

Decision 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 Committee  
March 2015



February 23, 2015

## **POTENTIAL ACTIONS FOR AMENDMENT 26**

- Modify the Management/Stock Boundary for Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups of King Mackerel
- Revise the biological parameters, ABC, OY, ACL and ACT for Atlantic group king mackerel
- Allow bag limit sales of Atlantic group king mackerel caught in the small coastal shark gillnet fishery
- Establish a sub-quota for the [new] mixing zone
- Management measures for the Florida East Coast subzone
- Revise the annual catch limit 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

## **PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO TIMELINE FOR AMENDMENT 26**

- January/February 2015- South Atlantic scoping (complete)
- March 2015- South Atlantic reviews scoping comments; revises actions and alternatives as needed
- March/Apr 2015- Gulf reviews; revises actions and alternatives as needed
- April 2015- South Atlantic Mackerel AP reviews actions and alternatives
- June 2015- Joint Gulf and South Atlantic meeting in Key West- approve for public hearings
- August 2015- South Atlantic public hearings
- September 2015- South Atlantic review and final action (current schedule has SAFMC approving all actions in September and final review in December, however, the amendment needs to be completed sooner for regulations to be implemented for 2016.)
- October 2015- Gulf review and final action

**Note:** This is a very ambitious timeline and is contingent on the Councils not adding more actions. If more actions are added to Amendment 26, it will reduce the likelihood that changes to ACLs would be implemented during 2016.

## **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.

In addition, the South Atlantic Council is considering a provision to allow fishermen who participate in the small coastal shark fishery using drift gillnets to sell king mackerel caught under the bag limit. 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 drift 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.

In recent years, fishermen were concerned about excess commercial effort in the Florida East Coast subzone (Flagler/Volusia line to Dade/Monroe line). From November 1- March 31, the Florida East Coast subzone has a quota under the Gulf king mackerel ACL. With the new stock boundary, the South Atlantic Council is interested in exploring management measures for the subzone, such as a subquota of the updated Atlantic king mackerel ACL; endorsement or other effort limit for the subzone; specific accountability measures or management measures (trip limits, etc.); and other ideas.

### **Summary of Scoping Comments on Amendment 26 Items\***

#### **Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 26**

- Six commenters noted the abundance of small fish and high recruitment, and supported setting the ACL at the highest level possible (high recruitment ABC).
- Two commenters supported the medium recruitment ABC.
- One commenter felt that the OFL should be much higher due to high recruitment during several non-hurricane years.
- One commenter recommended allowing unused quota to be rolled over to the next year.
- One commenter was concerned about how lack of information about the dynamics of stock mixing in SEDAR 38
- Five commenters supported updating the stock boundary and mixing zone.
- Nine commenters and several discussion participants were concerned with 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.
- Several commenters and discussion participants were concerned that the Florida East Coast subzone quota would be moved to the other Gulf zones or be allocated to the Northern Zone quota.
- One commenter felt that the 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. There should be split seasons with a 500-lb trip limit from Apr 1- Sept 30, and a 1250-lb trip limit with a step-down in November for Oct 1- Mar 31.
- Six commenters supported allowing bag limit sales 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.
- Twelve commenters were opposed to 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. Some commenters also felt that an endorsement would be a step toward catch shares and they were opposed to catch shares.
- One commenter supported a subquota for the Florida East Coast subzone.
- One commenter recommended moving the Florida East Coast subzone boundary south of the Flagler/Volusia line.

