DECISION DOCUMENT

for AMENDMENT 20 to the joint Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (zones and boundaries)







Joint Committee Meeting St Simons, GA March 2013

Actions in Amendment 20

- 1. Modify Subzones and Allocation of Gulf Migratory Group Eastern Zone King Mackerel.
- 2. Modify the Commercial Hook-and-Line Trip Limits for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel
- 3. Change the Fishing Season for Gulf Group King Mackerel for the Eastern and Western Zone
- 4. Establish transit provisions for travel through areas that are closed to king mackerel fishing
- 5. Establish State Quotas for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel for North Carolina
- 6. Modify the Framework Procedure

Expected Schedule

March 2013- Joint meeting with Gulf and South Atlantic Committees

April/May 2013- Review by Advisory Panels and SSCs

June 2013- Gulf Council and South Atlantic Council approve for public hearings

July/August 2013- Public hearings

August 2013- Gulf Council final approval

September 2013- South Atlantic Council final approval

Spring 2014- Implementation

The current management objectives in the joint mackerel FMP as amended are:

- 1. The primary objective of this FMP is to stabilize yield at MSY, allow recovery of overfished populations, and maintain population levels sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment.
- 2. to provide a flexible management system for the resource which minimizes regulatory delay while retaining substantial Council and public input in management decisions and which can rapidly adapt to changes in resource abundance, new scientific information, and changes in fishing patterns among user groups or by areas.
- 3. to provide necessary information for effective management and establish a mandatory reporting system for monitoring catch.
- 4. to minimize gear and user group conflicts.
- 5. to distribute the TAC of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel between recreational and commercial user groups based on the catches that occurred during the early to mid-1970s, which is prior to the development of the deep water run-around gillnet fishery and when the resource was not overfished.
- 6. to minimize waste and bycatch in the fishery.
- 7. to provide appropriate management to address specific migratory groups of king mackerel.

Action 1. Modify Subzones and Allocation of Gulf Migratory Group Eastern Zone King Mackerel.

Current allocations for Gulf Group Eastern Zone:

Gulf/Eastern/Northern: 197,064 lbs Gulf/Eastern/Southern: 1,215,228 lbs (50/50 gillnet and hook and line) Gulf/Eastern/FL East Coast: 1,215,228 lbs

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain the existing Northern and Southern Subzones and retain the existing allocations for these areas.

Alternative 2: Eliminate the current Northern and Southern Subzones and add the assigned allocation to the combined eastern zone.

Alternative 3: Modify the Florida west coast subzones and reallocate quota

Option a: Retain the subzones but modify the boundary between the Northern and Southern Subzones to the Dixie/Levy County line and set allocation based on:

Suboption i. Reallocating x pounds from the Southern Subzone hook-and-line fishery to the Central Subzone.

Suboption ii. Reallocating 2% from the recreational sector allocation to the Central Subzone based on a temporary reallocation for the next 5 years. Monitor recreational catches annually and revert the 2% allocation back to the recreational sector if the recreational catch reaches 75%, 85%, or 90% of the recreational ACL.

Option b: Create a Central Subzone from the Collier/Lee County line to the Dixie/Levy County line with an allocation based on:

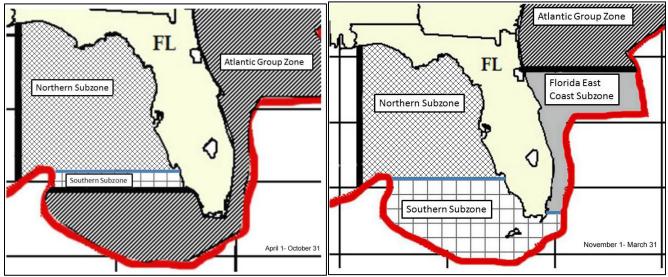
Suboption i. Reallocating x pounds from the Southern Subzone hook-and-line fishery to the Central Subzone.

Suboption ii. Reallocating 2% from the recreational sector allocation to the Central Subzone based on a temporary reallocation for the next 5 years. Monitor recreational catches annually and revert the 2% allocation back to the recreational sector if the recreational catch reaches 75%, 85%, or 90% of the recreational ACL.

