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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment 13: Atlantic Spanish Mackerel Catch Levels.

Scoping Sessions – October and November 2023



HOUSEKEEPING FOR THIS HEARING



The purpose of this hearing is to gather the public's input on the Council's proposed actions for this amendments. Public input will help shape the Council's final decisions on the amendments



FIRST, I will review the amendment in its entirety



NEXT, I will pause to answer any clarifying questions pertaining to this amendment

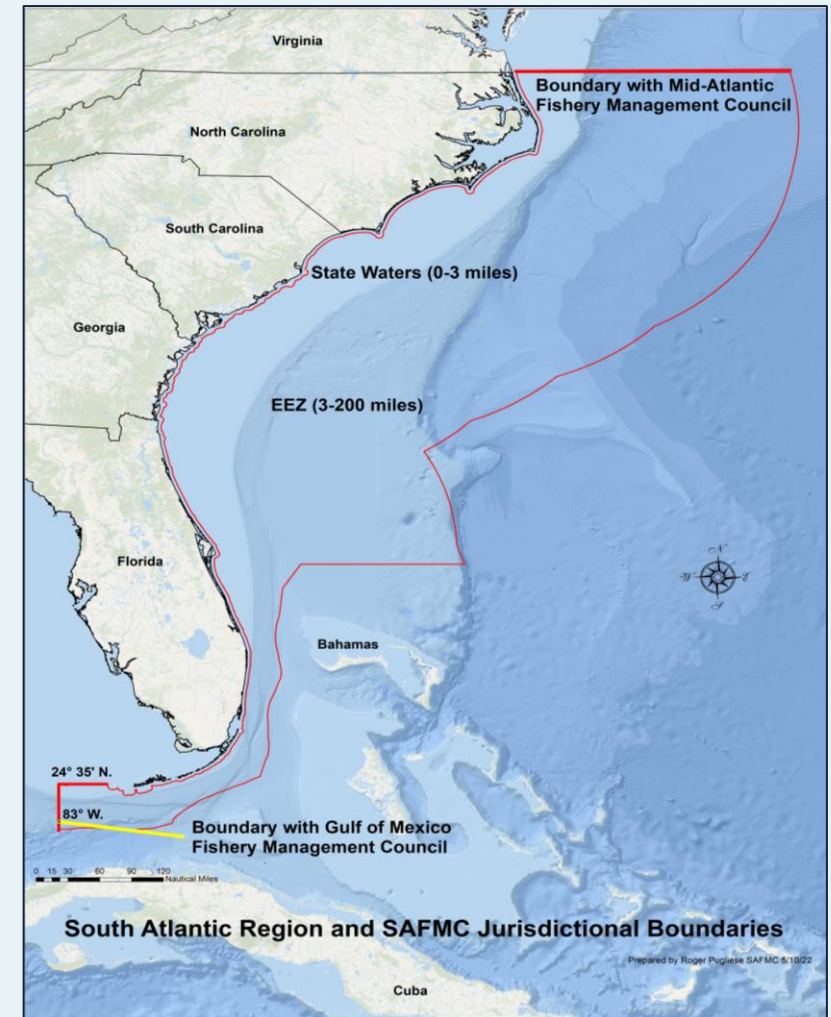


FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, A COUNCIL MEMBER take public comment

ABOUT THE COUNCIL



- 1 of 8 regional fishery management Councils
- Jurisdiction:
 - Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) ranges from 3-200 miles
 - South Atlantic Region: NC, SC, GA, East Coast of FL
- Council Makeup:
 - Include recreational and commercial fishermen, state marine agency reps, and federal partners
 - 17 members, 13 voting, 4 non-voting
 - Representatives from each state in the region.
- The Council provides recommendations to NOAA Fisheries



Why is the Council considering action?

Framework Amendment 13 would update catch levels for Atlantic Spanish mackerel.

- SEDAR 78 was completed in June 2022.
 - Spanish mackerel is not overfished or undergoing overfishing.
 - Includes new recreational landing estimates.

