

**SUMMARY REPORT
JOINT SA/GM MACKEREL COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 8, 2010
ORLANDO, FL**

The South Atlantic and Gulf Mackerel Committees met on June 8, 2010 in Orlando, FL. The committee received presentations by:

1. Rick Leard, GMFMC Staff, reviewed the Gulf Council SSC recommendations for King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel & Cobia.
2. Rick Leard, GMFMC Staff, reviewed Joint Action 1. Fishery Management Unit
3. Sue Gerhart, NMFS Staff, reviewed Joint Action 2. Framework
4. Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, reviewed Joint Action 3. Cobia Management Groups
5. Rick Leard, GMFMC Staff reviewed Gulf Actions 4-12
6. Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, reviewed South Atlantic Actions 13-18

Under Other Business, the Joint Committees addressed the following items:

- A. King Mackerel Catch Share Program – Rick Leard reviewed the timing for Gulf Council consideration noting that the King Mackerel LAPP AP would not meet until at least late July or August. The Joint Committees agreed to add more representation of South Atlantic Council fishermen to the LAPP AP.
- B. Public Hearing Dates/Locations – Gregg Waugh reviewed the current timing that would have the Councils approving Amendment 18 for public hearings in September (SA) and October (GM), conducting the hearings in November/December 2010, reviewing comments/providing final guidance in December 2010 (SA)/February 2011 (GM), and final approval of complete document in March 2011(SA)/April 2011(GM). These actions could slip one Council meeting with final approval in June 2011 and still meet the 2011 statutory deadline. The Committees asked the Councils to review the scoping locations and provide guidance to staff.
- C. Atlantic King Mackerel Quota – Brian Chevront raised concern about how quickly the Atlantic king mackerel quota was being filled this year. Phil Steele (NMFS) presented recent data that showed as of 6/8/10 984,512 pounds have been landed representing 27% of the quota. NMFS was requested to present a comparison of landings through a similar time period over the past several years on Friday.
- D. Quota Combinations in Gulf – Roy Crabtree indicated that he would be suggesting that the Gulf Council consider combining Western Zone and Northern Subzone quotas in the Gulf due to the impacts from closures from the oil spill for 1 year.

Guidance to Staff

The Joint Committees directed each staff to schedule meetings with each Council's Mackerel Advisory Panel prior to the Councils approving Amendment 18 for public hearings.

Motions

The alternatives being considered are shown below; the motions are shown under each action. Both Committees voted on Joint Actions 1-3. The Gulf Committee voted on Gulf actions and the South Atlantic Committee voted on South Atlantic actions.

The South Atlantic Council's Committee did not complete OFL/ABC actions for Spanish mackerel and Cobia given the need to discuss the SSC's report. They concluded that the discussion would continue during the full Council session on Friday morning.

2.0 MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

2.1 ACTION 1: Modifications to the Fishery Management Unit

Alternative 1. Status quo - retain only Gulf and Atlantic group king and Spanish mackerel and cobia in the management unit for management purposes and clarify that the other species are included in the management unit of the CMP FMP for data collection purposes only.

Alternative 2. Retain only Gulf and Atlantic group king and Spanish mackerel and cobia in the management unit and designate all other species as ecosystem component species.

Alternative 3. Retain only Gulf and Atlantic group king and Spanish mackerel and cobia in the management unit, remove dolphin in the Atlantic, and designate all other species in the CMP FMP management plan as ecosystem component species.

Alternative 4. Remove all species other than king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia from the CMP FMP.

GULF COMMITTEE: REMOVE ALTERNATIVES 2 & 3 FROM ACTION 1 AND MOVE THEM TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE

SA COMMITTEE: REMOVE ALTERNATIVES 2 & 3 FROM ACTION 1 AND MOVE THEM TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX APPROVED BY SA COMMITTEE

GULF COMMITTEE: ADD INDIVIDUAL ALTERNATIVES OR OPTIONS TO REMOVE THE INDIVIDUAL SPECIES THAT ARE CURRENTLY LISTED IN THE MANAGEMENT UNIT FOR DATA COLLECTION PURPOSES APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE

SA COMMITTEE: ADD INDIVIDUAL ALTERNATIVES OR OPTIONS TO REMOVE THE INDIVIDUAL SPECIES THAT ARE CURRENTLY LISTED IN THE MANAGEMENT UNIT FOR DATA COLLECTION PURPOSES APPROVED BY SA COMMITTEE

SA COMMITTEE: ANY OF THOSE SPECIES CURRENTLY LISTED IN THE MANAGEMENT UNIT FOR DATA COLLECTION PURPOSES, BEFORE THEY ARE ADDED TO THE PLAN, SHOULD BE ASSESSED BY A SEDAR ASSESSMENT APPROVED BY SA COMMITTEE

GULF COMMITTEE: ANY OF THOSE SPECIES CURRENTLY LISTED IN THE MANAGEMENT UNIT FOR DATA COLLECTION PURPOSES, BEFORE THEY ARE ADDED TO THE PLAN, SHOULD BE ASSESSED BY A SEDAR ASSESSMENT APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE

2.2 ACTION 2: Modify the Framework Procedure

Alternative 1. No Action – Do not modify the framework procedure.

Alternative 2. Modify the framework procedure as shown in Appendix A.

Alternative 3. Modify the framework procedure as shown in Appendix B.

Alternative 4. Modify the framework procedure as shown in Appendix C.

Alternative 5. Modify the framework procedure as shown in Appendix D.

GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES AS PRESENTED APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE

SA COMMITTEE: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 (APPENDIX C) AS OUR PREFERRED MOTION WITHDRAWN

SA COMMITTEE: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES APPROVED BY SA COMMITTEE

2.3 ACTION 3: Establish Separate Atlantic and Gulf Migratory Groups of Cobia

Alternative 1. No action - Maintain one group of cobia.

Alternative 2. Separate the two migratory groups at the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line.

Alternative 3. Separate the two migratory groups at the SAFMC/GMFMC boundary.

SA COMMITTEE: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES APPROVED BY SA COMMITTEE

GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES IN ACTION 3 APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE

2.4 ACTION 4: Set ACL for Gulf Group Cobia

Alternative 1. No action – do not set ACL for Gulf group cobia

Alternative 2. Set ACL = MSY at 1.5 MP for Gulf group cobia

Option a. Set a single ACL

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1999 through 2009

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1986 through 2009

Alternative 3. Set ACL = ABC (yield corresponding $0.75 \times \text{FMSY}$ when the stock is at equilibrium [currently estimated at 1.45 MP] for Gulf group cobia)

Option a. Set a single ACL

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1999 through 2009

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1986 through 2009

**GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 4 AS PRESENTED
APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE**

2.5 ACTION 5: Set ACT for Gulf Group Cobia

Alternative 1. No action – do not set ACT for Gulf group cobia

Alternative 2. Set ACT = ACL = MSY = 1.5 MP for Gulf group cobia

Option a. Set a single ACT

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1999 through 2009

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1986 through 2009

Alternative 3. Set ACT = ABC (yield corresponding $0.75 \times \text{FMSY}$ when the stock is at equilibrium [currently estimated at 1.45 MP] for Gulf group cobia)

Option a. Set a single ACT

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1999 through 2009

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1986 through 2009

Alternative 4. Set ACT at $0.90 \times \text{ABC}$ (yield corresponding $0.75 \times \text{FMSY}$ when the stock is at equilibrium [currently estimated at 1.45 MP] for Gulf group cobia) which is 1.23 MP

Option a. Set a single ACT

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1999 through 2009

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current average percent of catches for the period 1986 through 2009

**GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 5 AS PRESENTED
APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE**

2.6 ACTION 6: Set AMs for Gulf Group Cobia

Alternative 1. No Action – Retain current in-season accountability measures (AMs) for Gulf group cobia.

Option a. Commercial bag limit of 2 per person per day

Option b. Recreational bag limit of 2 per person per day

Alternative 2. Change in-season AMs

Option a. Commercial

Suboption i. Closure when commercial/stock ACL/ACT reached

Suboption ii. Trip limit implemented when x% of stock/commercial ACL/ACT reached

Option b. Recreational

Suboption i. Closure when stock/recreational ACL/ACT reached

Suboption ii. Bag limit reduced when x% of stock/recreational ACL/ACT reached

Alternative 3. Set post-season AMs

Option a. Commercial

Suboption i. Payback of overage from quota in the following year

Suboption ii. Implement trip limit in the following year

Option b. Recreational

Suboption i. Payback of overage from quota in the following year

Suboption ii. Reduce bag limit in the following year

Suboption iii. Shorten season in the following year

Note: The Council may choose more than one preferred alternative.

**GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 6 AS PRESENTED
APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE**

2.7 ACTION 7: Set ACL for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1. Status Quo – Set ACL for Gulf group king mackerel at 10.2 MP

Alternative 2. Set ACL = ABC (13.215 MP) for Gulf group king mackerel

Option a. Set a single ACL

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on current allocations

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate ACLs for hook-and-line and run-around gillnets

Alternative 3. Set ACL = $0.90 * ABC$ (11.894 MP) for Gulf group king mackerel

Option a. Set a single ACL

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on current allocations

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate ACLs for hook-and-line and run-around gillnets

**GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE 3 ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 7
APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE**

2.8 ACTION 8: Set ACT for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1. No action – do not set ACT for Gulf group king mackerel

Alternative 2. Status Quo – Set ACT = current TAC (10.2 MP)

Alternative 3. Set ACT = ACL = ABC (13.215 MP) for Gulf group king mackerel

Option a. Set a single ACT

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current allocations

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate ACTs for hook-and-line and run-around gillnets

Alternative 4. Set ACT = $0.90 * ABC$ (11.894 MP) for Gulf group king mackerel

Option a. Set a single ACT

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current allocations

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate ACTs for hook-and-line and run-around gillnets

**GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 8
APPROVED BY GULF COUNCIL**

**GULF COMMITTEE: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 8 THAT MATCHES
WHAT IS LISTED FOR SPANISH MACKEREL IN ACTION 11
APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE**

2.9 ACTION 9: Set AMs for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1. Status Quo – Retain current in-season accountability measures (AMs) for Gulf group king mackerel.

Option a. Commercial

Suboption i. Quota closures by zone, subzone, and gear (see Table 1)

Suboption ii. Trip limits and trip limit triggers (see Table 2)

Option b. Recreational bag limit of 2 per person, including captain and crew of for-hire vessels with authority of Regional Administrator to revert bag limit to zero

Alternative 2. Change in-season AMs

Option a. Commercial

Suboption i. Closure when stock/commercial ACL/ACT reached

Suboption ii. Trip limit(s) reduced when x% of stock/commercial ACL/ACT reached

Option b. Recreational

Suboption i. Closure when stock/recreational ACL/ACT reached

Suboption ii. Bag limit reduced to one when x% of stock/recreational ACL/ACT reached

Alternative 3. Set post-season AMs for Gulf group king mackerel

Option a. Commercial

Suboption i. Payback of overage from quota in the following year

Suboption ii. Reduce trip limit in the following year

Option b. Recreational

Suboption i. Payback of overage from quota in the following year

Suboption ii. Reduce bag limit in the following year

Suboption iii. Shorten season in the following year

Note: The Council may choose more than one preferred alternative.

GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 9 WITH THE INTENT TO ADD A SUBALTERNATIVE FOR RUN-AROUND GILL NET PAYBACK. APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE

2.10 ACTION 10: Set ACL for Gulf Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1. Status Quo – Set ACL for Gulf group Spanish mackerel equal to current TAC of 9.1 MP

Alternative 2. Set ACL = yield when fishing at F30% SPR = MSY = 9.0 MP for Gulf group Spanish mackerel

Option a. Set a single ACL

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on current allocations (57% commercial, 43% recreational)

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on recent landings

Alternative 3. Set $ACL = ABC = \text{yield}$ corresponding to a fishing mortality rate (FOY) defined as: $FOY=0.75 \cdot FMSY$ when the stock is at equilibrium (currently estimated at 8.3 MP) for Gulf group Spanish mackerel

Option a. Set a single ACL

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on current allocations (57% commercial, 43% recreational)

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on recent landings

GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES LISTED FOR ACTION 10 APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE

2.11 Action 11: Set ACT for Gulf Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1. No action – do not set ACT for Gulf group Spanish mackerel

Alternative 2. Status quo – set ACT equal to current TAC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel at 9.1 MP

Option a. Set a single ACT

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current allocations (57% commercial, 43% recreational)

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on recent landings

Alternative 3. Set $ACT = \text{yield}$ when fishing at $F30\% SPR = MSY = 8.7 MP$ for Gulf group Spanish mackerel

Option a. Set a single ACT

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current allocations (57% commercial, 43% recreational)

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on recent landings

Alternative 4. Set $ACT = ABC = ACL = \text{yield}$ corresponding to a fishing mortality rate (FOY) defined as: $FOY=0.75 \cdot FMSY$ when the stock is at equilibrium (currently estimated at 8.3 MP) for Gulf group Spanish mackerel

Option a. Set a single ACT

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current allocations (57% commercial, 43% recreational)

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on recent landings

Alternative 5. Set $ACT = 0.90 \cdot \text{yield}$ corresponding to a fishing mortality rate (FOY) defined as: $FOY=0.75 \cdot FMSY$ when the stock is at equilibrium (currently estimated at 8.3 MP) for Gulf group Spanish mackerel. $ACT=7.47 MP$

Option a. Set a single ACT

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational ACTs based on current allocations (57% commercial, 43% recreational)

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on recent landings

**GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 11 AS PRESENTED
APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE**

2.12 ACTION 12: Set AMs for Gulf Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1. Status Quo – Retain current in-season accountability measures (AMs) for Gulf group Spanish mackerel.

Option a. Commercial quota closure

Option b. Recreational bag limit of 15 per person per day

Alternative 2. Change in-season AMs

Option a. Commercial

Suboption i. Closure when stock ACL/ACT reached

Suboption ii. Trip limit implemented when x% of stock/commercial ACL/ACT reached

Option b. Recreational

Suboption i. Closure when stock/recreational ACL/ACT reached

Suboption ii. Bag limit reduced when x% of stock/recreational ACL/ACT reached

Alternative 3. Set post-season AMs

Option a. Commercial

Suboption i. Payback of overage from quota in the following year

Suboption ii. Implement trip limit in the following year

Option b. Recreational

Suboption i. Payback of overage from quota in the following year

Suboption ii. Reduce bag limit in the following year

Suboption iii. Shorten season in the following year

Note: The Council may choose more than one preferred alternative.

**GULF COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES LISTED IN ACTION 12
APPROVED BY GULF COMMITTEE**

4.13 Action 13. Specify MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL (TAC), and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory Group king mackerel

4.13.1 Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) and Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold (MFMT)

The Council has determined that the value for MSY is the value of yield at F_{MSY} from the most recent stock assessment. Currently MSY = 10.4 million pounds. Based on the SEDAR 16 assessment, MSY = 8.964 million pounds (Table 4). **Based on updated projections, MSY =**

9.357-12.836 million pounds (Table 5b).

The Council has determined that the value for MSST is the value from the most recent stock assessment based on $MSST = [(1-M) \text{ or } 0.5 \text{ whichever is greater}] * B_{MSY}$. Currently $MSST = 0.85(B_{MSY})$ with no poundage estimated. Based on the SEDAR 16 assessment, $MSST = 1,827.5$ billion hydrated eggs (Table 4).

The Council has determined that the value for MFMT is the value of F_{MSY} or proxy from the most recent stock assessment. Currently $MFMT = F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR}$ with no poundage estimated. Based on the SEDAR 16 assessment, $MFMT = F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR} = 0.256$ (Table 4).

4.13.2 Overfishing Level (OFL)

The Scientific and Statistical Committee provided the following OFL at their April 2010 meeting: "The OFL for king mackerel is 12.8359 million pounds (corresponds to yield at $F_{30\%SPR}$, the accepted MSY proxy from the last stock assessment)." Note: This is the expected yield in 2011 (Table 5b).

4.13.3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC

Alternative 1. No Action. Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 2. Establish ABC based on the SSC's ABC control rule.

