentage of the Atlantic commercial ACL equal to the average commercial landings attributable to the Atlantic migratory group in the mixing zone to the Gulf commercial ACL and the Gulf Southern Zone commercial hook-and-line quota. Allocate the percentage of the Atlantic recreational ACL equal to the average recreational landings attributable to the Atlantic migratory group in the mixing zone to the Gulf recreational ACL.

Sub-Alternative 3a. Allocate the proportions of the Atlantic sector ACLs to the Gulf sector ACLs using the average landings from the most recent 10 years (2005-2014).

Sub-Alternative 3b. Allocate the proportions of the Atlantic sector ACLs to the Gulf sector ACLs using the average landings from the most recent 15 years (1999-2014).

Sub-Alternative 3c. Allocate the proportions of the Atlantic sector ACLs to the Gulf sector ACLs using 50% of the average landings from the most recent 5 years (2010-2014) and 50% from the previous 10 years (2000-2009).

Sub-Alternative 3d. Allocate the proportions of the Atlantic sector ACLs to the gulf sector ACLs using the average landings from the most recent 5 years (2000-2014).

Sub-Alternative 3e. AP Suggestions?

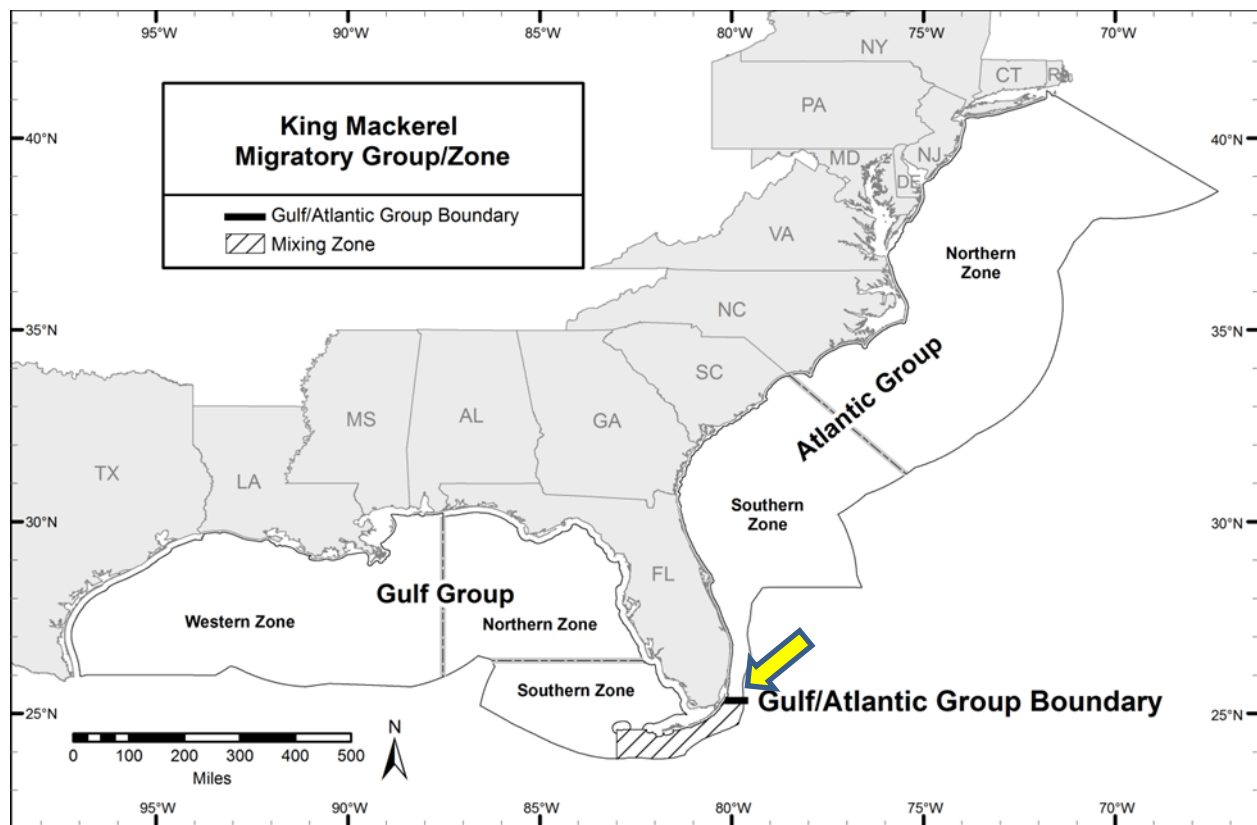


Figure 3. Alternative 3 proposed management boundary for Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel, with the Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group.

Discussion

This action would modify the management boundary so that it is consistent with the stock boundary used in SEDAR 38. The Assessment Report states:

...that the best approach is to establish the management mixing zone in the area south of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, demarcated in the west by a line west from Key West to the Dry Tortugas at 24°35' N. lat, then south at 83° W from the Dry Tortugas (the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Council boundary) to the shelf edge, and in the east from the Dade-Monroe county line to the shelf edge (**Figure 4**). King mackerel captured in this zone from November 1 to March 31 should be assigned 50:50 to Gulf and Atlantic stocks. (SEDAR 38 Atlantic King Mackerel Stock Assessment Report, pp. 16-17)