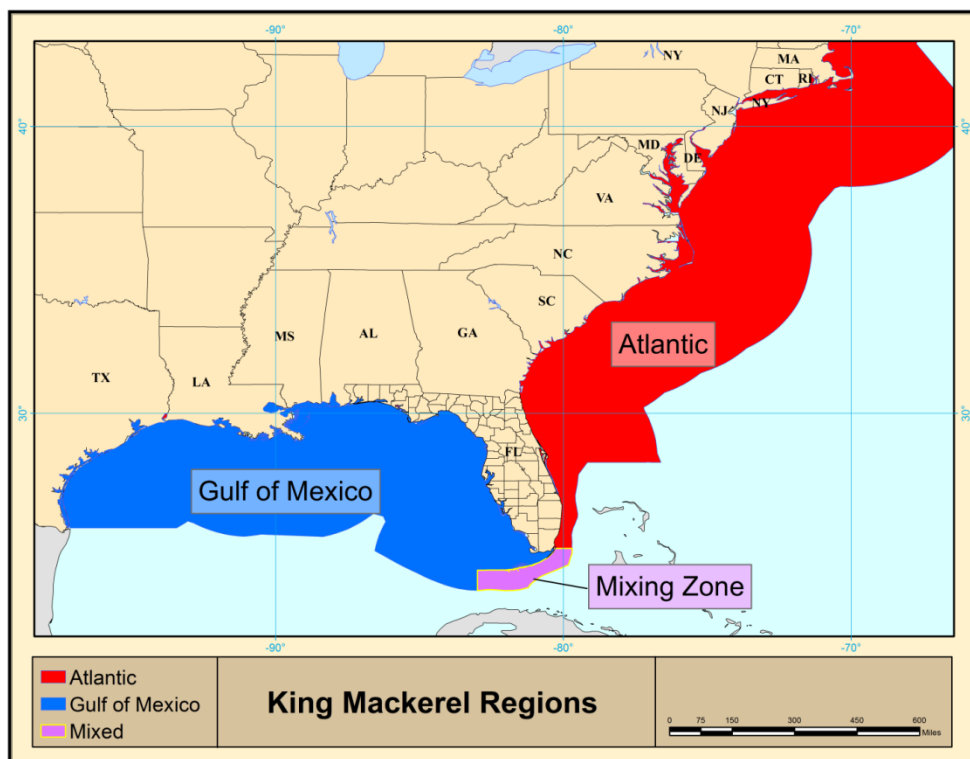
- One commenter recommended waiting until the new ACLs are in place before addressing management in the Florida East Coast subzone.
- One commenter recommended changing the fishing year for the Florida East Coast subzone to March 1.

\* Commenters and meeting participants made additional comments and recommendations on other mackerel-related topics outside of Amendment 26, which are included in **Attachment 4** (Scoping Summary).

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

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 1**). 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)

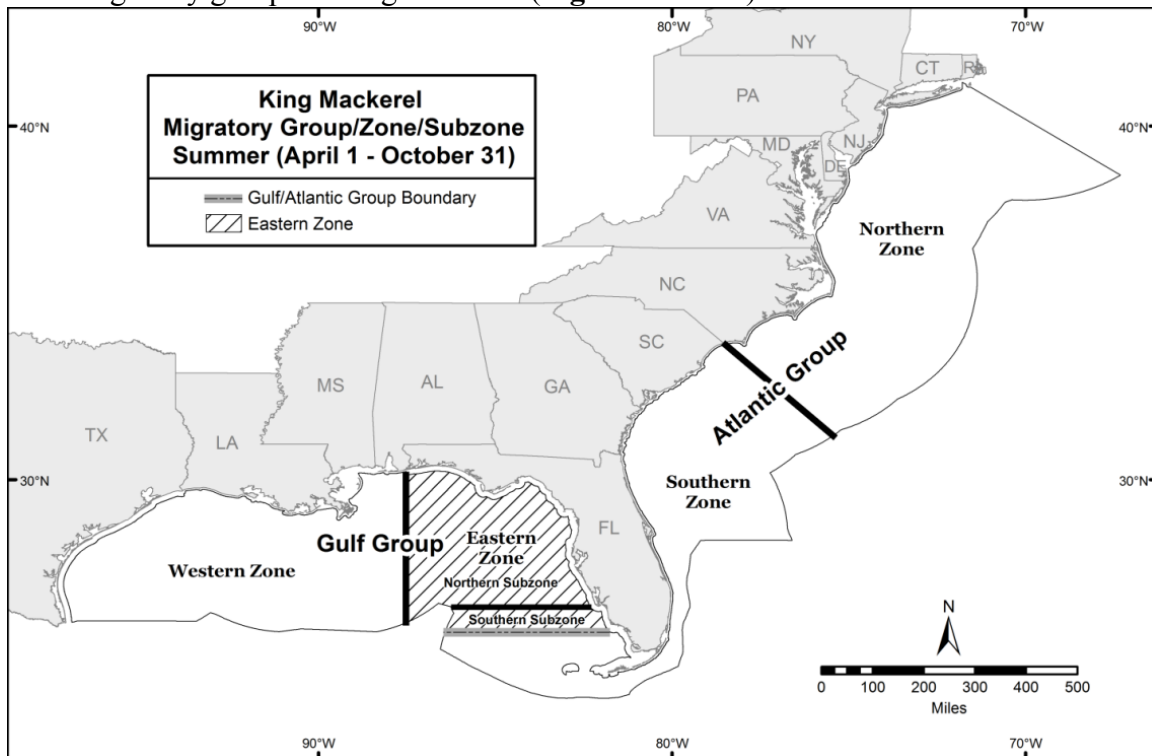


**Figure 1.** Regions used to aggregate landings for stock assessment of king mackerel in the GMFMC and SAFMC management areas (*Figure 4.2 from the SEDAR 38 Stock Assessment Report*).

