

Mackerel Committee Report
June 8, 2015
Pam Dana-Chair

CMP Amendment 26

Staff reviewed CMP Amendment 26 Options Paper (**Tab C, No. 5a**), focusing on Gulf related actions. The committee was briefed on the changes to the stock boundary proposed by the SEDAR 38 stock assessment, which reduced the size of the mixing zone considerably.

The Gulf Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Council accept the alternatives proposed in Action 1 for further analysis.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Gulf Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Council accept the alternatives proposed in Action 2 for further analysis.

Motion carried unanimously.

After reviewing Action 2, the committee elected to focus only on those proposed actions affecting Gulf of Mexico fishermen. Staff clarified that the proposed ACL options no longer included the Florida East Coast Subzone, which is now thought to be part of the Atlantic migratory group of king mackerel.

The Gulf Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Council accept the alternatives proposed in Action 5 for further analysis.

Motion carried unanimously.

The committee reviewed the proposed alternatives for balancing the commercial zone allocations for Gulf king mackerel, noting that Alternatives 2 (equal) and 3 (proportional) were provided as generic options by the IPT and Alternative 4 was recommended by the Gulf Council's CMP Advisory Panel (AP).

The Gulf Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Council accept the alternatives proposed in Action 6 for further analysis.

Motion carried unanimously.

Committee members thought that the allocation options for commercial zone management proposed by the Gulf Council's CMP AP for Action 6 were appropriate.

The Gulf Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Council make Alternative 4 in Action 6 the preferred alternative.

Alternative 4: Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel as follows: 40% for the Western Zone; 18% for the Northern Zone; 21% for the Southern Zone Handline component; and 21% for the Southern Zone Gillnet component.

Motion carried unanimously.

Committee members discussed reallocation between the recreational and commercial sectors for Gulf king mackerel. It was clarified that the Options Paper currently only contains options to shift allocation from the recreational sector to the commercial sector, and not in reverse.

The Gulf Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Council accept the alternatives proposed in Action 7 for further analysis.

Motion carried unanimously.

Staff reviewed the bag limit analysis (**Tab C, No. 5c**) regarding the effects of increasing the recreational bag limit for Gulf migratory group king mackerel from two fish per person per day to three or four fish. The bag limit analysis indicated that increasing the recreational bag limit was not projected to result in a substantial increase in recreational landings.

The Gulf Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Council accept the alternatives proposed in Action 8 for further analysis.

Motion carried unanimously.

Staff reviewed public comments received during scoping meetings for CMP Amendment 26 (**Tab C, No. 5b**). Comments were generally supportive of accepting the stock boundary and mixing zone recommendations from the stock assessment, setting the ACL equal to the ABC, and increasing the recreational bag limit. Comments were more varied on allocation issues.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.