The Council is also considering the following non-SSC Control Rules:

Alternative 3. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL.

Alternative 4. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

Alternative 4a. $ABC = 65\% \text{ OFL}$

Alternative 4b. $ABC = 75\% \text{ OFL}$

Alternative 4c. $ABC = 85\% \text{ OFL}$

Alternative 5. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of the yield at MFMT.

Alternative 5a. $ABC = \text{yield at } 65\% \text{ MFMT}$

Alternative 5b. $ABC = \text{yield at } 75\% \text{ MFMT}$

Alternative 5c. $ABC = \text{yield at } 85\% \text{ MFMT}$

Alternative 6. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC is a percentage of OFL. The percentage is based upon the level of risk of overfishing (P^*).

Alternative 6a. $ABC = X\% \text{ of OFL}$. The $X\%$ is based upon P^* equals .20.

Alternative 6b. $ABC = X\% \text{ of OFL}$. The $X\%$ is based upon P^* equals .30.

Alternative 6c. $ABC = X\% \text{ of OFL}$. The $X\%$ is based upon P^* equals .40.

Alternative 6d. $ABC = X\% \text{ of OFL}$. The $X\%$ is based upon P^* equals .50.

**SAFMC COMMITTEE: ACCEPT THESE ALTERNATIVES
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
DIRECTION TO LOOK AT COMBINING ALT. 4 & 5**

4.13.4 Optimum Yield (OY)

Currently OY = the yield from fishing at a fishing mortality rate equal to 40% Spawning Potential Ratio; however, a value was not previously estimated. Based on the SEDAR 16 assessment and the Council's actions on other species, the following options are likely (Tables 4 and 5a).

Alternative 1. No action. Currently OY = yield at $F_{40\%SPR}$ with no poundage estimated. However, using the updated projections yields a range of 8.40 – 9.20 million pounds.

Alternative 2. OY = 65% of the yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 7.96 – 8.36$ million pounds based on projections of expected median yields under a constant fishing mortality rate over the years 2011 through 2021.

Alternative 3. OY = 75% of the yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 8.46 – 9.37$ million pounds based on projections of expected median yields under a constant fishing mortality rate over the years 2011 through 2021.

Alternative 4. OY = 85% of the yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 8.80 – 10.46$ million pounds based on projections of expected median yields under a constant fishing mortality rate over the years 2011 through 2021.

The following alternative has been added for consideration:

Alternative 5. OY = yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 9.36 – 12.84$ million pounds based on projections of expected median yields under a constant fishing mortality rate over the years 2011 through 2021.

**SA COMMITTEE: ADOPT THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER 4.13.4.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

4.13.5 Annual Catch Limit (ACL)

Alternative 1. No action. Currently TAC or ACL = 10.0 million pounds based on an ABC of 8.9 - 13.3 million pounds.

Alternative 2. ACL = ABC = 10.46 million pounds which is the average of the ABC values for 2011-2013 recommended by the SSC.

Alternative 3. ACL = ABC = 10.06 million pounds which is the lowest value within the 2011-2013 recommendations (10.06 – 10.95 million pounds).

Alternative 4. $ACL = ABC = 10.36$ million pounds which near the middle value within the 2011-2013 recommendations (10.06 – 10.95 million pounds).

Alternative 5. $ACL = ABC = 10.95$ million pounds which is the highest value within the 2011-2013 recommendations (10.06 – 10.95 million pounds).

Alternative 6. $ACL = X\%$ of $ABC = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ million pounds.

**SA COMMITTEE: ADOPT THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER 4.13.5 BUT MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 OR 4 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

4.13.6 Annual Catch Target (ACT)

Action 13a. Commercial Sector ACT

Alternative 1. Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 2. The commercial sector ACT equals the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 4. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

**SA COMMITTEE MOTION: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES FOR
COMMERCIAL SECTOR ACT.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

Action 13b. Recreational Sector ACT

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not specify recreational sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 2. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL.

Alternative 4. The recreational sector ACT equals $\text{sector ACL}[(1-\text{PSE}) \text{ or } 0.5, \text{ whichever is greater}]$.

**SA COMMITTEE MOTION: ACCEPT THE 4 ALTERNATIVES FOR
RECREATIONAL SECTOR ACT.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

4.14 Action 14. Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group king mackerel

The Councils may specify multiple preferred from among the following:

Alternative 1 (Status Quo). The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Do not implement ACLs or AMs for the recreational sector.

Alternative 2. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Implement Accountability Measures (AMs) for the recreational sector for this stock. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to **reduce the length of the following fishing year** by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year. Compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Alternative 3. Option c. Examine the impacts of release mortality resulting from increasing the minimum size limit from 20 inches fork length to 24 inches fork length. Evaluate whether the minimum size limit should be reduced to 20 inches fork length.

Alternative 4. Option d. Status Quo - the bag limit for Atlantic group king mackerel would remain at 3 NY-GA, 2 FL (Note: Under this bag limit, the recreational catch was 3.775 million pounds in 2006/2007, 6.845 million pounds in 2007/2008, and 3.905 million pounds in 2008/2009.)

Alternative 5. Option e. Include within the existing bag limit, one fish >45 inches FL.

Alternative 6. Option f. Include within the existing bag limit, one fish >50 inches FL.