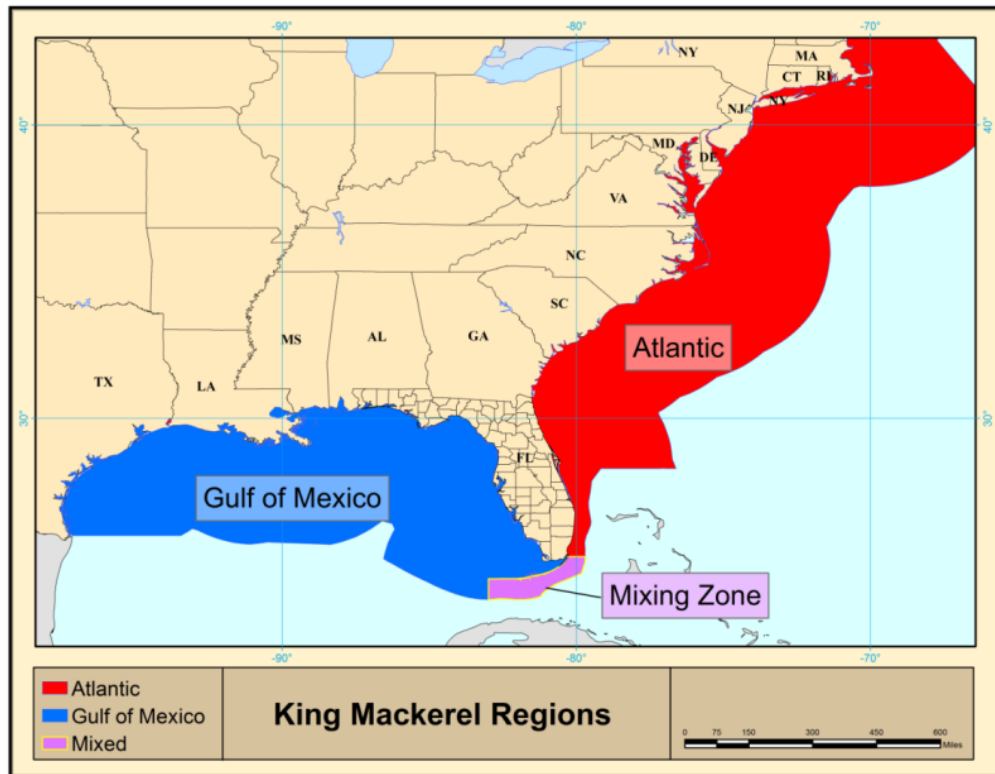


Figure 4. Regions used to aggregate landings for stock assessment of king mackerel in the GMFMC and SAFMC management areas (*Figure 4.2 from the SEDAR 38 Stock Assessment Report*).

Alternative 2 would set a year-round boundary in which each Council manages within its jurisdiction (which could result in separate management on each side of the Florida Keys). **Alternative 3** would set a year-round boundary so that the Gulf Council would manage all of the Florida Keys.

ACTION 2. Update Reference Points (MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL), and Revise the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

NOTE: South Atlantic Council will review, edit and approve language in alternatives in June 2015.

The South Atlantic Council has determined that the value for MSY is the value of yield at F_{MSY} from the most recent stock assessment. Currently $MSY = 10.4$ mp (SEDAR 16). The SSC did not recommend a value for MSY so the 10.4 mp estimate remains in place.

The South Atlantic Council has determined that the value for MSST is the value from the most recent stock assessment. Currently $MSST = 1,827.5$ million hydrated eggs (SEDAR 16). Based on the SEDAR 38 assessment, $MSST = 1,991$ million hydrated eggs.

The South Atlantic Council has determined that the value for MFMT is the value of F_{MSY} or proxy from the most recent stock assessment. Currently $MFMT = F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR} = 0.256$ (SEDAR 16). Based on the SEDAR 38 assessment, $MFMT = F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR} = 0.157$.

Table 1. Recommendations from the October 2014 SSC meeting for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Criteria	Deterministic
Overfished evaluation	No, $SSB/SSB_{30\%SPR} = 1.86$
Overfishing evaluation	No, $F/F_{30\%SPR} = 0.17$
MFMT	$F_{30\%SPR} = 0.157$
$SSB_{30\%SPR}$ (unit)	2,372 million eggs
MSST (unit)	1,991 million eggs
MSY (1000 lb)	Not recommended
Y at 75% $F_{30\%SPR}$ (1000 lb)	Not recommended
ABC Control Rule Adjustment	17.5%
P-Star	32.5%
OFL (1000 lb)	See Table 2.2.2

The SSC provided the following OFLs at their October 2014 meeting (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Recommendation for OFL from the October 2014 SSC meeting for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Fishing year	OFL (million pounds whole weight)
2016/17	19.8
2017/18	18.3
2018/19	16.7
2019/20	15.2
2020	14.3

IPT Suggestion for SA: Revise to only specify OFLs through 2019 and round to 1 decimal place.

Action 2-1. Revise the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

NOTE: South Atlantic Council will review, edit and approve language in alternatives in June 2015.

Alternative 1 (No action). Retain the current ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel (10.46 mp).

Alternative 2. Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016/17 through 2019/20 2020/21, based on the ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a high recruitment scenario

Alternative 3. Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016/17 through 2019/20 2020/21 ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a medium recruitment scenario

Alternative 4. Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016/17 through 2019/20 2020/21, based on the ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a low recruitment scenario (**Table 3**).

IPT Suggestion to SA: Only set ABCs for 2016/17 through 2019/20; move Alternatives 5-6 to the considered but rejected appendix because these will go in Action 2-2. The SSC recommended values for 5 years beginning with 2015/16 but management will not be effective until 2016/17 fishing year. The ABC/ACL for 2019/20 will remain until modified.

Table 3. ABC recommendations from the October 2014 SSC meeting for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

P star= 0.325	ABC HIGH Recruitment Scenario	ABC MED Recruitment Scenario	ABC LOW Recruitment Scenario	Buffer between ABC and OFL		
Fishing year	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	HI	MED	LO
2016/17	17.4 mp	16.5 mp	15.4 mp	12%	16%	22%
2017/18	15.8 mp	14.3 mp	12.9 mp	14%	22%	29%
2018/19	14.1 mp	12.9 mp	11.9 mp	15%	23%	28%
2019/20	12.7 mp	12.1 mp	11.6 mp	17%	21%	24%
2020/21	11.5 mp	11.3 mp	11.0 mp	19%	21%	23%

Action 2-2. Revise the ACL and Recreational ACT for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

NOTE: South Atlantic Council will review, edit and approve language in alternatives in June 2015.

Please see Appendix A for details of how the Northern and Southern Zone quotas will work with the new stock boundary.

Alternative 1 (No action). Retain the ACL and Recreational ACT for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Atlantic King Mackerel ACL	10.46 mp
Commercial ACL	3.88 mp
Northern Zone Quota	1,292,040 lbs
Southern Zone Quota	2,587,012 lbs
Recreational ACL	6.58 mp
Recreational ACT	6.11 mp

Alternative 2. Establish ACL = OY = ABC based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1 (**Table 4**).