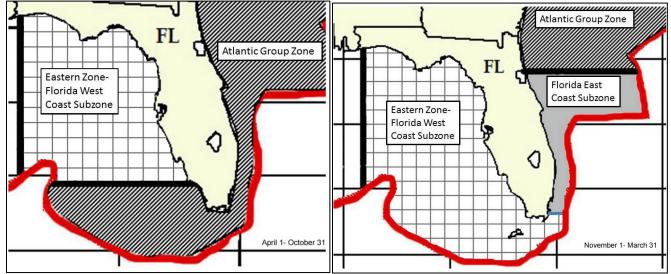
Option c: Retain the subzones but increase the allocation to the Northern Subzone based on: **Suboption i**. Reallocating x pounds from the Southern Subzone hook-and-line fishery to the Northern Subzone.

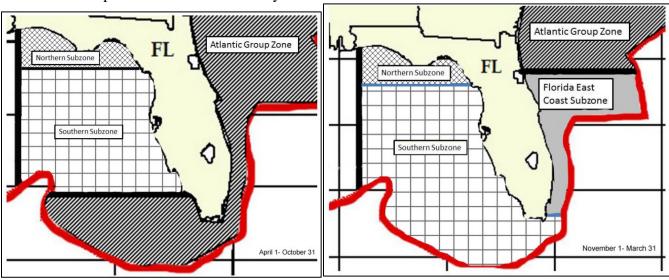
Suboption ii. Reallocating 2% from the recreational sector allocation to the Northern Subzone based on a temporary reallocation for the next 5 years. Monitor recreational catches annually and revert the 2% allocation back to the recreational sector if the recreational catch reaches 75%, 85%, or 90% of the recreational ACL.

Alternative 1 (No Action)



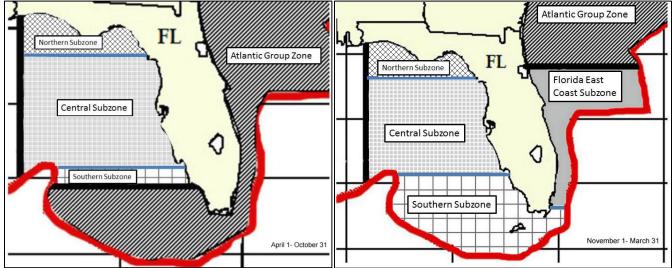
Alternative 2. Eliminate the Northern and Southern Subzones





Alternative 3. Option a. Move the boundary between the Northern and Southern Subzones.

Alternative 3. Option b. Create a Central Subzone



Alternative 3. Option c. Same subzones (see Alternative 1.)

Table 1. Gulf of Mexico king mackerel landings for the Northern Subzone. Landings (pounds whole weight) and percent of total landings were calculated for two different areas by county of reported landing: Escambia to Dixie Counties and Levy to Lee Counties for the most recent fishing seasons.

| Fishing | Escamb Dixi | | Levy t | o Lee | Total | Trip Limit Reduction | Fishery Closure |
|-----------|----------------|------|--------|-------|---------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| year | Total | % | Total | % | pounds | Date | Date |
| 2004/2005 | 124,419 | 86.0 | 20,243 | 14.0 | 144,662 | None | None |
| 2005/2006 | 58,478 | 45.8 | 69,244 | 54.2 | 127,722 | None | None |
| 2006/2007 | 165,756 | 75.9 | 52,542 | 24.1 | 218,298 | 27-Nov-06 | None |
| 2007/2008 | 189,031 | 74.5 | 64,752 | 25.5 | 253,783 | 27-Dec-07 | None |
| 2008/2009 | 162,149 | 77.9 | 46,036 | 22.1 | 208,185 | None | None |
| 2009/2010 | 302,708 | 94.6 | 17,261 | 5.4 | 319,969 | None | 24-Oct-09 |
| 2010/2011 | 212,450 | 94.0 | 13,466 | 6.0 | 225,916 | 26-Oct-10 | 4-Apr-11 |

Source: Accumulated Landings System datafile (7/12/2012)