Alternative 7. Option g. Prohibit bag limit sales of ~~recreationally-caught~~ Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

SA COMMITTEE MOTION: MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 7 TO PROHIBIT BAG LIMIT AND TOURNAMENT SALES OF ATLANTIC MIGRATORY GROUP KING MACKEREL

SUB-MOTION: TO SPLIT THE MOTION INTO TWO ALTERNATIVES: (1) PROHIBIT TOURNAMENT SALES IF THEY ARE COUNTED AGAINST THE COMMERCIAL QUOTA AND (2) PROHIBIT BAG LIMIT SALES

**SUB-MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
MAIN MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

Alternative 8. TRIP LIMITS FOR ATLANTIC GROUP KING MACKEREL

MOTION: BOTH COMMITTEES APPROVED DELETING A AND KEEPING B (6/04)

~~a. Status Quo The possession limits are as follows:~~

April 1 – March 31 NY/CT to Volusia/Flagler	3,500 pounds
April 1 – October 31 Volusia/Flagler to Brevard/Volusia	3,500 pounds
April 1 – October 31 Brevard/Volusia to Dade/Monroe	75 fish
April 1 – October 31 Monroe County	1,250 pounds

b. Modify the bycatch allowances for the shark drift net fishery to:

1. 25 fish per vessel per trip from April 1 through November 15
2. 20 fish per vessel per trip
3. 4 fish per person per trip
4. The 25 fish per vessel per trip from April 1 through November 15 would apply only to vessels that have a history of observer activity and in the area from St. Lucie Inlet, Florida to the Florida/Georgia border
5. Status quo - the possession limit remains at 2 fish per person per trip

SAFMC AP MEMBER REQUESTED A LIMIT ON NUMBER OF SHARK DRIFT NET VESSELS (6/06)

New alternatives to consider payback of any overage:

Alternative 9. Commercial payback of any overage.

Sub-alternative a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-alternative b. Payback only if overfished.

Alternative 10. Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

Sub-alternative a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-alternative b. Payback only if overfished.

SA COMMITTEE MOTION: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES AS MODIFIED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

SA COMMITTEE MOTION: ADD A NEW ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD ALLOW ROLL-OVER OF UNDERAGES OF 100% AND OF 50% NOT TO EXCEED ABC APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

4.15 Action 15. Specify MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL (TAC), and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish mackerel

4.15.1 Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST), and Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold (MFMT)

The Council has determined that the value for MSY is the value from the most recent stock assessment. Currently MSY = 10.4 million pounds. **Based on the SEDAR 17 assessment, MSY = 11.461 million pounds (Table 11).**

The Council has determined that the value for MSST is the value from the most recent stock assessment based on $MSST = [(1-M) \text{ or } 0.5 \text{ whichever is greater}] * B_{MSY}$. Currently MSST = $0.85(B_{MSY})$ with no poundage estimated. **Based on the SEDAR 17 assessment, MSST = 8,085 metric tons (Table 11).**

The Council has determined that the value for MFMT is the value of F_{MSY} or proxy from the most recent stock assessment. Currently MFMT = $F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR}$ with no poundage estimated. **Based on the SEDAR 17 assessment, MFMT = $F_{MSY} = 0.371$ (Table 11).**

4.15.2 Overfishing Level (OFL)

The Scientific and Statistical Committee provided the following OFL recommendation at their April 2010 meeting: Since no estimate of MSY is available for Spanish mackerel, the SSC decided to develop ABC recommendations based on landings data. Based on the SEDAR 17 review panel recommendation that overfishing was not occurring, the SSC decided to bypass the OFL estimate and recommend ABC as the median of landings over the last 10 years.

The Council will need to develop an OFL recommendation.

**SA COMMITTEE: OFL = UNKNOWN
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

4.15.3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC

Alternative 1. No Action. Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 2. **Establish ABC based on the SSC's Data Poor ABC control rule.**

The Council is also considering the following non-SSC Control Rules:

Alternative 3. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL.

Alternative 4. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

Alternative 4a. ABC=65% OFL

Alternative 4b. ABC=75% OFL

Alternative 4c. ABC=85%OFL

Alternative 5. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of the yield at MFMT.

Alternative 5a. ABC=yield at 65%MFMT

Alternative 5b. ABC=yield at 75%MFMT

Alternative 5c. ABC=yield at 85%MFMT

Alternative 6. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC is a percentage of OFL. The percentage is based upon the level of risk of overfishing (P*).

Alternative 6a. ABC=X% of OFL. The X% is based upon P* equals .20.

Alternative 6b. ABC=X% of OFL. The X% is based upon P* equals .30.

Alternative 6c. ABC=X% of OFL. The X% is based upon P* equals .40.

Alternative 6d. ABC=X% of OFL. The X% is based upon P* equals .50.

4.15.4 Optimum Yield (OY)

Currently OY = the yield from fishing at a fishing mortality rate equal to 40% Spawning Potential Ratio; however, a value was not previously estimated. Based on the SEDAR 17 assessment and the Council's actions on other species, the following options are likely (Table 11).

Alternative 1. No action. Currently OY = yield at $F_{40\%SPR}$ with no poundage estimated. Based on the SEDAR 17 assessment, the yield at $F_{40\%SPR}$ is 11,458,000 pounds.

Alternative 2. OY = 65% of the yield at F_{MSY} = 10.608 million pounds.

Alternative 3. OY = 75% of the yield at F_{MSY} = 11.051 million pounds.

Alternative 4. OY = 85% of the yield at F_{MSY} = 11.320 million pounds.

The following alternative is added for consideration:

Alternative 5. OY = the yield at $F_{30\%SPR}$ = 10.565 million pounds.