Table 4. Possible outcomes under **Alternative 2** based on alternatives in Action 2-1. The recreational allocation is 62.9% and the commercial allocation is 37.1%. The Northern Zone quota will be 23.04% and the Southern Zone quota allocation is 79.96% (see **Appendix A** for details on how the Northern and Southern Zone quota allocations were recalculated using the SEDAR 38 boundary). ACT values are calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

ACL = ABC HIGH Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 2						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	17.4 mp	6.5 mp	1,497,600	5,197,400	10.9 mp	10.1 mp
2017/18	15.8 mp	5.9 mp	1,359,360	4,717,640	9.9 mp	9.2 mp
2018/19	14.1 mp	5.2 mp	1,198,080	4,157,920	8.9 mp	8.3 mp
2019/20	12.7 mp	4.7 mp	1,082,880	3,758,120	8.0 mp	7.4 mp
2020/21	11.5 mp	4.3 mp	990,720	3,438,280	7.2 mp	6.7 mp

Table 4 continues on next page

Table 4 continued

ACL = ABC MEDIUM Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 3						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	16.5 mp	6.1 mp	1,405,440	4,877,560	10.4 mp	9.7 mp
2017/18	14.3 mp	5.3 mp	1,221,120	4,237,880	9.0 mp	8.4 mp
2018/19	12.9 mp	4.8 mp	1,105,920	3,838,080	8.1 mp	7.5 mp
2019/20	12.1 mp	4.5 mp	1,036,800	3,598,200	7.6 mp	7.1 mp
2020/21	11.3 mp	4.2 mp	967,680	3,358,320	7.1 mp	6.6 mp
ACL = ABC LOW Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 4						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	15.4 mp	5.7 mp	1,313,280	4,557,720	9.7 mp	9.0 mp
2017/18	12.9 mp	4.8 mp	1,105,920	3,838,080	8.1 mp	7.5 mp
2018/19	11.9 mp	4.4 mp	1,013,760	3,518,240	7.5 mp	7.0 mp
2019/20	11.6 mp	4.3 mp	990,720	3,438,280	7.3 mp	6.8 mp
2020/21	11.0 mp	4.1 mp	944,640	3,278,360	6.9 mp	6.4 mp

IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21.

Alternative 3. Establish ACL = OY = Deterministic equilibrium yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 12.7$ mp for fishing years 2016/17 through 2019/20. ~~2020/21~~ **IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21**
 Note: This was recommended by the SSC but is not binding on the Council since the Council sets ACL. The proxy for MSY is 30% SPR.

Alternative 3	
Atlantic King Mackerel ACL	12.7 mp
Commercial ACL	4.7 mp
Northern Zone Quota	1,082,880 lbs
Southern Zone Quota	3,758,120 lbs
Recreational ACL	8.0 mp
Recreational ACT*	7.4 mp

*ACT value calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

Alternative 4. Establish ACL = OY = Deterministic equilibrium yield at $75\% F_{30\%SPR} = 11.6$ mp for fishing years 2016/17 through 2019/20. ~~2020/21~~ **IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21.**
 Note: 75% of F_{MSY} (which is the same as $75\% F_{30\%SPR}$ because 30% SPR is the proxy for MSY) is usually in the TORs of all the assessments. $75\% F_{MSY}$ was the old OY, as yield at the long term F_{MSY} (MSY) was the old OFL. It is still part of the TORs in case the Council wants to choose that strategy to have stable catches rather than following the P^* and have changing catch levels each year.

Alternative 4	
Atlantic King Mackerel ACL	11.6 mp
Commercial ACL	4.3 mp
Northern Zone Quota	990,720 lbs
Southern Zone Quota	3,438,280 lbs
Recreational ACL	7.3 mp
Recreational ACT*	6.8 mp

*ACT value calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

Alternative 5. Establish ACL = OY = 90% ABC (**Table 5**)

Note: recommend move to considered but rejected appendix since this type of further reduction is covered in Alternatives 3 & 4.

Table 5. Possible outcomes under **Alternative 5** based on alternatives in Action 2-1. The recreational allocation is 62.9% and the commercial allocation is 37.1%. The Northern Zone quota will be 23.04% and the Southern Zone quota allocation is 79.96% (see Appendix A for details on how the Northern and Southern Zone quota allocations were recalculated using the SEDAR 38 boundary). ACT values are calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

ACL = 90% ABC HIGH Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 2						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	15.7 mp	5.8 mp	1,336,320	4,637,680	9.9 mp	9.2 mp
2017/18	14.2 mp	5.3 mp	1,221,120	4,237,880	8.9 mp	8.3 mp
2018/19	12.7 mp	4.7 mp	1,082,880	3,758,120	8.0 mp	7.4 mp
2019/20	11.4 mp	4.2 mp	967,680	3,358,320	7.2 mp	6.7 mp
2020/21	10.4 mp	3.9 mp	898,560	3,118,440	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
ACL = 90% ABC MEDIUM Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 3						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	14.9 mp	5.5 mp	1,267,200	4,397,800	9.4 mp	8.7 mp
2017/18	12.9 mp	4.8 mp	1,105,920	3,838,080	8.1 mp	7.5 mp
2018/19	11.6 mp	4.3 mp	990,720	3,438,280	7.3 mp	6.8 mp
2019/20	10.9 mp	4.0 mp	921,600	3,198,400	6.9 mp	6.4 mp
2020/21	10.2 mp	3.8 mp	875,520	3,038,480	6.4 mp	5.9 mp
Table 5 continues on next page						

Table 5 continued

ACL = 90% ABC
 LOW Recruitment Scenario
Action 2-1, Alt 4

Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	13.9 mp	5.2 mp	1,198,080	4,157,920	8.7 mp	8.1 mp
2017/18	11.6 mp	4.3 mp	990,720	3,438,280	7.3 mp	6.8 mp
2018/19	10.7 mp	4 mp	921,600	3,198,400	6.7 mp	6.2 mp
2019/20	10.4 mp	3.9 mp	898,560	3,118,440	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
2020/21	10 mp	3.7 mp	852,480	2,958,520	6.3 mp	5.9 mp

IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21.

Alternative 6. Establish ACL = OY = 80% ABC (**Table 6**)

Note: recommend move to considered but rejected appendix since this type of further reduction is covered in Alternatives 3 & 4.