Table 2. Gulf of Mexico king mackerel landings for the Northern Subzone. Landings (pounds whole weight) and percent of total landings were calculated for two different areas by reported area fished: Escambia to Levy Counties (areas 70-109) and Citrus to northern Collier Counties (areas 40-69) for the most recent fishing seasons.

| | Areas 70 Escamb | | Areas 40-60** Citrus to N. | | | Trip Limit | Fishery |
|-----------|--------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Fishing | Levy | 7 | Collier | | Total | Reduction | Closure |
| year | Total | % | Total | % | pounds | Date | Date |
| 2004/2005 | 118,858 | 86.0 | 19,339 | 14.0 | 138,197 | None | None |
| 2005/2006 | 65,830 | 49.0 | 68,412 | 51.0 | 134,242 | None | None |
| 2006/2007 | 204,079 | 89.9 | 22,986 | 10.1 | 227,065 | 27-Nov-06 | None |
| 2007/2008 | 231,976 | 75.8 | 73,931 | 24.2 | 305,907 | 27-Dec-07 | None |
| 2008/2009 | 195,353 | 82.0 | 42,844 | 18.0 | 238,197 | None | None |
| 2009/2010 | 360,005 | 86.0 | 58,428 | 14.0 | 418,433 | None | 24-Oct-09 |
| 2010/2011 | 247,988 | 92.8 | 19,311 | 7.2 | 267,299 | 26-Oct-10 | 4-Apr-11 |

* Area 70 includes Levy County and area 109 includes the eastern coast of Alabama **Area 40 extends south into northern Collier County

- 1) Clarify the committees' intent to move forward with this action.
- 2) Choose pounds for Suboption i.
- 3) Choose percentage for Suboption ii.
- 4) Do the committees want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 5) Do the committees want to select a Preferred Alternative/option/suboption?

Action 2. Modify the Commercial Hook-and-Line Trip Limits for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain the existing commercial hook-and-line trip limits.

- a. Western Zone at 3,000 pounds
- b. Eastern Zone Northern Subzone at 1,250 pounds until 75% of the quota is taken, at which time the trip limit decreases to 500 pounds
- c. Eastern Zone Southern Subzone at 1,250 pounds until 75% of the quota is taken, at which time the trip limit decreases to 500 pounds

Alternative 2: Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 1,500 pounds with no reduction. Option a: For the Western zone Option b: For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone Option c: For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone

Alternative 3: Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 2,000 pounds with no reduction. Option a: For the Western zone Option b: For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone Option c: For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone

Alternative 4: Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 2,500 pounds with no reduction. Option a: For the Western zone Option b: For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone Option c: For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone

Alternative 5: Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 3,000 pounds with no reduction. Option a: For the Western zone Option b: For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone Option c: For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone

- 1) Do the committees want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 2) Do the committees want to select a Preferred Alternative/option?

Action 3. Change the Fishing Season for Gulf Group King Mackerel for the Eastern and Western Zone.

Alternative 1: No Action - the fishing season remains July 1 – June 30.

Alternative 2: Change the fishing season for Gulf group king mackerel season to September 1 – August 31.

Option a: For the Western Zone Option b: For the Eastern Zone

Alternative 3: Change the fishing season for Gulf group king mackerel season to October 1 – September 30.

Option a: For the Western Zone Option b: For the Eastern Zone

Alternative 4: Change the fishing season for Gulf group king mackerel season to November 1 – October 31.

Option a: For the Western Zone Option b: For the Eastern Zone

Committee Actions

1) Do the committees want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?

2) Do the committees want to select a Preferred Alternative/option?

Action 4. Establish Transit Provisions for Travel Through Areas That are Closed to King Mackerel Fishing

Alternative 1: No Action – do not establish a transit provision.

Alternative 2: Establish a provision allowing transit through the Florida west coast Northern and Southern Subzones when those zones are closed for vessels possessing Atlantic group king mackerel that were legally harvested in the EEZ off Monroe County.

Alternative 3: Establish a provision allowing transit through Collier County when the Florida west coast Southern Subzone is closed for vessels possessing Atlantic group king mackerel that were legally harvested in the EEZ off Monroe County.