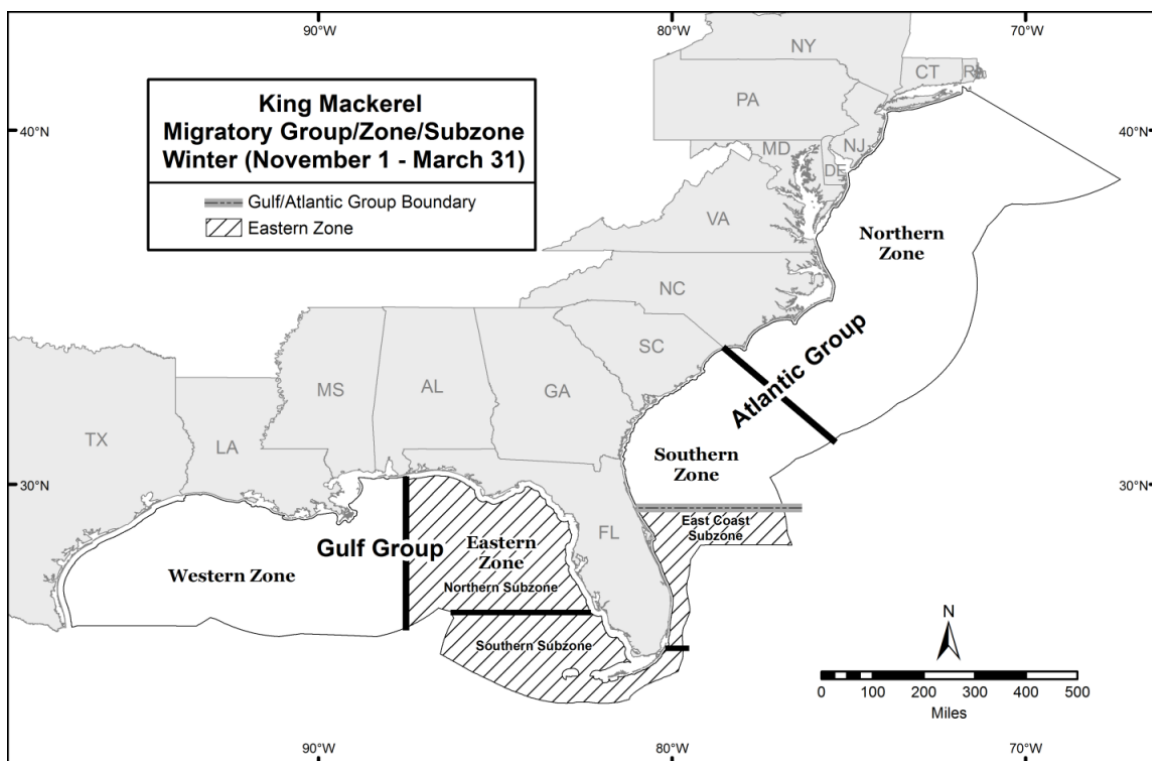
In this action, the Councils can set a year-round boundary in which each Council manages its jurisdiction (which could result in separate management on each side of the Florida Keys) or a year-round boundary so that just one Council manages all of the Florida Keys.

Potential alternatives and language:

**Alternative 1 (No action).** Maintain the current mixing zone designation and stock boundaries for Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel (**Figures 2 and 3**).