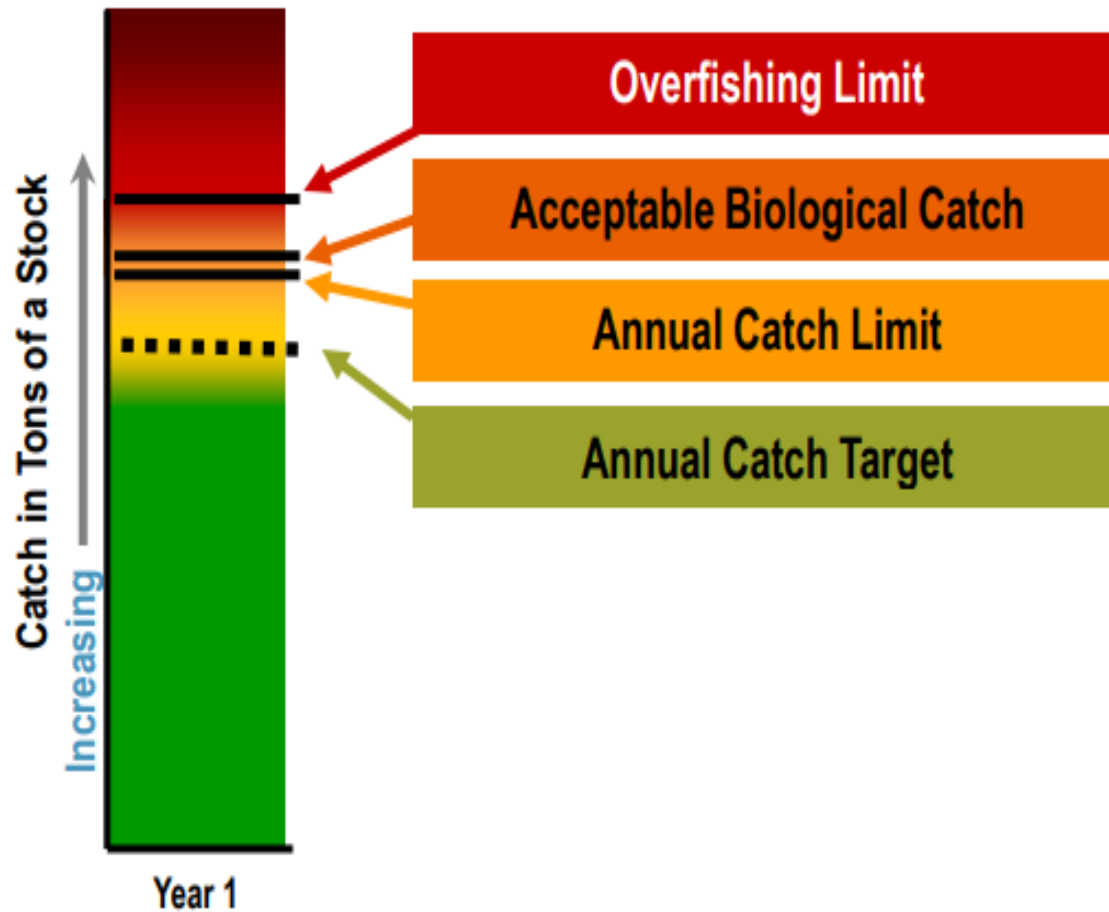




Recreational Survey Updates

- In 2018, the Marine Recreational Information Program adopted a new method to collect recreational fishing data.
 - The new method better represents the current fishing population.
- In August 2023, published results of a small-scale study that looked at potential sources of bias.

Catch Level Definitions



OFL: The number or amount of fish above which fishing activities would be removing fish from the population faster than they could be replaced.

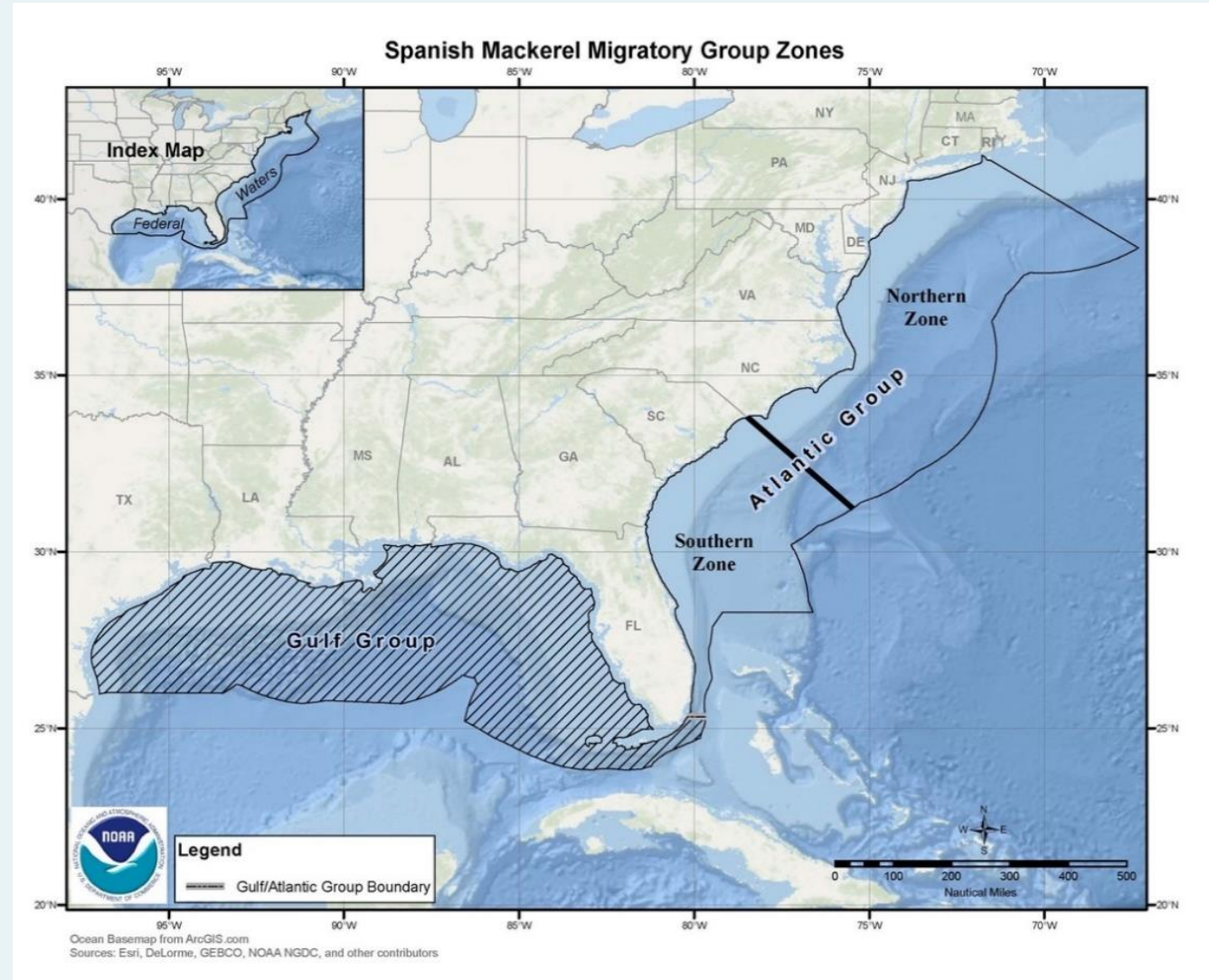
ABC: The highest number or amount of fish, harvest and discards, that can be removed from the population.