Table 6. Possible outcomes under **Alternative 6** based on alternatives in Action 2-1. The recreational allocation is 62.9% and the commercial allocation is 37.1%. The Northern Zone quota will be 23.04% and the Southern Zone quota allocation is 79.96% (see Appendix A for details on how the Northern and Southern Zone quota allocations were recalculated using the SEDAR 38 boundary). ACT values are calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

ACL = 80% ABC HIGH Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 2						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	13.9 mp	5.2 mp	1,198,080	4,157,920	8.7 mp	8.1 mp
2017/18	12.6 mp	4.7 mp	1,082,880	3,758,120	7.9 mp	7.3 mp
2018/19	11.3 mp	4.2 mp	967,680	3,358,320	7.1 mp	6.6 mp
2019/20	10.3 mp	3.8 mp	875,520	3,038,480	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
2020/21	9.2 mp	3.4 mp	783,360	2,718,640	5.8 mp	5.4 mp
ACL = 80% ABC MEDIUM Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 3						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	13.2 mp	4.9 mp	1,128,960	3,918,040	8.3 mp	7.7 mp
2017/18	11.4 mp	4.2 mp	967,680	3,358,320	7.2 mp	6.7 mp
2018/19	10.3 mp	3.8 mp	875,520	3,038,480	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
2019/20	9.7 mp	3.6 mp	829,440	2,878,560	6.1 mp	5.7 mp
2020/21	9 mp	3.3 mp	760,320	2,638,680	5.7 mp	5.3 mp
Table 6 continues on next page						

Table 6 continued

ACL = 80% ABC
 LOW Recruitment Scenario
Action 2-1, Alt 4

Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	12.3 mp	4.6 mp	1,059,840	3,678,160	7.7 mp	7.2 mp
2017/18	10.3 mp	3.8 mp	875,520	3,038,480	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
2018/19	9.5 mp	3.5 mp	806,400	2,798,600	6.0 mp	5.6 mp
2019/20	9.3 mp	3.5 mp	806,400	2,798,600	5.8 mp	5.4 mp
2020/21	8.8 mp	3.3 mp	760,320	2,638,680	5.5 mp	5.1 mp

IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21.

ACTION 3. Incidental Catch Allowance for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Caught in the Shark Gillnet Fishery

NOTE: South Atlantic Council will review, edit and approve language in alternatives in June 2015.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not allow retention and sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the gillnet portion of the commercial shark fishery.

Alternative 2. Allow retention and sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the gillnet portion of the commercial shark fishery for any vessel with a valid shark directed commercial permit AND valid federal king mackerel commercial permit. The king mackerel must be sold to a dealer with the Southeast federal dealer permit.

Sub-Alternative 1. For shark gillnet trips in the EEZ off Florida, no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip. For shark gillnet trips in the EEZ north of the GA/FL line, no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip.

Sub-Alternative 2. For shark gillnet trips in the Southern Zone, no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip. For shark gillnet trips in the Northern Zone, no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVES (IPT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JUNE 2015 MEETING)

Alternative 3. Allow retention and sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with gillnet as incidental catch in the drift gillnet portion of the commercial shark fishery for any vessel with a valid shark directed commercial permit AND valid federal king mackerel commercial permit. The king mackerel must be sold to a dealer with the Southeast federal dealer permit.

Sub-Alternative 1. For shark gillnet trips in the South Atlantic, no more than 100 lbs of king mackerel can be on board, and no more than 100 lbs of king mackerel can be sold from the trip.

Sub-Alternative 2 Another weight? 50 lbs?

ACTION 4. Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Currently the Florida East Coast (FLEC) Subzone is part of the Gulf king mackerel management zones. Because of the new stock and management boundaries following the stock assessment results, the South Atlantic Council is considering establishing a Florida East Coast (FLEC) subzone for Atlantic king mackerel. The Atlantic FLEC Subzone could be based on the same boundaries, quota, management measures, etc., as the Gulf FLEC Subzone, or could be designed differently with new features.

The Gulf FLEC Subzone (**Figure 5**) is the area from the Flagler/Volusia county line to the Dade/Monroe county line; exists November 1- March 31; and has a commercial subquota of the Gulf Commercial ACL (1,102,896 lbs) and specific trip limits.

From April 1- October 31, harvest is counted as Atlantic king mackerel with trip limits of 3,500 lbs for Volusia county, 75 fish from Volusia/Brevard county line to Dade/Monroe, and 1,250 lbs from the Dade/Monroe line to the Council boundary. Commercial harvest during this time is counted under the Southern Zone king mackerel quota.

North of the Flagler/Volusia county line, commercial harvest is counted towards the Southern Zone quota and the trip limit is 3,500 lbs year-round.

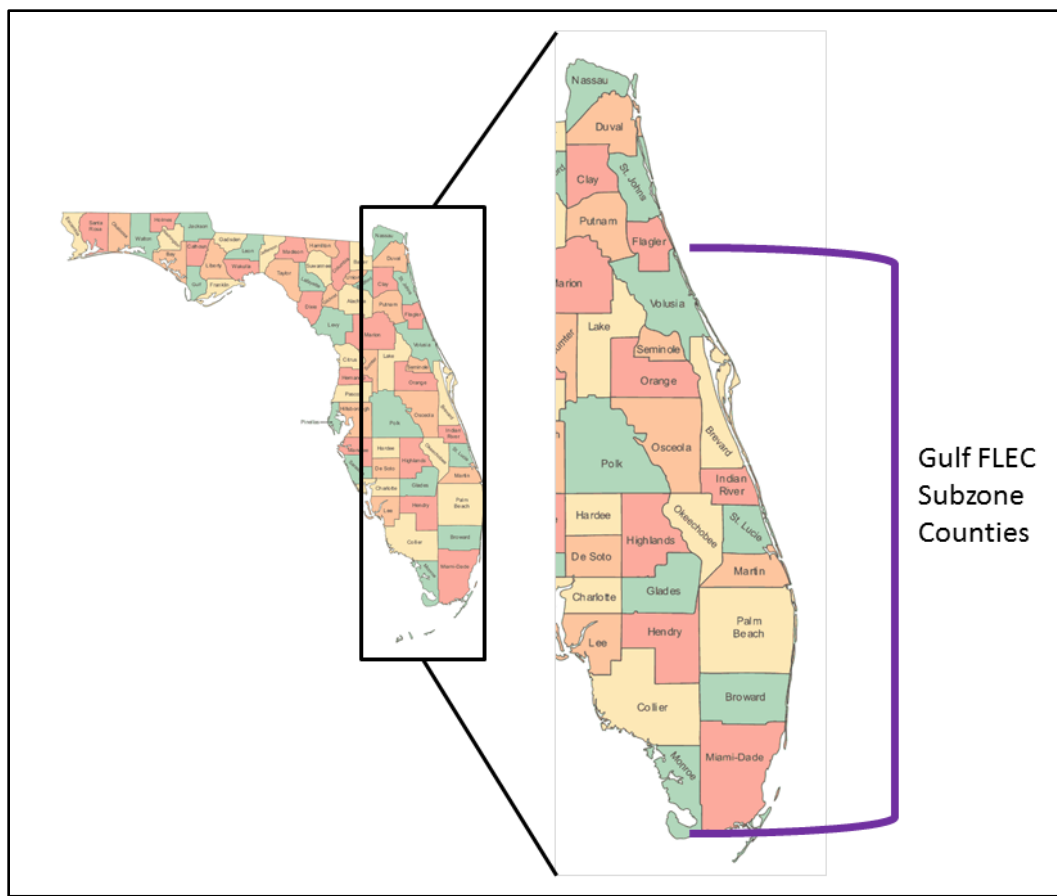


Figure 5. The current Gulf FLEC Subzone.

