

**Section 2.7 from CMP Amendment 19 (July 2012)**

**The Councils removed this action from Amendment 19 in August/September 2012**

## **2.7 Action 7 – Atlantic Group Spanish Mackerel Gillnet Endorsement**

**Alternative 1:** No Action – Do not establish an Atlantic group Spanish mackerel gillnet endorsement.

**Alternative 2:** Establish an Atlantic group Spanish mackerel gillnet endorsement with qualifying poundages for a commercial gillnet endorsement based on average landings during the most recent 5 years prior to the control date September 17, 2010, for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel).

**Option a:** 30,000 pounds

**Option b:** 20,000 pounds

**Option c:** 10,000 pounds

**Option d:** 5,000 pounds

**Alternative 3:** Establish an Atlantic group Spanish mackerel gillnet endorsement with qualifying poundages for a commercial gillnet endorsement based on average landings during the most recent 10 years prior to the control date September 17, 2010, for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel).

**Option a:** 30,000 pounds

**Option b:** 20,000 pounds

**Option c:** 10,000 pounds

**Option d:** 5,000 pounds

*Note: IPT recommends changing the date to September 30, 2010.*

### **Discussion:**

The fishing power of gillnets is substantially higher than cast net and hook-and-line gears, and there are concerns from some fishermen about additional vessels entering the gillnet fishery in the Atlantic in recent years. An increase in effort and harvest may negatively impact hook-and-line and cast net fishermen as the gillnet catches occur earlier in the season.

Federal Spanish mackerel landings with gillnet are primarily reported from Florida and North Carolina (Table 2.8.1), although there may be some minimal landings in Georgia and South Carolina that cannot be included to maintain confidential information. In Florida, cast net has typically been the dominant gear type while gillnet landings have fluctuated with the highest landings in 2007, and decreased landings in the years after the maximum. Gillnet landings make up the largest proportion of Spanish mackerel landings in North Carolina, with a sharp increase

in more recent years (2009 and 2010). The increase in 2009 and 2010 under “Other Gear” is primarily due to a significant increase in reported landings with pound nets in North Carolina.

**Table 2.8.1.** Federal commercial Spanish mackerel landings (lbs) with different gear types 2000-2010. Note that the year is calendar year, not fishing year.

Year	Florida					North Carolina			
	Gillnet	Cast Net	Hook& Line	Other Gear	Total	Gillnet	Hook& Line	Other Gear	Total
2000	1,042,733	279,830	342,123	2,071	<b>1,666,757</b>	624,342	2,843	31,376	<b>658,561</b>
2001	922,897	892,040	297,969	1,775	<b>2,114,681</b>	597,675	15,974	38,720	<b>652,369</b>
2002	612,971	957,837	404,834	17,245	<b>1,992,887</b>	669,315	1,572	27,467	<b>698,354</b>
2003	473,938	1,879,887	353,063	33,510	<b>2,740,398</b>	443,941	1,061	6,667	<b>451,669</b>
2004	249,615	2,222,461	545,691	45,415	<b>3,063,182</b>	449,783	2,088	4,353	<b>456,224</b>
2005	727,823	1,562,626	775,251	40,001	<b>3,105,701</b>	437,957	2,990	4,850	<b>445,797</b>
2006	927,931	1,476,370	655,933	82,151	<b>3,142,385</b>	458,734	2,366	9,494	<b>470,594</b>
2007	1,231,991	1,236,866	713,790	80,244	<b>3,262,891</b>	477,368	3,802	6,147	<b>487,317</b>
2008	702,519	678,879	821,698	58,101	<b>2,261,197</b>	362,022	2,042	51,276	<b>415,340</b>
2009	643,673	940,931	925,491	51,134	<b>2,561,229</b>	720,723	4,700	236,399	<b>961,822</b>
2010	552,163	1,740,112	1,125,419	133,370	<b>3,551,064</b>	808,317	2,639	100,837	<b>911,793</b>

Data source: NOAA Fisheries Commercial Fisheries Landings

An endorsement for Spanish mackerel gillnet fishermen would be similar to the king mackerel gillnet endorsement except that the Spanish mackerel commercial permit is open access, unlike the king mackerel commercial permit. There are currently almost 1,800 valid Spanish mackerel commercial permits and about 1,100 are associated with vessels in the South Atlantic region, including Monroe County. All of these permitted vessels could continue harvesting Spanish mackerel with gillnets under **Alternative 1**.

**Alternatives 2 and 3** would establish the qualifying criteria for a gillnet endorsement based on landings history over a five-year period (**Alternative 2**) or ten-year period (**Alternative 3**) before the South Atlantic control date of September 17, 2010. Under **Alternative 2**, a permit would need to have Spanish mackerel landings with gillnet at a certain level (see Options a-d) between October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2010. Under **Alternative 3**, a permit would need to have Spanish mackerel landings with gillnet at a certain level (see **Options a-d**) between October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2010. **Options a-d** under each alternative include a minimum annual average as the endorsement criteria.