South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 4: Establish a provision allowing transit through Collier County when the Florida west coast Southern Subzone is closed for vessels possessing Atlantic group king mackerel that were legally harvested in the EEZ off Monroe County only from April 1 – June 30

IPT SUGGESTION Alternative 5: Establish a provision allowing transit through areas closed to king mackerel fishing for vessels possessing king mackerel that were legally harvested in the EEZ off areas open to king mackerel fishing.

IPT SUGGESTION Alternative 6: Establish a provision allowing transit through the Florida west coast Northern Subzone when that area is closed for vessels possessing king mackerel that were legally harvested in the EEZ off Collier County.

Note: For Alternatives 2-4, the following conditions apply: Only from April 1 – June 30 For Alternatives 2-6, the following conditions apply: Only for vessels in direct and continuous transit and with gear stowed Only for fishermen holding a federal commercial king mackerel permit

| Most Recent Committee Actions | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Gulf: | |
| None | |
| | |
| South Atlantic: | |

In September 2012, the South Atlantic added Alternative 4 and selected it as Preferred.

IPT Recommendations

- Consider removing Alternative 3 because it is very similar to Alternative 4.
- Consider expanding the action to include other areas with the suggested potential new alternatives.

- 1) Does the Gulf Committee want to add Alternative 4 [South Atlantic added this in September]?
- 2) Do the committees approve the language in the title of the action?
- 3) Do the committees want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 4) Do the committees want to select/change the Preferred Alternative?

Action 5. Establish State Quotas for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel for North Carolina

Alternative 1: No Action - retain one commercial quota each for Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel

Alternative 2: Establish a separate commercial quota of Atlantic group king mackerel for North Carolina based on:

- **Option a-** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2006 through 2011.
- **Option b-** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2006 through 2011 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2006-2011.
- Option c- the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2001 through 2011.
- **Option d** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2001 through 2011 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2001-2011.
- **Option e-** 50% based on the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2001-2011 and 50% based on the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2006-2011 (Boyles Law)
- **Possible Option f** the average of the proportion of quota in North Carolina from 2006 through 2011.
- **Possible Option g-** the average of the proportion of quota in North Carolina from 2006 through 2011 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2006-2011.
- **Possible Option h** the average of the proportion of quota in North Carolina from 2001 through 2011.
- **Possible Option i** the average of the proportion of quota in North Carolina from 2001 through 2011 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2001-2011.

Alternative 3: Establish a separate commercial quota of Atlantic group Spanish mackerel for North Carolina based on:

- **Option a-** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2006 through 2011.
- **Option b-** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2006 through 2011 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2006-2011.
- Option c- the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2001 through 2011.
- **Option d** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2001 through 2011 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2001-2011.
- **Option e-** 50% based on the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2001-2011 and 50% based on the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2006-2011 (Boyles Law).
- **Possible Option f** the average of the proportion of quota in North Carolina from 2006 through 2011.

- **Possible Option g-** the average of the proportion of quota in North Carolina from 2006 through 2011 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2006-2011.
- **Possible Option h** the average of the proportion of quota in North Carolina from 2001 through 2011.
- **Possible Option i** the average of the proportion of quota in North Carolina from 2001 through 2011 plus the proportion of the unused quota equal to North Carolina's percentage of landings 2001-2011.

| | North Carolina KM Allocation | General Atlantic Group KM Allocation |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Option A | 24.8% | 75.2% |
| Option B | 29.8% | 70.2% |
| Option C | 33.2% | 66.8% |
| Option D | 42.9% | 57.1% |
| Option E | 29.0% | 71.0% |
| Option F (p) | 19.2% | 80.8% |
| Option G (p) | 23.1% | 76.9% |
| Option H (p) | 22.5% | 77.5% |
| Option I (p) | 29.1% | 70.9% |

Table 3. Expected Allocations for King Mackerel under each option.