Alternative 6. OY = the yield at F_{max} = 6.598 million pounds.

4.15.5 Annual Catch Limit (ACL)

Alternative 1. No action. Currently TAC or ACL = 7.04 million pounds based on an ABC of 5.7 – 9.0 million pounds.

Alternative 2. ACL = ABC = 4.91 million pounds which is the ABC recommended by the SSC.

Alternative 3. ACL = X% of ABC = _____ million pounds.

4.15.6 Annual Catch Target (ACT)

Action 15a. Commercial Sector ACT

Alternative 1. Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 2. The commercial sector ACT equals the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 4. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Action 15b. Recreational Sector ACT

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not specify recreational sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 2. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL.

Alternative 4. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

4.16 Action 16. Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish mackerel

The Councils may specify multiple preferred from among the following:

Alternative 1 (Status Quo). The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Do not implement ACLs or AMs for the recreational sector.

Alternative 2. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Implement Accountability Measures (AMs) for the recreational sector for this stock. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to **reduce the length of the following fishing year** by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year. Compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use three-year running average.

Alternative 3. Bag Limits:

MOTION: DELETE OPTION A.

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE (6/04)

APPROVED BY GMFMC COMMITTEE (6/04)

SAFMC AP AND COMMITTEE BY CONSENSU RECOMMENDED INCLUDING OPTION A FOR SCOPING (6/06).

Sub-Alternative 3a. ~~Option a. Reduce the individual bag limit to 10 NY-FL (Note: this was the previous bag limit).~~

AP MOTION #11 (2009): SUGGEST OPTIONS B & C.
[TABLED UNTIL TOMORROW]
UNTABLED
[INTENT THAT THIS NOT APPLY TO HEADBOATS]
APPROVED BY AP

Sub-Alternative 3b. Option b. Set a maximum bag limit of 60 Spanish mackerel per boat for charter boats.

Sub-Alternative 3c. Option c. Set the individual bag limit at 15 per person with a maximum of 60 per boat.

Sub-Alternative 3d. Option d. Status Quo - Individual Bag limit for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel remains at 15 NY-FL. (Note: This bag limit was approved at the June 1999 Council meeting, published as a final rule on July 3, 2000, and effective August 2, 2000.)

Sub-Alternative 3e. Option e. Reduce the individual bag limit at from 15 to 10 per person.

Alternative 4. Prohibit bag limit sales of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

AP MOTION #12 (2009): PROHIBIT SALE OF RECREATIONALLY CAUGHT SPANISH MACKEREL
APPROVED BY AP 6 TO 2

Alternative 5. Trip Limits:
MOTION: KEEP FOR SCOPING
APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE (6/04)
APPROVED BY GMFMC COMMITTEE (6/04)

Sub-Alternative 5a. Option a. Status Quo - The possession limits are as follows:

1. April 1 - November 30 -- 3,500 pounds per vessel per day.
2. December 1 until 75% of the adjusted allocation is taken:
Monday - Friday Unlimited
Other days 1,500 pounds

(Vessel fishing days begin at 6:00 a.m. and extend until 6:00 a.m. the following day, and vessels must be unloaded by 6:00 p.m. of that following day.)

3. After 75% of the adjusted allocation is taken 1,500 pounds per vessel per day for all days.

4. When 100% of the adjusted allocation is reached: 500 pounds per vessel per day to the end of the fishing year (March 31). Adjusted allocation compensates for estimated catches of 500 pounds per vessel per day to the end of the season.

Sub-Alternative 5b. Option b. Change the unlimited opening from December 1 to November 1st or 15th.

SAFMC AP would like to see this changed to November 14th. (6/04)

MOTION: KEEP SPANISH MACKEREL TRIP LIMITS STATUS QUO BUT CHANGE THE START DATE TO TRACK THE FISHING YEAR (MARCH 1)

APPROVE BY SAFMC AP (6/06)

SAFMC AP SUGGESTED AN OPTION TO TRACK FLORIDA STATE REGULATIONS (3,500 POUNDS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AND THEN 1,500 POUNDS ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY) BE INCLUDED IN THE SCOPING DOCUMENT (6/06).

Alternative 6. Moratorium & Limited Entry

~~ACTION 15. CONSIDER OPTIONS TO ESTABLISH A MORATORIUM ON ATLANTIC MIGRATORY GROUP SPANISH MACKEREL AND A LIMITED ENTRY PROGRAM.~~

Note: A control date of June 15, 2004 has been established for the Spanish mackerel fishery north of the Dade/Monroe county line on the Florida east coast. Should the Council decide to establish a limited entry program, fishermen obtaining a permit after June 15, 2004 are not guaranteed to be included in the limited entry program.

Note: A letter from Ben Hartig outlining proposed measures for the Atlantic Spanish Mackerel fishery is also attached.

Committee Action: Pick a preferred action.

Option 1. No action.

Option 2. Instruct staff to develop alternatives to address this action.

Option 3. Others??

MOTION: DELETE THIS ACTION; INCLUDE IN APPENDIX AS CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE (6/04)

APPROVED BY GMFMC COMMITTEE (6/04)

SAFMC AP MOTION: REQUEST THE STATE OF FLORIDA MAKE SPANISH MACKEREL PERMIT A REQUISITE TO HARVEST SPANISH MACKEREL COMMERCIALY IN STATE WATERS IN FLORIDA.