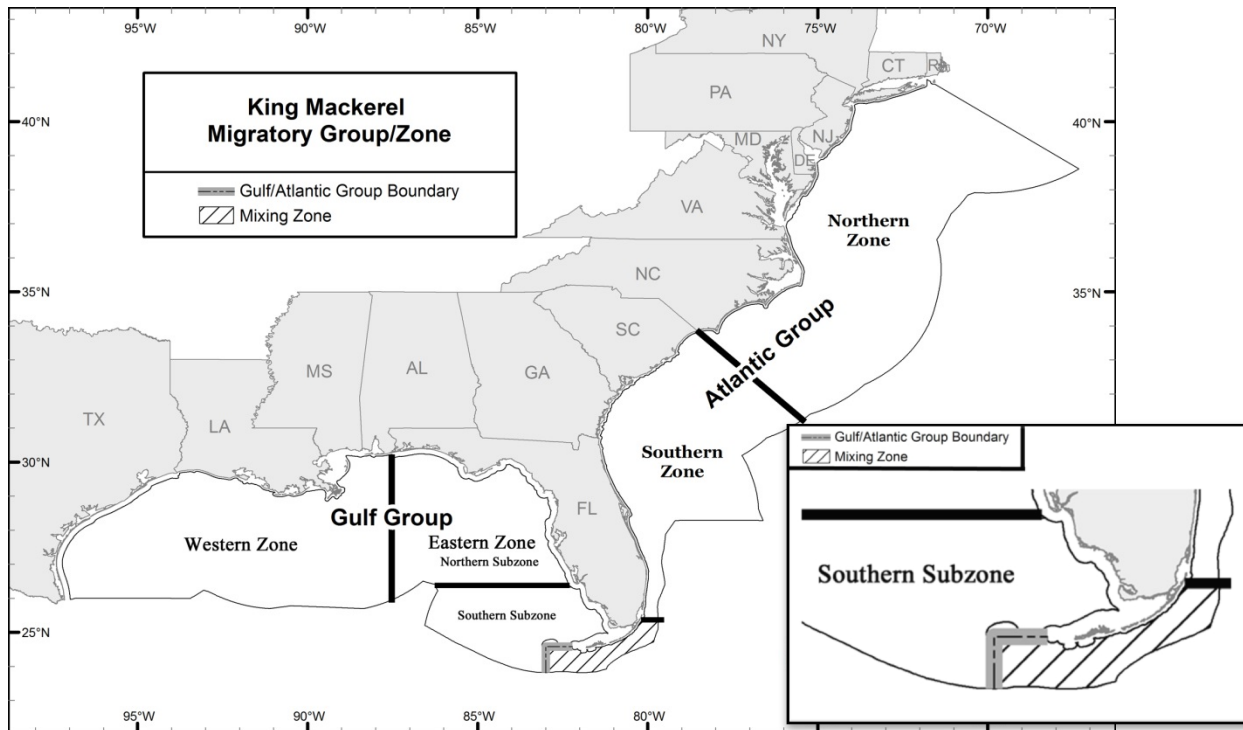


**Figure 2.** King mackerel seasonal boundaries April 1-October 31, with the Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group.



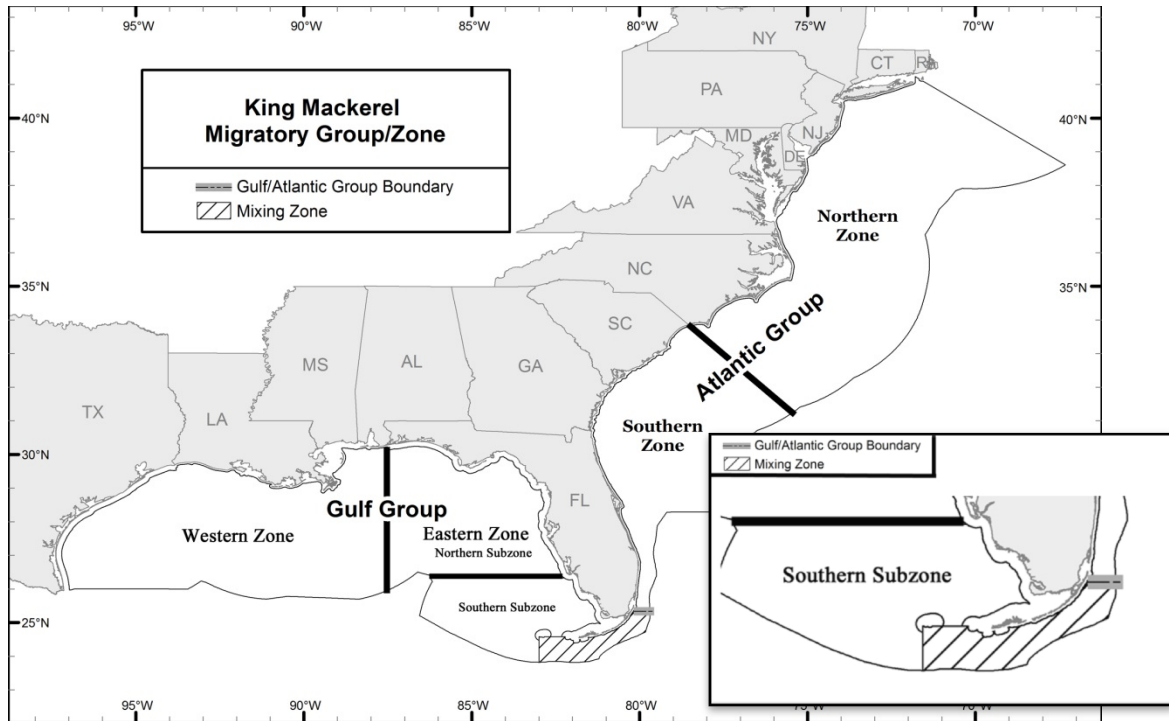
**Figure 3.** King mackerel seasonal boundaries November 1- March 31, with the Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group.

