

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Full Council and Committee Reports
SUMMARY MOTIONS
December 6-10, 2021

This is a summary of the motions approved by the Council. Motions addressing actions and alternatives for FMP amendments are followed by text showing the result of the approved motion. Complete details on motions and other committee recommendations are provided in the Committee Reports available on the SAFMC website.

Executive Committee

The Committee met in November 2021 to review the proposed 2022 budget and activity schedule.

MOTION 1: APPROVE THE DRAFT 2022 OPERATIONAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED.

Full Council Sessions

The Council discussed advisory panel, Scientific and Statistical Committee and SEDAR participants in closed session.

MOTION 2: APPROVE RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS FROM FULL COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION 1

MOTION 3: THE REVIEW SATISFIES THE LANGUAGE IN THE FINAL RULE FOR STANDARD BYCATCH REPORTING

MOTION 4: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE THREE EFP APPLICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL

Mackerel Cobia Committee

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 34 (Atlantic King Mackerel)

MOTION 5: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS, AS MODIFIED.

The purpose of this amendment is to revise the catch limits for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel; to revise recreational and commercial allocations for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel; and to revise or establish management measures for Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel.

The need for this amendment is to ensure catch limits are based on the best scientific information available and to ensure overfishing does not occur in the Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel fisheries, while increasing social and economic benefits through sustainable and profitable harvest of Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel.

MOTION 6: APPROVE THE EDITS FOR ACTION 1.

Action 1. Revise the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel as implemented in 2017 by Amendment 26 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Regions. The current catch levels are inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Coastal Household Telephone Survey.

Alternative 2. Revise the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, based on the acceptable biological catch recommendation from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield are equal to the **recommended** acceptable biological catch level. The recommended acceptable biological catch level is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

Fishing Year	Alternative 2 (ACL=ABC) (lbs)
2022/2023	32,800,000
2023/2024	28,400,000
2024/2025	25,400,000
2025/2026	23,300,000
2026/2027+	21,800,000

South Atlantic and Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 3. Revise the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, based on the acceptable biological catch recommendation from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield are equal to 95% of the **recommended** acceptable biological catch level. The recommended acceptable biological catch level is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

Fishing Year	Alternative 3 (ACL=95%ABC) (lbs)
2022/2023	31,635,000
2023/2024	27,075,000
2024/2025	24,130,000
2025/2026	22,135,000
2026/2027+	20,710,000

Alternative 4. Revise the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, based on the acceptable biological catch recommendation from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield are equal to 90% of the **recommended** acceptable biological catch level. The

recommended acceptable biological catch level is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

Fishing Year	Alternative 4 (ACL=90%ABC) (lbs)
2022/2023	29,970,000
2023/2024	25,650,000
2024/2025	22,860,000
2025/2026	20,970,000
2026/2027+	19,620,000

Alternative 5. Revise the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, based on the acceptable biological catch recommendation from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield are equal to the constant catch level of 21,800,000 pounds. The recommended acceptable biological catch level is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

Fishing Year	Alternative 5 (lbs)
2022/2023	21,800,000
2023/2024	21,800,000
2024/2025	21,800,000
2025/2026	21,800,000
2026/2027+	21,800,000

MOTION 7: APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES FOR ACTION 3

Action 3. Revise the recreational annual catch target for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated recreational annual catch limit level. The recreational annual catch target equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

Alternative 2. Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated recreational annual catch limit. The recreational annual catch target equals 90% sector ACL.

Alternative 3. Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated recreational annual catch limit. The recreational annual catch target equals 85% sector ACL.

MOTION 8: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 3 IN CMP AMENDMENT 34.

Action 3. Revise the recreational annual catch target for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated recreational annual catch limit level. The recreational annual catch target equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

MOTION 9: CHANGE THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) UNDER ACTION 5

Action 5. Reduce the minimum size limit for recreational harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The minimum size limit for recreational harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is 24-inches fork length.

MOTION 10: CHANGE THE PREFERRED TO ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) UNDER ACTION 6

Action 6. Reduce the minimum size limit for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The minimum size limit for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is 24-inches fork length. Commercial fishermen may possess undersized king mackerel in quantities not exceeding 5 percent, by weight, of the king mackerel on board.

