

South Atlantic Fishery Management
Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite
201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Council members:

My name is Edward Silva. I am a third generation commercial fisherman and have been commercial fishing for over 30 years. I have participated in the King mackerel fishery off of the east coast of FL for 10 years. I am aware that you are prepared to reconsider the Atlantic King Mackerel quota (ABC) during the March 2015 Council meeting. I am also aware that the King Mackerel stock assessment (SEDAR 38) found the Atlantic stock to be Not Overfished and Not undergoing Overfishing, but the NMFS model indicated that there is no significant recruitment of King mackerel occurring with the Atlantic stock.

My observations do not support the NMFS model. In fact, I have observed a significant and unprecedented amount of small young fish entering the fishery over the past year. I have seen more small fish than I've ever seen from New Smyrna Beach to Jupiter. Usually a trip limit of 50 head of fish can be anywhere from 400 to 600 pounds. But now, it has been anywhere from 250 to 350 pounds. As well as having several throw backs during a fishing trip due to them being too small to harvest.

As you set the Atlantic stock ABC, I respectfully request that you choose Sub-alternative 2a the "high recruitment scenario" under Alternative 2-1 of the Amendment 26 CMP-FMP options.

If you have any questions or would like to contact me, please feel free to do so using my contact information below.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
Edward Silva
2960 Palisades DR SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909
Phone (321) 288-7305