**Alternative 2.** Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Gulf/South Atlantic Council boundary (**Figure 4**). 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' 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 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.



**Figure 4.** Alternative 2 proposed management boundary for Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel, with the Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group.

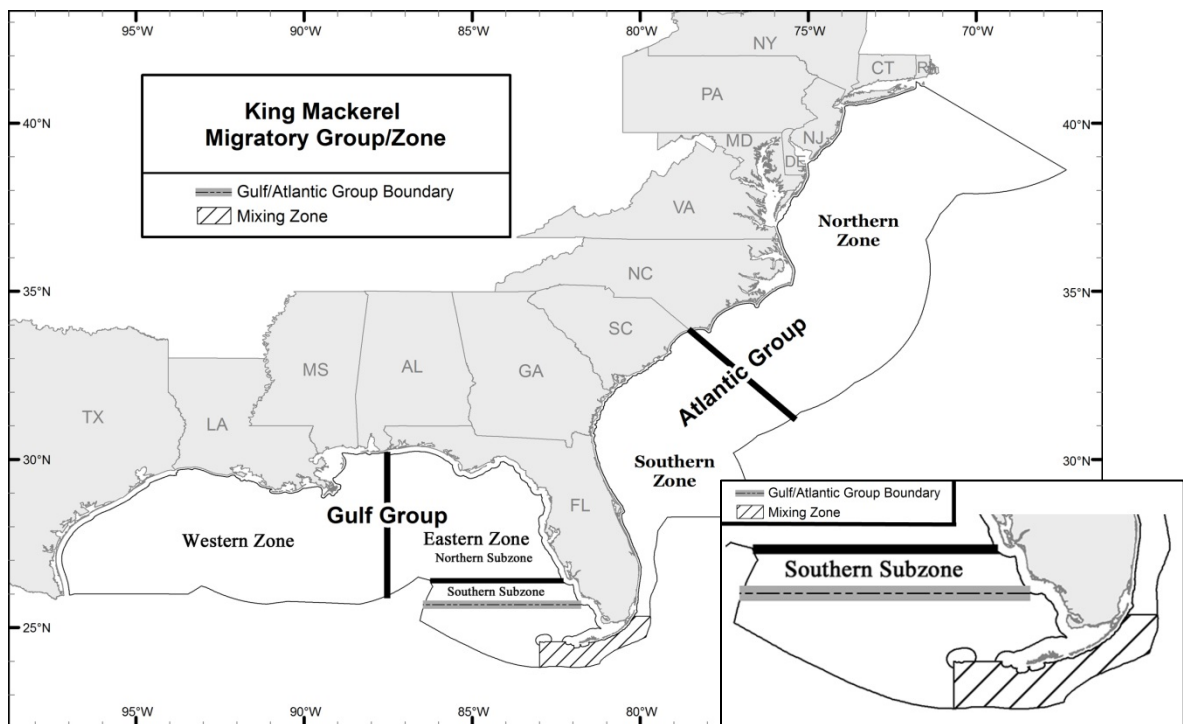
**Alternative 3.** Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Dade/Monroe County line (**Figure 5**). The mixing zone would be designated as the area south of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, demarcated in the west by a line west from Key West to the Dry Tortugas at 24°35' 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. 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.



**Figure 5.** Alternative 3 proposed management boundary for Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel, with the Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group..



**Alternative 4.** Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Monroe/Collier County line (**Figure 6**). 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' 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. The South Atlantic Council would be responsible for management measures in Monroe County waters to the Collier/Monroe county line. Recreational data include all of Monroe County in Florida West Coast landings. 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.



**Figure 6.** Alternative 4 proposed management boundary for Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel, with the Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group.

### **Committee Actions:**

**OPTION 1. APPROVE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 1.**

**OPTION 2. MODIFY AND APPROVE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 1.**

**OPTION 3. SELECT ALTERNATIVE X AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 1.**

**OPTION 4. OTHERS??**

## **POTENTIAL ACTION 2. Revise MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL, and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory group King Mackerel**

In CMP Amendment 18, there were no alternatives, just a statement of the MSY, MSST and MFMT from SEDAR 16:

“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 (SEDAR 16, 2008). Currently  $MSY = 10.4$  mp. Based on the SEDAR 16 assessment,  $MSY = 8.964$  mp. Using updated projections,  $MSY = 9.357$ - $12.836$  mp.