MOTION 11: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2, SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2A AND 2B AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 7

Action 7. Modify the recreational requirement for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel and Spanish mackerel to be landed with heads and fins in intact.

Alternative 2. Cut-off (damaged) fish caught under the recreational bag limit, that comply with the minimum size limits, may be possessed, and offloaded ashore.

Sub-alternative 2a. Atlantic migratory group king mackerel

Sub-alternative 2b. Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel

MOTION 12: SEND ACTIONS 5 AND 6 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Action 5. Reduce the minimum size limit for recreational harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Action 6. Reduce the minimum size limit for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 32 (Gulf Cobia)

MOTION 13: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AMENDMENT 32 FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 33 (Gulf King Mackerel)

MOTION 14: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 3 IN ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 2 – Modify the Sector Allocation and Commercial Zone Quotas for Gulf King Mackerel.
Alternative 3: Modify the sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel by reallocating to the commercial sector a percentage of the average difference between the total landings from the 2010/2011 through 2019/2020 fishing years using MRIP-FES data and the total projected ACL for 2023/2024 from Action 1.

Option 2a: 25% of the average difference

Option 2b: 50% of the average difference

Option 2c: 75% of the average difference

Option 2d: 100% of the average difference

MOTION 15: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

1. Bring Action 7 (cut/damaged fish) in Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 34 to the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel for discussion at their upcoming meeting.
2. Prepare Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 34 for consideration of final action at the March 2022 Council meeting.
3. Work with Gulf Council staff to prepare Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 32 for transmittal to the Secretary of Commerce.
4. Work with Gulf Council staff, as needed, to continue work on Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 33.

Snapper Grouper Committee

Snapper Grouper Amendments 51 (Snowy Grouper), 52 (Golden Tilefish), 53 (Gag)

MOTION 16: APPROVE AMENDMENT 51 (SNOWY GOUPER) FOR SCOPING.

MOTION 17: APPROVE AMENDMENT 52 (CATCH LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS FOR GOLDEN TILEFISH) FOR SCOPING.

MOTION 18: ADD AN ACTION TO ADJUST THE RECREATIONAL BAG LIMIT FOR BLUELINE TILEFISH. ADD THIS ACTION AND THE ACTION TO MODIFY RECREATIONAL AMs TO AMENDMENT 52 (GOLDEN TILEFISH). INTENT TO CONDUCT SCOPING IN WINTER 2022.

MOTION 19: APPROVE AMENDMENT 53 (GAG) FOR SCOPING.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 49 (Greater Amberjack)

MOTION 20: REMOVE ACTION 1, ALTERNATIVE 5 FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

Action 1. Revise the greater amberjack total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield

Alternative 5. Revise the total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for greater amberjack. For the 2022/2023 season through the 2024/2025 season, set the total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield equal to the middle value of the updated acceptable biological catch projected for 2022/2027. For the 2025/2026 season through the

2026/2027 season, set the total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield equal to the updated acceptable biological catch. The 2026/2027 total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield would remain in place until modified.

Fishing Year	Total ACL (lbs ww)
2022/2023	2,818,000
2023/2024	2,818,000
2024/2025	2,818,000
2025/2026	2,699,000
2026/2027+	2,669,000

MOTION 21: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 2.

Action 2. Revise the greater amberjack sector allocations and sector annual catch limits

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the current commercial sector and recreational sector allocations as 40.66% and 59.34%, respectively, of the revised total annual catch limit for greater amberjack. Apply these percentages to the revised total annual catch limit. The percentages are based on applying the formula of sector annual catch limit = ((mean landings 2006-2008)*0.5) + ((mean landings 1986-2008)*0.5) to the landings dataset used in the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment (Amendment 25 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region) that included recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

Year	Total ACL (lbs ww)	Commercial ACL* (lbs gw)	Commercial Season 1 Quota (lbs gw)	Commercial Season 2 Quota** (lbs gw)	Recreational ACL (lbs ww)
2022/2023	4,380,000	1,712,412	1,027,447	684,965	2,599,092
2023/2024	3,233,000	1,263,979	758,387	505,591	1,918,462
2024/2025	2,818,000	1,101,730	661,038	440,692	1,672,201
2025/2026	2,699,000	1,055,205	633,123	422,082	1,601,587
2026/2027+	2,669,000	1,043,476	626,086	417,391	1,583,785

*The total annual catch limit (ACL) is allocated in pounds whole weight (lbs ww) to the commercial and recreational sectors. The commercial allocation is then converted to pounds gutted weight (lbs gw) for regulatory use in the commercial ACL and seasonal quotas.

