

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
South Atlantic Mackerel Committee.

I ask that you oppose the recent action by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to change the opening date for the Gulf king mackerel western zone, from July to September for the following reasons:

1. Safety at sea:

September is the most active month for hurricanes in the gulf.

2. Economic harm to fishermen:

A September 1 opening would increase production levels of gulf group mackerel in the Fall, leading to heavier landings and increased supply at the same time when fishermen in the Western Gulf, Pensacola, Destin, Panama City, Apalachicola, and North Carolina are producing their run of fish. A lot of fish on the market in a very short amount of time means lower prices for fishermen.

3. Gulf and Florida east coast fishermen oppose the season change as well as some Gulf dealers that buy and sell a significant portion of Western Gulf king mackerel landings.

4. Changing the fishing year creates substantial workload impacts on the data providers and assessment analysts. Each year in the time series would have to be recalibrated based on the change and may not be worth the effort without an overarching or compelling reason to change

Respectfully submitted

Fisherman Ronald E Steelly
Address 107 Ounal St. Melb. Bch FL 32951
Fisherman Permit # KM-1415
Area fished Eastern Gulf - South Atlantic
Annual gulf landing 20,000 ²⁰¹³

RE: FL Dealer

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Respectfully submitted

James D. Busse

Fisherman

Seafood Atlantic Inc

Address

520 Glen Creek Dr. Cape Canaveral FL.

Fisherman Permit #

FL DLR 4345 - Fed DLR # 146

Area fished

Annual gulf landing



Attn: Amber VonHarten

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Respectfully submitted

Fisherman KLM Bluewater Inc.

Address 480 Bells Cove Dr. MI 32952

Fisherman Permit # KM1075

Area fished Canaveral

Annual gulf landing _____

Attn: Amber Von Harten

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Respectfully submitted

Fisherman Scott Bussen

Address 2793 GLENRIDGE CIRCLE, METUIT ISLAND, FL 32953

Fisherman Permit # 20 577501 (VESSEL No)

Area fished EAST COAST

Annual gulf landing 0