APPROVED BY SAFMC AP (6/04)

SAMFC AP MOTION: SET A CONTROL DATE OF 6/15/04 FOR ATLANTIC SPANISH MACKEREL

APPROVED BY SAFMC AP (6/04)

SAFMC COMMITTEE: REQUEST THE STATE OF FLORIDA MAKE SPANISH MACKEREL PERMIT A REQUISITE TO HARVEST SPANISH MACKEREL COMMERCIALY IN STATE WATERS IN FLORIDA
MOTION WITHDRAWN (6/04)

SAFMC COMMITTEE MOTION: SET A NEW CONTROL DATE OF 6/15/04 FOR SPANISH MACKEREL.
APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE (6/04)
APPROVED BY SAFMC COUNCIL (6/04)

SAFMC COMMITTEE DIRECTED STAFF TO INCLUDE ALTERNATIVES THAT WERE SUGGESTED IN THE LETTER FROM BEN HARTIG AND THAT WERE SUGGESTED AT THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON TUESDAY (6/06).

Spanish Mackerel Gillnet Endorsement (provided by an AP member)

Implement a transferable Spanish mackerel gillnet endorsement for those vessels harvesting Spanish mackerel by gillnet in the EEZ:

1. Off Florida - The bulk of the harvest occurs off Florida therefore there is a justification for the Florida only option.
2. Within the management area of the South Atlantic Council, or
3. Throughout the range of the species.

Purpose and Need: In the past several years, Spanish mackerel have become more available in Federal waters. There is increased effort by new entrants into the gillnet fishery for Spanish mackerel. There has been a traditional gillnet fishery in Federal waters since the net ban. The most significant effort on Spanish mackerel occurs in State waters. There has been a good balance between Federal and State water Spanish mackerel harvest in the past. Accommodating new entrants into the gillnet fishery will disrupt the traditional balance that has occurred between State and Federal water fisheries.

The fishing power of gillnets is much greater than the cast net fishery, the predominant gear in State waters. The quota is already being reached. Introduction of new entrants into the gillnet fishery will cause the quota to be reached faster. And if the trend continues, more and more effort will be directed into the gillnet fishery.

All of the traditional net fishermen polled support a gillnet endorsement. A gillnet endorsement, depending on the qualifying criteria, would limit the number of gillnet permit to more traditional gillnet fishermen. Many of these fishermen were severely impacted by the net ban.

New alternatives to consider payback of any overage:

Alternative 7. Commercial payback of any overage.

Sub-alternative a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-alternative b. Payback only if overfished.

Alternative 8. Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.
Sub-alternative a. Payback regardless of stock status.
Sub-alternative b. Payback only if overfished.

4.17 Action 17. Specify MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL (TAC), Allocations, and ACT levels for Atlantic migratory group cobia

4.17.1 Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST), and Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold (MFMT)

The Council has determined that the value for MSY is the value from the most recent stock assessment. **Currently MSY is unknown.**

The Council has determined that the value for MSST is the value from the most recent stock assessment based on $MSST = [(1-M) \text{ or } 0.5 \text{ whichever is greater}] * B_{MSY}$. **Currently MSST is unknown.**

The Council has determined that the value for MFMT is the value of F_{MSY} or proxy from the most recent stock assessment. **Currently MFMT is unknown.**

The Council will need to develop alternatives for MSY, MSST and MFMT.

4.17.2 Overfishing Level (OFL)

The Scientific and Statistical Committee provided the following OFL at their April 2010 meeting: “Since no estimate of MSY is available for cobia the SSC decided to estimate OFL as the median of landings data for the period 1986-2008. **Therefore, OFL = 857,714 pounds.**”

4.17.3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC

ABC is recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and specified by the Council.

Alternative 1. No Action. Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

Alternative 2. **Establish ABC based on the SSC’s Data Poor ABC control rule.**

The SSC decided to develop OFL for each species based on median of landings for 1999 to 2008. From there, they will apply the ABC control rule for all the species together for each species grouping to develop the ABC reduction level. The results of the ABC control rule will be multiplied by the OFL to determine the reduction to the OFL for the grouping to each individual species. Each ABC would start at 35% (0% for unknown depletion, 15% because not forage or habitat, ___% the appropriate PSA score, 20% out of 25% for certainty of OFL level) of OFL. The variability in the ABC will be that they will have to use the PSA for each species and add the

appropriate percent to the ABC that will come up with the appropriate level. The range of ABC for each data poor species will be 35% to 55% of OFL. This approach will be revisited species by species as more data become available. This is considered the “Triage Approach” for the snapper grouper data poor species. Current species exceptions are golden tilefish, yellow tail snapper, wreckfish, and amberjack. Since the Council is following the red porgy rebuilding plan, they won’t be included in this data poor snapper grouper analysis.

Since no estimate of MSY is available for cobia the SSC decided to estimate OFL as the median of landings data for the period 1986-2008. Therefore, OFL = 857,714 pounds. Application of the data-poor control rule generated the following adjustments (Tier 1: +0%, Tier 2: +15%, Tier 3: +20%, Tier 4: +20%), so ABC will be set at 55% of OFL. **Therefore, ABC for cobia = 471,743 pounds.**

The Council is also considering the following non-SSC Control Rules:

Alternative 3. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL.

Alternative 4. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

Alternative 4a. $ABC=65\% \text{ OFL}$

Alternative 4b. $ABC=75\% \text{ OFL}$

Alternative 4c. $ABC=85\% \text{ OFL}$

Alternative 5. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of the yield at MFMT.

