

DRAFT LIST

SOUTH ATLANTIC (and Gulf?) FRAMEWORK ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES

Framework Amendment for Size Limits, Bag Limits, Trip Limits, and Quota Modifications (With South Atlantic AP Recommendations from April 2012)

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)

D) REDUCE THE ATLANTIC KING MACKEREL SIZE LIMIT FROM 24 TO 23 INCHES FOR COMMERCIAL ONLY AND ONLY FROM THE GA/FL LINE SOUTH TO THE DADE/MONROE LINE (SAFMC AP, April 2012)

EXAMINE THE MORTALITY RATE FROM DISCARDS

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?

SAFMC AP CONSENSUS TO LEAVE AS IS (SAFMC AP, April 2012)

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.

MOTION: ADD NEW OPTION 4 AND MAKE OUR PREFERRED: 3,500 POUNDS UNTIL 75% OF QUOTA CAUGHT, THEN 1,500 POUNDS. AFTER COMPLETE QUOTA CAUGHT, GO TO 500 POUNDS PER TRIP. APPROVED BY AP (SAFMC AP, April 2012)

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 is limited.

AP CONSENSUS TO NOT INCLUDE (SAFMC AP, April 2012)

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

MOTION: ELIMINATE THE INCREASE FROM 50 FISH TO 75 FISH IF 75% QUOTA IS NOT TAKEN BY FEBRUARY IN THE GULF MIGRATORY GROUP EASTERN ZONE, SOUTHERN SUBZONE. KEEP AT 50 FISH IN THAT SUBZONE (NOV 1 – MARCH 31).

APPROVED BY AP (SAFMC AP, April 2012)

7. CONTROL DATES – AP RECOMMENDS THE COUNCILS BEGIN UPON IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF FINAL REGULATIONS; DON'T GO BACK IN TIME. (SAFMC AP, April 2012)

8. ITEM TO BE EXAMINED (SAFMC AP, April 2012): IF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A VALID KM PERMIT WANTS TO GET ON ANOTHER VESSEL THAT HAS A VALID KM PERMIT, THEN EACH FISHERMAN WOULD BE ABLE TO RETAIN AND SELL THE LEGAL LIMIT AS IF THEY EACH WERE ON THEIR OWN BOAT

- **VESSEL BROKEN DOWN**
- **ECONOMICS MAKE IT NECESSARY**
- **STATE OF FL DOING THIS WITH SPOTTED SEA TROUT**

9. Other Items???