The South Atlantic Council has determined that the value for MSST is the value from the most recent stock assessment based on  $MSST = [(1-M) \text{ or } 0.5 \text{ whichever is greater}] * B_{MSY}$ . Currently  $MSST = 0.85(B_{MSY})$  with no poundage estimated. Based on the SEDAR 16 assessment,  $MSST = 1,827.5$  billion 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  $MFMT = F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR}$  with no value estimated. Based on the SEDAR 16 assessment,  $MFMT = F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR} = 0.256$ .”

### **New Language for CMP Amendment 26:**

Using the recommendations in **Table 1**:

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  $MSST = 1,827.5$  billion hydrated eggs (SEDAR 16). Based on the SEDAR 38 assessment,  $MSST = 1,991$  billion 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.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Deterministic</b>
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

In CMP Amendment 18, there were no alternatives, just a statement about the OFL and table from SEDAR 16:

“The SSC provided the following OFL at their April 2010 meeting: “The OFL for king mackerel is 12.8359 million pounds (corresponds to yield at  $F_{30\%SPR}$ , the accepted MSY proxy from the last stock assessment).” Note: This is the expected yield in 2011.

The OFL, if provided by a SSC, is an annual amount of catch that corresponds to the estimate of MFMT applied to a stock or complex’s abundance; MSY is the long-term average of such catches.”

New Language for CMP Amendment 26:

Using the recommendations in **Table 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
<del>2015</del>	<del>22.0581</del>
2016	19.75
2017	18.2914
2018	16.6987
2019	15.1871
2020	14.2985

Committee Actions:

None required. The previously specified values for MSY, MSST, MFMT, and OFL are being updated from the most recent SEDAR assessment.

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

### Potential alternatives and language:

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

**Alternative 2.** Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016-2020 (**Table 3**).

**Sub-Alternative 2a.** Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for ABC under a high recruitment scenario.

**Sub-Alternative 2b.** Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for ABC under a medium recruitment scenario.

**Sub-Alternative 2c.** Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for ABC under a low recruitment scenario.

**Sub-Alternative 2d.** Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for deterministic equilibrium yield at  $F_{30\%SPR}$

**Sub-Alternative 2e.** Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for deterministic equilibrium yield at 75 % of  $F_{30\%SPR}$

**Note: The ABC for 2020 will remain in place until modified.**

**Table 3.** Recommendations from the October 2014 SSC meeting for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel. ABC recommendations are in the shaded columns.

P star= 0.325		ABC HIGH	ABC MED	ABC LOW	Deterministic equilibrium yield at $F_{30\%SPR}$	Deterministic equilibrium yield at 75% $F_{30\%SPR}$	Buffer between ABC and OFL		
Fishing year	OFL	Sub-Alt 2a	Sub-Alt 2b	Sub-Alt 2c	Sub-Alt 2d	Sub-Alt 2e	HI	MED	LO
2015	22.0581	20.1065	19.6765	19.1127	12.702	11.582	9%	11%	13%
2016	19.75	17.4478	16.5454	15.3707	12.702	11.582	12%	16%	22%
2017	18.2914	15.8215	14.3298	12.9389	12.702	11.582	14%	22%	29%
2018	16.6987	14.1257	12.9331	11.9398	12.702	11.582	15%	23%	28%
2019	15.1871	12.6589	12.0557	11.5715	12.702	11.582	17%	21%	24%
2020	14.2985	11.54	11.2501	11.0247	12.702	11.582	19%	21%	23%

**\*\*** In October 2014, the SSC recommended: *the Council use a projection at the long-term, equilibrium yield at  $F_{30\%SPR}$  as the ACL to reduce the risk of overfishing given the high uncertainty in future recruitment. See Sub-Alternative 2d in Table 3.*

**\*\*** Scoping comments support the ABC under the high or medium recruitment scenarios.

**Alternative 4.** Establish a trigger analysis for Atlantic group king mackerel. [Staff will need direction from Council if you want to pursue an alternative like this.]

### **Example of trigger analysis: Atlantic Striped Bass Juvenile Abundance Index (JAI)**

Each year the ASMFC's Striped Bass Technical Committee (TC) annually reviews trends in all required JAIs. Under the new definition of recruitment failure, per Addendum II to Amendment 6 (available at: <http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/sbAddendumII.pdf>), recruitment failure is defined as a value that is below 75% (the first quartile, or Q1) of all values in a fixed time series appropriate to each JAI. If any survey's JAI falls below their respective Q1 for three consecutive years, then appropriate action should be recommended by the TC to the Management Board. The Management Board is the final arbiter in all management decisions.