ACL: The limit for how many fish (or pounds of fish) can be landed in a year.

ACT: The amount of annual catch that is the management target of the fishery.

Atlantic Spanish Mackerel Management

- Two migratory stocks managed jointly between the South Atlantic Council and the Gulf Council via the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan.
- Commercial Atlantic Spanish mackerel broken up into a Northern and Southern Zone.
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission coordinates management in state waters along the Atlantic Coast.



Catch Level Recommendations

The Council may consider setting the Atlantic Spanish mackerel total ACL at the same level as the ABC recommended by the SSC or may consider including a buffer between the two values. *Note: catch levels displayed below are in pounds, as landed.*

| ABC | Buffer | Total ACL | Rec. ACL | Rec. ACT | Comm. ACL | Comm. Northern Zone | Comm. Southern Zone |
|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 8,024,000 | None | 8,024,000 | 3,610,800 | 3,112,510 | 4,413,200 | 882,640 | 3,530,560 |
| 8,024,000 | 5% | 7,622,800 | 3,430,260 | 2,956,884 | 4,192,540 | 838,508 | 3,354,032 |
| 8,024,000 | 10% | 7,221,600 | 3,249,720 | 2,801,259 | 3,971,880 | 794,376 | 3,177,504 |

Current Catch Level Calculations

Sector Allocations

- 45% Recreational
- 55% Commercial

Recreational ACT

- Equals recreational $ACL * [(1 - PSE) \text{ or } 0.5]$, whichever is greater]
- Used in post-season accountability measures.

Commercial Zone Quotas

- 20% Northern Zone
- 80% Southern Zone

Mackerel Port Meetings

- Purpose: gaining a comprehensive understanding of the commercial and recreational king and Spanish mackerel fisheries
- Timing: meetings held throughout the Gulf of Mexico (virtual) and Atlantic Coast (in-person), up to southern Massachusetts in 2024.
- Outcome: updated CMP FMP Goals and Objectives and possible management actions.



Tentative Amendment Timing

| Process Step | Date |
|--|----------------|
| ✓ Council directs staff to start work on an amendment. | June 2023 |
| ✓ Council reviews options paper and approves amendment for scoping. | September 2023 |
| Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel (MC AP) makes recommendations for the Council to consider. | November 2023 |
| Council reviews MC AP and scoping comments and approves action/alternatives to be analyzed. | December 2023 |
| Council reviews draft amendment, selects preferred alternatives, and approves for public hearings. | March 2024 |
| Public Hearings | Spring 2024 |
| Council reviews the draft amendment, modifies the document as necessary, and approves for formal review. | June 2024 |
| CMP Framework Amendment 13 transmitted for Secretarial Review. | Summer 2024 |
| Regulations implemented | 2024/2025 |

How do I comment?

There are several ways that you can submit your comment to the Council including:

Webinars: Two virtual webinars will be held on Monday, October 30, 2023, at 6 PM and Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 6 PM and include opportunity for oral comments.

Written Comments:

- Virtual: online public comment form available on the Council website, <https://safmc.net/public-hearings-and-scoping/>
- Mail: send to John Carmichael, Executive Director, SAFMC. 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201. N. Charleston, SC 29405
- Fax: call 843-769-4520.

Comments must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, November 10, 2023.

Questions?

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CLARIFYING QUESTIONS





ITEMS TO PONDER

The South Atlantic Council wants to hear from you on how they should move forward with adopting catch levels for Atlantic Spanish mackerel.

- Should the South Atlantic Council consider placing a buffer between the ABC and ACL to account for management uncertainty?
- What information should the South Atlantic Council consider when setting catch levels for the Atlantic Spanish mackerel fishery?
- Are there issues in the Spanish mackerel fishery that need to be addressed immediately, before port meetings have concluded?

PUBLIC COMMENT