Table 7. Winter (Nov 1- Mar 31) landings by county in the Florida East Coast subzone for 1998-99 through 2012-13.

Fishing Year	Volusia	Brevard	Indian Riv/ St Lucie*	Martin	Palm Beach	Broward	Miami-Dade	TOTAL
1998-99	25,756	176,876	751,819	28,320	61,049	38,752	31,506	1,114,078
1999-00	27,428	20,471	457,026	20,406	61,374	20,685	36,776	644,166
2000-01	23,351	64,587	577,767	23,428	146,871	18,594	44,603	899,201
2001-02	29,335	106,595	495,124	21,577	58,424	21,883	32,373	765,311
2002-03	37,786	169,896	287,363	45,278	158,863	25,921	60,339	785,446
2003-04	95,534	203,701	365,609	26,300	228,168	24,218	56,280	999,810
2004-05	12,381	118,406	105,215	63,379	234,610	23,792	43,425	601,208
2005-06	28,558	75,424	312,976	65,072	319,309	21,708	53,797	876,844
2006-07	3,795	211,337	530,205	35,984	165,144	25,765	35,019	1,007,249
2007-08	31,043	755,759	357,887	20,240	35,453	18,419	31,496	1,250,297
2008-09	29,021	525,169	372,593	68,076	68,121	13,808	31,108	1,107,896
2009-10	140,813	349,732	425,713	65,386	48,408	10,015	50,663	1,090,730
2010-11	27,641	271,410	425,763	228,385	264,871	10,775	46,677	1,275,522
2011-12	33,204	588,584	256,550	34,549	64,766	7,991	26,156	1,011,800
2012-13	108,644	495,033	258,834	2,024	20,243	5,135	13,697	903,610

*Indian River County and St Lucie County were combined to maintain confidentiality

Data source: SEFSC/SEDAR 38

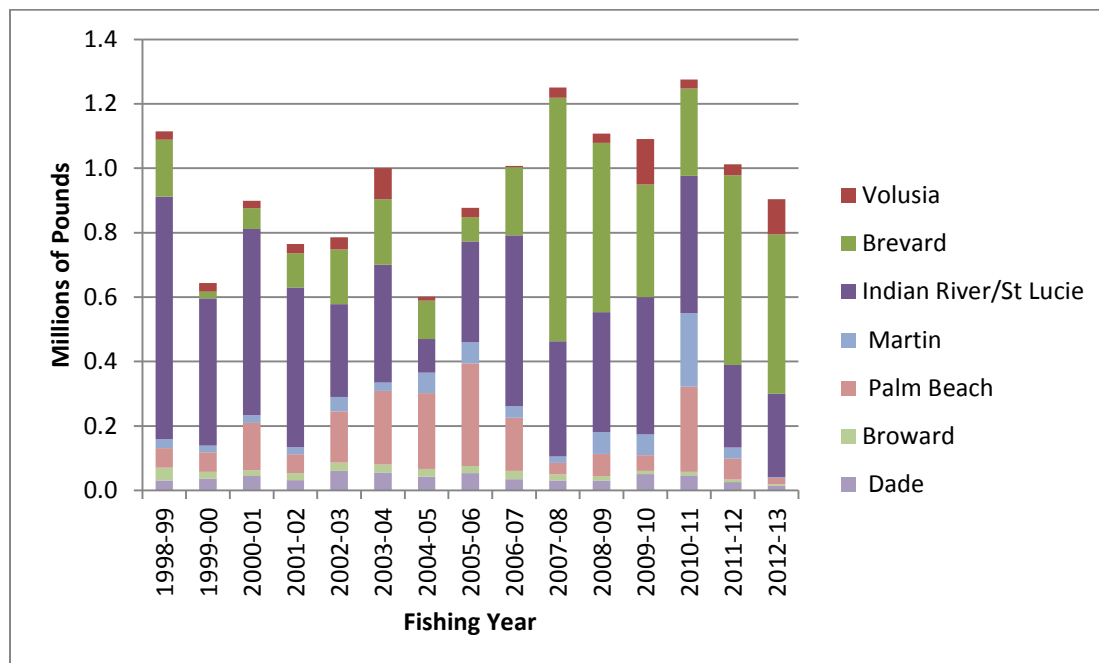


Figure 6. Winter (Nov 1- Mar 31) landings by county in the Florida East Coast subzone for 1998-99 through 2012-13.

Action 4-1. Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

NOTE: Potential Actions and Alternatives- THESE ARE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS
South Atlantic Council will review recommendations, edit and approve language in alternatives in June 2015.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish a Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel. Commercial harvest in the EEZ off the east coast of Florida will be counted towards the Southern Zone commercial quota (as established in Action 2-2), and recreational harvest in the EEZ off the east coast of Florida will be counted towards the Atlantic king mackerel recreational ACL (as established in Action 2-2).

Alternative 2. Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone that exists year-round with boundaries at:

Sub-Alternative 2a. Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Sub-Alternative 2b. Volusia/Brevard county line and Dade/Monroe county line

Sub-Alternative 2c. Volusia/Brevard county line and Council boundary (as designated Action 1)

Sub-Alternative 2d. AP Suggestions?

Alternative 3. Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone that exists November 1 through March 31 with boundaries at:

Sub-Alternative 3a. Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Sub-Alternative 3b. Volusia/Brevard county line and Dade/Monroe county line

Sub-Alternative 3c. Volusia/Brevard county line and Martin/Palm Beach county line and Council boundary (as designated in Action 1)

Sub-Alternative 3d. AP Suggestions?