**Any remaining quota from commercial Season 1 (March-August) transfers to Season 2 (September-February). Remaining quota from Season 2 is not carried forward.

MOTION 22: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 3 TO INCREASE THE RECREATIONAL MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT TO 30 INCHES FORK LENGTH.

Action 3. Increase the recreational minimum size limit for greater amberjack

Alternative 4. Increase the recreational minimum size limit to 30 inches fork length.

MOTION 23: SELECT THE ALTERNATIVE FOR 30 INCHES FORK LENGTH FOR THE RECREATIONAL MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 3.

Action 3. Increase the recreational minimum size limit for greater amberjack

Alternative 4. Increase the recreational minimum size limit to 30 inches fork length.

MOTION 24: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 4 TO DECREASE THE COMMERCIAL MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT TO 30 INCHES FORK LENGTH.

Action 4. Reduce the commercial minimum size limit for greater amberjack

Alternative 4. Reduce the commercial minimum size limit to 30 inches fork length.

MOTION 25: SELECT THE ALTERNATIVE FOR 30 INCHES FORK LENGTH FOR THE COMMERCIAL MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 4.

Action 4. Reduce the commercial minimum size limit for greater amberjack

Alternative 4. Reduce the commercial minimum size limit to 30 inches fork length.

MOTION 26: EDIT ACTION 5 TO PERTAIN TO BOTH COMMERCIAL SEASONS AND ADD ALTERNATIVES FOR 1,500, 2,000, AND 2,500 POUNDS FOR EACH OF COMMERCIAL SEASONS 1 AND 2.

Action 5. Increase the Season 2 commercial trip limit for greater amberjack

MOTION 27: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 7 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Action 7. Remove recreational annual catch targets from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan

Alternative 2. Remove recreational annual catch targets for species managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.

MOTION 28: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE ACTION THAT CONSIDERS THE APRIL SPAWNING CLOSURE TO REMOVE THE CLOSURE.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 50 (Red Porgy)

MOTION 29: APPROVE ALL ACTIONS AS MODIFIED IN SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 50.

MOTION 30: DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Compile information or analyses to inform whether a demonstrable change in recreational releases can be estimated, such that it could be used in estimation of the ABC, by potential management changes.
- Conduct informal scoping for the Release Mortality Reduction Framework Amendment

- Conduct scoping meetings for Amendment 51 (snowy grouper), Amendment 52 (golden tilefish and blueline tilefish), and Amendment 53 (gag grouper).
- Schedule an SSC meeting before the March 2022 Council meeting for consideration of other P_{rebuild} and ABC values for gag grouper.
- Prepare Amendment 49 (greater amberjack) as modified for discussion and approval for public hearings at the March 2022 Council meeting.
- Suspend work on Amendment 44 (yellowtail snapper) and request that FWC conduct an update to the yellowtail snapper assessment.
- Prepare Amendment 50 (red porgy) for final approval at the March 2022 Council meeting.
- Add Amendment 46 (recreational permit) to the Snapper Grouper Committee agenda for the March 2022 Council meeting.

SEDAR Committee

MOTION 31: APPROVE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 82 GRAY TRIGGERFISH RESEARCH TRACK ASSESSMENT; TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 68 (SCAMP) OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT, TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 83 VERMILION SNAPPER OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT, AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEDAR 86 RED GROUPER OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT, AS MODIFIED; AND STATEMENT OF WORK FOR THE 2024 GOLDEN TILEFISH OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT.

Citizen Science Committee

MOTION 32: ADOPT THE UPDATED CITIZEN SCIENCE RESEARCH PRIORITIES WITH MODIFICATIONS AS SUGGESTED.