For the 2013 review of the JAIs, the trigger analysis evaluated the 2010, 2011, and 2012 JAI value. Three consecutive years of recruitment failure did not occur in any of the surveyed areas, thus no action is triggered. The New York - Hudson River index has experienced two years of recruitment failure in a row, in 2011 and 2012, while the New Jersey – Delaware River, Maryland – Chesapeake Bay, and Virginia – Chesapeake Bay indices all fell below the recruitment failure definition in 2012. The Maine value for 2012 was slightly above average while the North Carolina - Albemarle/Roanoke value was below average.

#### **Committee Actions:**

**OPTION 1. APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 2-1.**

**OPTION 2. MODIFY AND APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 2-1.**

**OPTION 3. SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2X AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 2-1.**

**OPTION 4. OTHERS???**

## Potential Action 2-2. Revise Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel and Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)

### Potential alternatives and language:

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

Atlantic king mackerel ACL = 10.46 mp

Commercial ACL= 3.88 mp

Northern Zone Quota= 1,292, 988 lbs

Southern Zone Quota= 2,587,012 lbs

Recreational ACL= 6.58 mp

Recreational ACT= 6.11 mp

From CMP Amendment 18: The recreational ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5], whichever is greater, where the percent standard error (PSE) is an average from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Survey and Statistics (MRFSS) program 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.

\*\*\* Examples of how a revised ABC/ ACL will work under the modified stock boundary and the 20B Zones (Northern and Southern Zone) will be presented during the Mackerel Committee meeting and made available in the online briefing book.\*\*\*

### **Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC**

Based on an ABC assuming high recruitment (Action 2-1, Sub-alternative 2a) and using the current commercial (37.1%) and recreational (62.9%) allocations, the resulting commercial and recreational ACLs are shown below.

Fishing Year	Total Atl KM ACL (mp)	Atl KM Commercial ACL (mp)	Atl KM Recreational ACL (mp)
2016	17.4478	6.47	10.97
2017	15.8215	5.87	9.95
2018	14.1257	5.24	8.89
2019	12.6589	4.70	7.96
2020	11.54	4.28	7.26

**Note: The ACL for 2020 will remain in place until modified.**

Based on an ABC using the deterministic equilibrium yield at  $F_{30\%SPR}$  (Action 2-1, Sub-alternative 2d) and using the current commercial (37.1 %) and recreational (62.9%) allocations, the resulting commercial and recreational ACLs are shown below.

Fishing Years	Total Atl KM ACL (mp)	Atl KM Commercial ACL (mp)	Atl KM Recreational ACL (mp)
2016 through 2020	12.702	4.712	7.99

**Note: The ACL for 2020 will remain in place until modified.**

### **Alternative 3. ACL = OY = 90% ABC**

### **Alternative 4. ACL = OY = 80% ABC**

Committee Actions:

- 1) Do you want to add the action to revise the Atlantic group king mackerel ACL (including recreational and commercial ACLs) and recreational ACT?
- 2) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives in Action 2-2?
- 3) Review and approve the language in the alternatives for Action 2-2.

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 2-2.

OPTION 2. MODIFY AND APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 2-2. (consider moving Alternatives 3 and 4 to considered but rejected)

OPTION 3. SELECT ALTERNATIVE X AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 2-2.

OPTION 4. OTHERS???

### **POTENTIAL ACTION 3. Allow Bag Limit Sales of Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Caught in the Small Coastal Shark Drift Gillnet Fishery**

Potential alternatives and language:

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the Drift Gillnet Small Coastal Shark Fishery is prohibited.

**Alternative 2.** Allow sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the Drift Gillnet portion of the commercial sector of the Small Coastal Shark Fishery for any vessel with a valid Shark Directed or Shark Incidental commercial permit AND valid federal king mackerel commercial permit. For shark vessels fishing in the Florida EEZ, no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be sold, **with a maximum of [X] king mackerel per vessel**, on each trip. For shark vessels in the EEZ north of the GA/FL line, no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be sold with **a maximum of [X] king mackerel per vessel**, on each trip. The king mackerel must be sold to a dealer with the Southeast federal dealer permit.

#### **Committee Actions:**

- 1) Do you want to add the action to allow bag limit sales of Atlantic king mackerel caught in the small coastal shark drift gillnet fishery?
- 2) HMS trips do not have any crew size restrictions. Do you want to add language to specify a vessel limit (highlighted area)?
- 3) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives in this action?
- 4) Review and approve the language in the alternatives for this action.