Alternative 4. Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone that exists another time of year? with boundaries at:

Sub-Alternative 4a. Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Sub-Alternative 4b. Volusia/Brevard county line and Dade/Monroe county line

Sub-Alternative 4c. Volusia/Brevard county line and Martin/Palm Beach county line and Council boundary (as designated in Action 1)

Sub-Alternative 4d. AP Suggestions?

Action 4-2. Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone Commercial Quota for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Potential Alternatives- NOTE: THESE ARE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish a Florida East Coast Subzone Commercial Quota for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel. Commercial harvest in the EEZ off the east coast of Florida will be counted towards the Southern Zone commercial quota (as established in Action 2-2).

Alternative 2. Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone Commercial Quota for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel. Commercial harvest of king mackerel in the area designated in Action 4-1 would be counted towards the Florida East Coast Subzone Subquota. When the subquota is met or expected to be met, commercial harvest of king mackerel in the subzone will be prohibited for the remainder of the fishing year for the subzone (as designated in Action 4-1).

The quota will be calculated as a percentage of the Southern Zone quota and based on the proportion of total landings in the Southern Zone that occurred in the area designated as the Subzone in:

Sub-Alternative 2a. 2009/10 through 2013/14 fishing seasons (last five years)

Sub-Alternative 2b. 2004/05 through 2013/14 fishing seasons (last ten years)

Sub-Alternative 2c: AP Suggestions?

The possible actual pounds for the Subzone in this alternative would depend on what the ACL is set at (Action 2-2), when and where the FLEC Subzone exists (Action 4-1).

Alternative 3. Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone Commercial Quota for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel. Commercial harvest of king mackerel in the area designated in Action 4-1 would be counted towards the Florida East Coast Subzone Subquota. When the subquota is met or expected to be met, commercial harvest of king mackerel in the subzone will be prohibited for the remainder of the fishing year for the subzone (as designated in Action 4-1).

The quota will be a set amount of pounds from the Southern Zone quota and calculated based on the average landings in the area designated as the Subzone in:

Sub-Alternative 3a. 2009/10 through 2013/14 fishing seasons (last five years)

Sub-Alternative 3b. 2004/05 through 2013/14 fishing seasons (last ten years)

Sub-Alternative 3c: AP Suggestions?

The possible actual pounds for the Subzone in this alternative would depend on when and where the FLEC Subzone exists (Action 4-1).

Action 4-3. Commercial Management Measures in the Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Potential Alternatives- NOTE: THESE ARE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish commercial management measures in the Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Alternative 2. Establish a year-round commercial trip limit in the Florida East Coast Subzone.

Sub-Alternative 2a. 50 fish

Sub-Alternative 2b. 75 fish

Sub-Alternative 2c. AP Suggestions?

Alternative 3. Establish a commercial trip limit in the Florida East Coast Subzone for April 1- October 31.

Sub-Alternative 3a. 50 fish

Sub-Alternative 3b. 75 fish

Sub-Alternative 3c. AP Suggestions?

Alternative 4. Establish a commercial trip limit in the Florida East Coast Subzone for November 1- March 31.

Sub-Alternative 3a. 50 fish

Sub-Alternative 3b. 75 fish

Sub-Alternative 3c. AP Suggestions?

ACTION 5 (IN SCOPING). Update Reference Points (MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL), and Revise the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Staff recommends that the South Atlantic Council postpone any input for this action until after the Gulf Council June 2015 meeting. The Gulf Council is scoping items for Amendment 26 in March/April 2015. The Gulf Scoping Document is available online at:
<http://gulfcouncil.org/docs/amendments/CMP%2026%20Scoping%20Document1-15.pdf>

SEDAR 38 (2014) was completed in August 2014 and included assessments for Gulf and Atlantic king mackerel. The Gulf SSC reviewed the Gulf king mackerel stock assessment during its January 2015 meeting, and accepted the assessment for management advice. Since the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel is not thought to be either overfished or experiencing overfishing, the Gulf SSC recommended a P^* value of 0.50 for the OFL at $F_{30\%SPR}$, and a P^* value of 0.43 for the ABC, based on the uncertainty characterized in the model. The Gulf SSC then recommended the following OFL and ABC values in millions of pounds (mp) whole weight (ww):

Table 8. Gulf SSC recommendations for acceptable biological catch for Gulf migratory group king mackerel, using data resultant from SEDAR 38 (2014). OFL and ABC values are in millions of pounds (mp) whole weight (ww).

Gulf SSC OFL/ABC Recommendations: Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Year	OFL	ABC
	$P^* = 0.50$	$P^* = 0.43$
2015	10.11	9.62
2016	9.61	9.21
2017	9.27	8.88
2018	9.11	8.71
2019	8.95	8.55

The Gulf Council may consider setting the Gulf king mackerel ACL at the same level as the ABC recommended by the SSC in Table 4 above. Alternatively, the Council may consider a constant catch scenario for the ACL.

The current Gulf king mackerel ACLs were designated in Amendment 18 (GMFMC/SAFMC 2011):

Total Gulf king mackerel ACL: 10,800,000 lbs ww

Commercial ACL: 3,456,000 lbs ww

Recreational ACL: 7,344,000 lbs ww

It is important to remember that the area attributed to the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel is thought to be smaller than previously described in past stock assessments (see **Action 1**). Even though the OFL and ABC projections are lower than the current ACL, the amount of area for which the *new* OFL and ABC recommendations applies is in fact smaller than the area for which the *old* ACL applies.

ACTION 6 (IN SCOPING). Revise the Zone and Subzone Commercial Quotas for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Staff recommends that the South Atlantic Council postpone any input for this action until after the Gulf Council June 2015 meeting.

In keeping with the aforementioned changes in the stock boundaries accepted in SEDAR 38 (2014), the Gulf Council will need to reallocate the commercial ACL amongst the three remaining fishing zones in the Gulf (Western Zone, Northern Zone, and Southern Zone). The current allocations are shown in **Table 9** below.

Table 9. Current commercial fishing zone allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Zone	Percent of Commercial Allocation
Western	31%
Northern	5.17%
Southern: H/L	15.96%
Southern: Gillnet	15.96%
FL East Coast	31.91%

Because of the proposed change in the jurisdictional boundary (Action 1), the Florida East Coast Zone would be integrated into the Atlantic Southern Zone, created through Amendment 20B (effective March 1, 2015). This integration would result in an imbalance in the distribution of quota for the Gulf commercial fishery, and thus necessitates reallocation. Options for reallocation might include either an equal or proportional distribution of the 31.91% void, as demonstrated in **Tables 10-12**.

