

DRAFT LIST
JOINT GULF & SOUTH ATLANTIC FRAMEWORK ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES
Joint GM/SA Framework Amendment for
Size Limits, Bag Limits, Trip Limits, and Quota Modifications

- 1. Change the Gulf group king mackerel commercial trip limit** in the northern and southern subzones of the eastern zone to 1,500 lbs with no step-down. Also, consider changes to the trip limit in the western zone from 3,000 lbs.
- 2. Change the king mackerel size limit.**
 - a) 23 inches
 - b) 22 inches
 - c) No Action (24 inches)

Rationale: in the late winter and early spring we catch predominately smaller kings, a number of which are under size. 23 inches will solve most of the discard problem. 22 inches will virtually eliminate all discards. lowering the size limit substantially reduces discard mortality as the smaller kings are more susceptible to hook mortality.

- 3. Retention of 1 king mackerel greater than 50 inches.**

Rationale: this was a motion from a recreational fisherman. My concern is how does the average recreational fisherman get a large king in the boat and measured without significantly reducing its chance of survival?

[4.2) 60 Spanish mackerel recreational boat limit. Was discussed in amendment 18.]

- 4. Commercial trip limits; Spanish mackerel:**

Option 1: April 1st- March 31st, Monday-Friday, 3,500 pounds; weekends 1,500 pounds reduce trip limit to 1,500 pounds when 75% of quota is landed. 500 pound trip limit after quota is caught. This is an adjusted allocation which compensates for estimated catches of 500 pounds per vessel per day to end of season. based on previous 3 year average landings?

Option 2: April 1st- September 30, 3,500 pounds. October 1st-November 30, 5,000 pounds (Monday-Friday, 1,500 pounds weekend) Dec 1-March 31 1,500 pounds. 500 pound set aside.

Option 3: April 1-November 30, 3,000 pounds, December 1, 2,000 pounds until 80% of quota is landed. 500 pounds until quota is caught.

Rationale: the unlimited season is no longer needed. Most fish houses have limited their gillnet vessels to 3,500-5,000 pounds due to quality and marketing concerns. The above options are designed to generate discussion at the scoping level. The seasonal fall gillnet fishery in FL is usually over by mid-November.

5. King mackerel trip limit:

Increase trip limit for the shark driftnet fishery. This option was designed to coincide with a limited access plan for the shark fishery. This option is not appropriate until the number of vessels in the shark driftnet fishery are limited.

4.1.1.5 state king and Spanish mackerel commercial allocations:

- 1) allocations by individual states.
- 2) split the king and Spanish mackerel commercial allocations into a combined NC/SC and GA/FL state commercial quotas.

6. Eliminate the commercial trip limit reduction at 75% of quota for the Gulf eastern zone, southern subzone.

7. Other Items???