**OPTION 1. APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 3.**

**OPTION 2. MODIFY AND APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 3.**

**OPTION 3. SELECT ALTERNATIVE X AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 3.**

**OPTION 4. OTHERS???**



## **POTENTIAL ACTION 4. Establish a sub-quota for the [new] king mackerel mixing zone**

Potential alternatives and language:

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Do not establish a sub-quota for the new mixing zone. The mixing zone is new so there is no sub-quota for this zone.

**Alternative 2.** Establish a sub-quota for the mixing zone (Dade/Monroe to the Council Boundary) in the winter (November 1- March 31).

**Sub-alternative 2a.** Allocate **X%** of the Atlantic Migratory Group ACL and **Y%** of the Gulf Migratory Group ACL to the mixing zone.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** Use the figures provided in the SEDAR assessment to determine the percentages.

**Sub-alternative 2c.** Others???

**\*\*Information on landings history in the new mixing zone will be available at the Mackerel Committee meeting and posted in the online briefing book. \*\***

### Discussion

This action is dependent on designation of the mixing zone in Action 1. In the mixing zone as designated in SEDAR 38 and Action 1, 50% of the fish in the mixing zone count as Gulf king mackerel and 50% as Atlantic king mackerel from November 1 through March 31.

### Committee Actions:

- 1) Do you want to add this action?
- 2) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives in this action?
- 3) Review and approve the language in the alternatives for this action.

**OPTION 1. APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 4.**

**OPTION 2. MODIFY AND APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 4.**

**OPTION 3. SELECT ALTERNATIVE X, SUB-ALTERNATIVE Y AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 4.**

**OPTION 4. OTHERS???**

## **POTENTIAL ACTION 5. Management measures for the Florida East Coast subzone**

### Scoping Comments:

- Twelve commenters were opposed to 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. Some commenters also felt that an endorsement would be a step toward catch shares and they were opposed to catch shares.
- One commenter supported a sub-quota for the Florida East Coast subzone.
- One commenter recommended moving the Florida East Coast subzone boundary south of the Flagler/Volusia line.
- One commenter recommended waiting until the new ACLs are in place before addressing management in the Florida East Coast subzone.
- One commenter recommended changing the fishing year for the Florida East Coast subzone to March 1.

Currently, the trip limit for this area is 75 fish from April 1 to October 31. The trip limit is 50 fish from November 1 until March 1, when the trip limit increases to 75 fish if 70% of the quota has not been landed until March 31. When the Gulf East Coast Subzone goes away, the trip limit will be 75 fish year-round unless changed through this action.

### Committee Actions:

- 1) Do you want to create a new Florida East Coast subzone area?
- 2) Do you want to proceed with management measures for the Florida East Coast subzone in Amendment 26?
- 3) Provide direction to staff on measures on which to develop actions/alternatives.

## **POTENTIAL ACTION 6. Revise the annual catch limit for Gulf migratory group king mackerel**

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

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 4.** 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.

## **POTENTIAL ACTION 7. Revise the zone and subzone commercial quotas for Gulf group king mackerel**

Staff recommends that the South Atlantic Council postpone any input for this action until after the Gulf Council April 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 5** below.

**Table 5.** Current commercial fishing zone allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

<b>Gulf King Mackerel Commercial Zone Allocations</b>	
Zone	Percent of Commercial Allocation
Western	31%
Northern	5.17%
Southern: H/L	15.96%
Southern: Gillnet	15.96%
FL East Coast	31.91%

If CMP Amendment 20B is approved by the Secretary of Commerce, the Florida East Coast Zone would be integrated into the proposed Atlantic Southern Zone. 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 6-8**.

**Table 6.** 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 7.** Options for 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 <sup>1</sup> (38.98%)	Eastern Zone		
			Northern Subzone <sup>2</sup> (13.15%)	Southern Subzone H&L <sup>3</sup> (23.93%)	Southern Subzone Gillnet <sup>3</sup> (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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 8.** Options for 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 <sup>1</sup> (38.98%)	Eastern Zone		
			Northern Subzone <sup>2</sup> (13.15%)	Southern Subzone H&L <sup>3</sup> (23.93%)	Southern Subzone Gillnet <sup>3</sup> (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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

## **POTENTIAL ACTION 8. Revise the recreational and commercial allocation of Gulf group king mackerel**

Staff recommends that the South Atlantic Council postpone any input for this action until after the Gulf Council April 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 are shown in **Tables 9** and **10**.

**Table 9.** 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 <sup>1</sup>	Rec <sup>2</sup>	
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%

<sup>1</sup>Commercial allocation = 32%  
Fishing year = July to June.

<sup>2</sup>Recreational allocation = 68%  
Source: SERO

**Table 10.** Landings and proportions landed by each sector 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