Table 10. Options for redistribution of commercial zone allocation for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Zone	Current Allocation	Equal Reallocation	Proportional Reallocation
Western	31%	38.98%	45.53%
Northern	5.17%	13.15%	7.60%
Southern: H/L	15.96%	23.93%	23.43%
Southern: Gillnet	15.96%	23.93%	23.43%
FL East Coast	31.91%		

Table 11. Pounds associated with an equal redistribution of commercial zone allocation for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Year	Possible Commercial ACL based on the ABCs from Table 2*	Western Zone ¹ (38.98%)	Eastern Zone		
			Northern Subzone ² (13.15%)	Southern Subzone H&L ³ (23.93%)	Southern Subzone Gillnet ³ (23.93%)
2015	3,078,400	1,199,960	404,810	736,661	736,661
2016	2,947,200	1,148,819	387,557	705,265	705,265
2017	2,841,600	1,107,656	373,670	679,995	679,995
2018	2,787,200	1,086,451	366,517	666,977	666,977
2019	2,736,000	1,066,493	359,784	654,725	654,725

* The Gulf Council may choose to set the ACL = ABC with 32% for the commercial ACL, but may consider other options.

¹ Current Western Zone quota is 1,107,360 lbs (31% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

² Current Eastern Zone/Northern Subzone quota is 178,848 lbs (5.17% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30, but will change to Oct 1- Sept 30 when Amendment 20B is implemented.

³ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for hook and line is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

⁴ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for gillnet is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30, but harvest is not allowed from July 1 till the first weekend after MLK, Jr Day in January.

Table 12. Pounds associated with a proportional redistribution of commercial zone allocation for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Year	Possible Commercial ACL based on the ABCs from Table 2*	Western Zone ¹ (38.98%)	Eastern Zone		
			Northern Subzone ² (13.15%)	Southern Subzone H&L ³ (23.93%)	Southern Subzone Gillnet ³ (23.93%)
2015	3,078,400	1,401,596	233,958	721,269	721,269
2016	2,947,200	1,341,860	223,987	690,529	690,529
2017	2,841,600	1,293,780	215,962	665,787	665,787
2018	2,787,200	1,269,012	211,827	653,041	653,041
2019	2,736,000	1,245,701	207,936	641,045	641,045

* The Gulf Council may choose to set the ACL = ABC with 32% for the commercial ACL, but may consider other options.

¹ Current Western Zone quota is 1,107,360 lbs (31% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

² Current Eastern Zone/Northern Subzone quota is 178,848 lbs (5.17% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30, but will change to Oct 1- Sept 30 when Amendment 20B is implemented.

³ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for hook and line is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

⁴ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for gillnet is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30, but harvest is not allowed from July 1 till the first weekend after MLK, Jr Day in January.

ACTION 7 (IN SCOPING). Revise the Recreational and Commercial Allocations of Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Staff recommends that the South Atlantic Council postpone any input for this action until after the Gulf Council June 2015 meeting.

The Gulf Council is considering modifying the sector allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel. In multiple fishing seasons over the past ten years, the commercial sector has exceeded the commercial ACL while the recreational sector has landed decreasingly lower proportions of the recreational ACL. The Gulf Council has requested economic analyses to explore the effects of reallocating up to 10 percent of the Gulf recreational ACL to the commercial fishery. Recent landings of Gulf migratory group king mackerel (based on SEDAR 38 stock boundary and mixing zone) will be provided at the AP meeting.

ACTION 8 (IN SCOPING). Modify the Recreational Bag Limit for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

The Gulf Council may consider increasing the recreational bag limit for Gulf king mackerel in order to increase access to the recreational ACL. As explained in Action 7, in recent years, recreational landings have accounted for less than 50% of the recreational ACL. The current bag limit of Gulf king mackerel is 2 fish per person per day.

At the March 2015 Gulf Council CMP AP meeting, the Gulf AP recommended that the Gulf Council abstain from reallocating any king mackerel from the recreational sector to the commercial sector until after additional options for utilizing excess quota are explored for the recreational sector. Some Gulf AP members thought the initial decrease of the bag limit to two fish per person per day in the mid-1990s may have been partly to blame for the decrease in recreational effort. Additionally, recent short recreational seasons for popular reef fish species may result in more effort shifting to king mackerel in the near future. Decreased fuel prices and a general improvement in the economy may also encourage greater recreational effort for king mackerel. The Gulf AP recommended an increase to three fish per person per day for the recreational bag limit as a way to potentially increase utilization of the recreational ACL.

APPENDIX A: EXPECTED NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ZONE ALLOCATIONS WITH THE SEDAR 38 STOCK BOUNDARY

Kari MacLauchlin, SAFMC Staff
Mackerel Advisory Panel Meeting – April 2015

In CMP Amendment 20B, the South Atlantic Council established commercial king mackerel quotas for a Northern and Southern Zone. The boundary between the zones is the NC/SC boundary. The allocations of the commercial ACL that would go to each zone were based on a time period selected in CMP Amendment 20B. This document provides details of how the Northern and Southern zone quotas for Atlantic king mackerel will be set up under the SEDAR 38 stock boundary.

Following the approach used in SEDAR 38, landings in **Table 1** and **Figure 1** from the [new] mixing zone from November 1- March 31 are counted as 50% Atlantic and 50% Gulf; and landings from the [new] mixing zone from April 1- October 31 are counted as Atlantic. The fishing year for Atlantic king mackerel is March 1- February 28/29.

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL LANDINGS

Table A-1. Recreational landings estimates (blue) and total commercial landings (red) of Atlantic king mackerel from 2002-03 through 2013-14. Data sources: SEFSC/MRIP/SEDAR 38.