Alternative 5a. $ABC=\text{yield at } 65\% \text{ MFMT}$

Alternative 5b. $ABC=\text{yield at } 75\% \text{ MFMT}$

Alternative 5c. $ABC=\text{yield at } 85\% \text{ MFMT}$

Alternative 6. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC is a percentage of OFL. The percentage is based upon the level of risk of overfishing (P^*).

Alternative 6a. $ABC=X\% \text{ of OFL}$. The $X\%$ is based upon P^* equals .20.

Alternative 6b. $ABC=X\% \text{ of OFL}$. The $X\%$ is based upon P^* equals .30.

Alternative 6c. $ABC=X\% \text{ of OFL}$. The $X\%$ is based upon P^* equals .40.

Alternative 6d. $ABC=X\% \text{ of OFL}$. The $X\%$ is based upon P^* equals .50.

4.17.4 Optimum Yield (OY)

Currently OY = the yield from fishing at a fishing mortality rate equal to 40% Spawning Potential Ratio; however, a value was not previously estimated.

Alternative 1. No action. Currently OY = yield at $F_{40\%SPR}$ with no poundage estimated.

Alternative 2. OY = $65\%F_{MSY}$ = ?????? million pounds.

Alternative 3. OY = $75\%F_{MSY}$ = ?????? million pounds.

Alternative 4. OY = $85\%F_{MSY}$ = ?????? million pounds.

4.17.5 Allocations

Alternative 1. No action. Currently there are no allocations for cobia.

Alternative 2. Define allocations for Atlantic migratory group cobia based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on landings from the years 2007-2009. The allocation would be xx% commercial and y% recreational. Beginning in 2011, the commercial allocation would be xxxxxx lbs gutted weight and the recreational allocation would be xxxxx fish (yyyyyy lbs gutted weight). The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 3. Define allocations for Atlantic migratory group cobia based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on the following formula for each sector:

Sector apportionment = $(50\% * \text{average of long catch range (lbs) 1986-2009??}) + (50\% * \text{average of recent catch trend (lbs) 2007-2009??})$. The allocation would be xx% commercial and yy% recreational. Beginning in 2011, the commercial allocation would be xxxxxx lbs gutted weight and the recreational allocation would be yyyy fish (xxxxx lbs gutted weight). The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 4. Define allocations for Atlantic migratory group cobia based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on the following formula for each sector:

Sector apportionment = $(50\% * \text{average of long catch range (lbs) 1986(or 1999)-2008}) + (50\% * \text{average of recent catch trend (lbs) 2006-2008})$. The allocation would be xx% commercial, yy% for-hire, and zz% private recreational. Beginning in 2011, the commercial allocation would be _____ lbs gutted weight, the for-hire allocation would be _____ fish (_____ lbs gutted weight), and the private recreational allocation would be _____ fish (_____ lbs gutted weight). The commercial, for-hire, and private recreational allocations specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 5. Split the allocations for Atlantic migratory group cobia equally among the two sectors. The allocation would be 50% commercial and 50% recreational. Beginning in 2011, the commercial allocation would be xxxxx lbs gutted weight and the recreational allocation would be yyyyy fish (xxxxx lbs gutted weight). The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

4.17.6 Annual Catch Limit (ACL)

The ACL is equivalent to TAC as used in the past.

Alternative 1. No action. Currently there is no TAC or ACL for cobia.

Alternative 2. ACL = ???? thousand pounds based on the SSC recommendation.

Alternative 3. ACL = X% of ABC = ???? thousand pounds.

4.17.7 Annual Catch Target (ACT)

Action 17a. Commercial Sector ACT

Alternative 1. Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

Alternative 2. The commercial sector ACT equals the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 4. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Action 17b. Recreational Sector ACT

Alternative 1 (no action). Do not specify recreational sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

Alternative 2. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL.

Alternative 3. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL.

Alternative 4. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

4.18 Action 18. Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group cobia

The Councils may specify multiple preferred from among the following:

Alternative 1 (Status Quo). There is no quota for cobia and there are no AMs in place for cobia. This would retain the following regulations that apply to both recreational and commercial fishermen: (a) 33" fork length minimum size limit, (b) 2 per person bag limit (Note: Florida state regulations only allow 1 per person), (c) one day possession limit, (d) must be landed with heads and fins intact, and (d) charter/headboats require a permit for Coastal Migratory Pelagics.

Alternative 2. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Do not implement ACLs or AMs for the recreational sector.

Alternative 3. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. Implement Accountability Measures (AMs) for the recreational sector for this stock. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the sector ACL for the following fishing year. Compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use three-year running average.

Alternative 4. Reduce the bag limit to 1 per person.

Alternative 5. Prohibit bag limit sales of Atlantic migratory group cobia.

Alternative 6. Specify a commercial trip limit.

Sub-Alternative 6a. Status Quo. Currently the commercial sector is included under the bag limit of 1 per person.

Sub-Alternative 6b. Specify a commercial trip limit of 1 cobia per person.

Alternative 7. Establish a spawning season closure: April-September or April-June or some other time period (Council to specify).

Alternative 8. Establish a spawning season area closure: April-September or April-June or some other time period (Council to specify).

Alternative 9. Establish a boat limit of 1 per boat/vessel during: April-September or April-June or some other time period (Council to specify).

New alternatives to consider payback of any overage:

Alternative 10. Commercial payback of any overage.

Sub-alternative a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-alternative b. Payback only if overfished.

Alternative 11. Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

Sub-alternative a. Payback regardless of stock status.

Sub-alternative b. Payback only if overfished.