Fishing Year	Commercial Landings (lbs)			Recreational Landings (lbs)
	Northern Zone	Southern Zone	TOTAL Commercial	
2002-03	777,749	2,102,493	2,880,242	4,572,182
2003-04	594,870	2,181,464	2,776,334	5,484,156
2004-05	1,046,857	2,622,305	3,669,162	5,354,585
2005-06	1,156,465	2,021,140	3,177,605	3,962,532
2006-07	1,204,659	2,825,673	4,030,332	5,410,425
2007-08	1,112,270	2,709,845	3,822,115	7,134,876
2008-09	953,736	3,359,877	4,313,613	4,154,875
2009-10	786,060	4,087,983	4,874,043	4,212,935
2010-11	294,281	4,255,278	4,549,559	2,636,250
2011-12	433,295	2,817,705	3,251,000	1,835,817
2012-13	345,175	2,029,643	2,374,818	1,802,805
2013-14	Available at AP meeting			1,004,439 (Prelim)

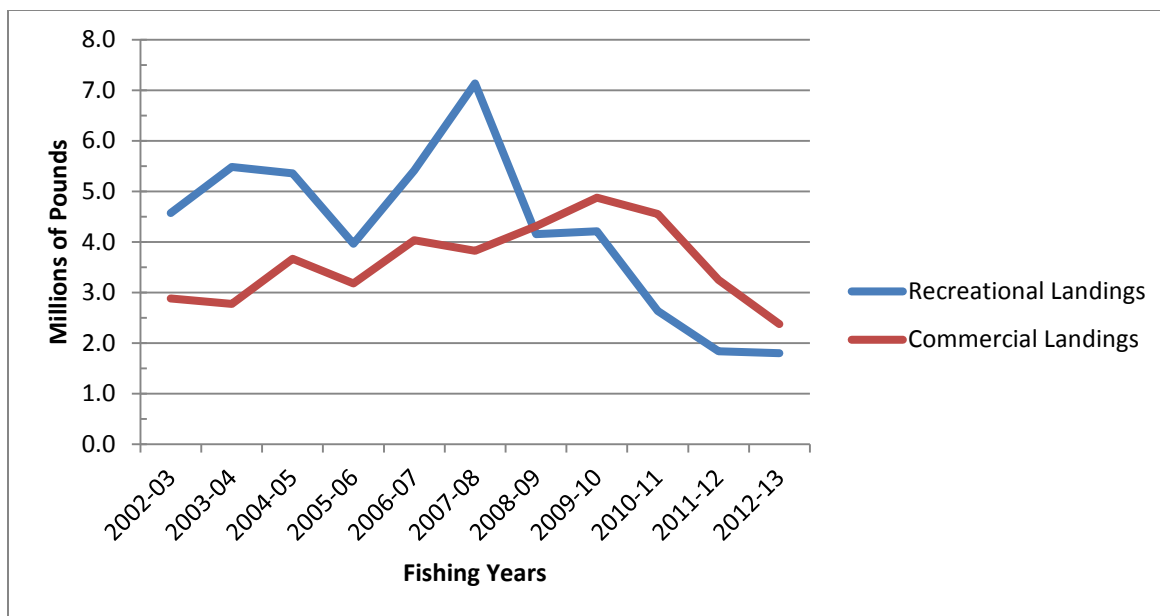


Figure A-1. Recreational landings estimates (blue) and total commercial landings (red) of Atlantic king mackerel from 2002-03 through 2013-14. Data sources: SEFSC/MRIP/SEDAR 38.

RECALCULATING NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ZONE QUOTAS

In Action 4.1 in Amendment 20B (Establish Regional Commercial Quotas for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel), the Councils selected the following alternative as the Preferred:

Preferred Alternative 3: Establish quotas for Northern and Southern Zones for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel based on **Options a-d** below. The Northern Zone would include the EEZ off states from North Carolina north to New York. The Southern Zone would include the EEZ off South Carolina, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida. NMFS would monitor landings in both zones and close the EEZ of each zone when the respective quota is reached.

Preferred Option b: Each zone quota would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of **the proportion of landings in that zone from 2002/2003 through 2011/2012.**

For Amendment 26, the expected percentage of the quota for each zone was re-calculated using the same time period as specified in Amendment 20B, but with landings that would be counted as Atlantic king mackerel using the stock boundary and mixing zone from SEDAR 38 (**Table 1**). The expected percentages will be:

Northern Zone - 23.04%

Southern Zone - 76.96%

Northern Zone landings = Atlantic king mackerel landings north of the NC/SC boundary (North Carolina + Mid-Atlantic landings).

Southern Zone landings = Atlantic king mackerel landings south of the NC/SC boundary to the Dade/Monroe county line + Atlantic KM landings in the [new] mixing zone landings from April 1 through October 31 + 50% of Atlantic KM landings in the [new] mixing zone from November 1 through March 31.

Table 2 shows how landings would be counted as Atlantic king mackerel landings under the SEDAR 38 stock boundary and mixing zone. Following the approach used in SEDAR 38, landings from the [new] mixing zone from November 1- March 31 are counted as 50% Atlantic and 50% Gulf; and landings from the [new] mixing zone from April 1- October 31 are counted as 100% Atlantic. The fishing year for Atlantic king mackerel is March 1- February 28/29.

The landings data for the [new] mixing zone are confidential and cannot be shown separately from other Florida landings.

Table 2. Commercial landings of Atlantic king mackerel in the Northern and Southern Zones using the SEDAR 38 approach to designating landings in the [new] mixing zone as 100% Atlantic stock from April 1 – October 31; and 50% of landings in the [new mixing zone] from November 1 - March 31 and landings in the Florida East Coast subzone November 1 - March 31 as Atlantic stock. Proportion of total landings is shown for each year, in addition to the average proportion of total landings for each Zone from 2002-03 through 2011-12. Data source: SEFSC and SEDAR 38.

	Commercial Landings of Atlantic King Mackerel (lbs)			Proportion of Total Landings	
Fishing Year	Northern Zone (NC and Mid-Atl)	Southern Zone (SC, GA, FL, new mixing zone)	TOTAL Landings	Northern Zone	Southern Zone
2002-03	777,749	2,102,493	2,880,242	27.00%	73.00%
2003-04	594,870	2,181,464	2,776,334	21.43%	78.57%
2004-05	1,046,857	2,622,305	3,669,162	28.53%	71.47%
2005-06	1,156,465	2,021,140	3,177,605	36.39%	63.61%
2006-07	1,204,659	2,825,673	4,030,332	29.89%	70.11%
2007-08	1,112,270	2,709,845	3,822,115	29.10%	70.90%
2008-09	953,736	3,359,877	4,313,613	22.11%	77.89%
2009-10	786,060	4,087,983	4,874,043	16.13%	83.87%
2010-11	294,281	4,255,278	4,549,559	6.47%	93.53%
2011-12	433,295	2,817,705	3,251,000	13.33%	86.67%
			AVERAGE:	23.04%	76.96%