Table 4. Expected Allocations for Spanish Mackerel under each option.

| - | North Carolina SM Allocation | General Atlantic Group SM Allocation |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Option A | 18.7% | 81.3% |
| Option B | 13.6% | 86.4% |
| Option C | 16.7% | 83.3% |
| Option D | 18.5% | 81.5% |
| Option E | 17.7% | 82.3% |
| Option F (p) | 20.2% | 79.8% |
| Option G (p) | 15.1% | 84.9% |
| Option H (p) | 16.7% | 83.3% |
| Option I (p) | 18.5% | 81.5% |

Comparison of Options under Alternative 2 (King Mackerel)

Table 5.

| Table 5. | | orth Carolina | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | KM Commercial Allocation | | |
| | % of | Lbs under Current | |
| | Quota | ACL | |
| Option A NC proportion of total Landings 2007-2012 | 24.8% | 920,080 | |
| Option B Option A + Proportion of unused quota 07-12 | 29.8% | 1,106,033 | |
| Option C NC proportion of total landings 2003-2012 | 33.2% | 1,231,720 | |
| Option D Option A + Proportion of unused quota 03-12 | 42.9% | 1,592,080 | |
| Option E Boyles Law (A+C)/2 | 29.0% | 1,075,900 | |
| Possible Option F NC proportion of total quota 2007-2012 | 19.2% | 712,320 | |
| Possible Option G Option F + Proportion of unused quota 07-12 | 23.1% | 856,284 | |
| Possible Option H NC proportion of total quota 2003-2012 | 22.5% | 834,750 | |
| Possible Option I Option H + Proportion of unused quota 03-12 | 29.1% | 1,078,970 | |

| Year | North Carolina KM Landings (Lbs) |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2002 - 2003 | 776,905 |
| 2003 - 2004 | 591,923 |
| 2004 - 2005 | 1,044,569 |
| 2005 - 2006 | 1,149,754 |
| 2006 - 2007 | 1,203,353 |
| 2007 - 2008 | 1,104,350 |
| 2008 - 2009 | 953,280 |
| 2009 - 2010 | 785,842 |
| 2010 - 2011 | 293,955 |
| 2011 - 2012 | 433,095 |

Table 6.

| | SC/GA/FL | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | KM Commercial Allocation | | |
| | % of | Lbs under Current | |
| | Quota | ACL | |
| Option A NC proportion of total Landings 2007-2012 | 75.2% | 2,789,920 | |
| Option B Option A + Proportion of unused quota 07-12 | 70.2% | 2,603,967 | |
| Option C NC proportion of total landings 2003-2012 | 66.8% | 2,478,280 | |
| Option D Option A + Proportion of unused quota 03-12 | 57.1% | 2,117,920 | |
| Option E Boyles Law (A+C)/2 | 71.0% | 2,634,100 | |
| Possible Option F NC proportion of total quota 2007-2012 | 80.8% | 2,997,680 | |
| Possible Option G Option F + Proportion of unused quota 07-12 | 76.9% | 2,853,716 | |
| Possible Option H NC proportion of total quota 2003-2012 | 77.5% | 2,875,250 | |
| Possible Option I Option H + Proportion of unused quota 03-12 | 70.9% | 2,631,030 | |

| Year | SC/GA/FL KM Landings (Lbs) |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 2002 - 2003 | 960,412 |
| 2003 - 2004 | 1,131,807 |
| 2004 - 2005 | 1,687,341 |
| 2005 - 2006 | 1,094,525 |
| 2006 - 2007 | 1,790,148 |
| 2007 - 2008 | 1,554,957 |
| 2008 - 2009 | 2,154,260 |
| 2009 - 2010 | 2,778,048 |
| 2010 - 2011 | 3,111,369 |
| 2011 - 2012 | 1,622,665 |

Table 7.

| | North Carolina SM Commercial Allocation | | |
|--|--|-------------------|--|
| | % of | Lbs under Current | |
| | Quota | ACL | |
| | Quota | ACL | |
| Option A NC proportion of total Landings 2007-2012 | 18.7% | 677,323 | |
| Option B Option A + Proportion of unused quota 07-12 | 13.6% | 493,400 | |
| Option C NC proportion of total landings 2003-2012 | 16.7% | 604,880 | |
| Option D Option A + Proportion of unused quota 03-12 | 18.5% | 670,073 | |
| Option E Boyles Law (A+C)/2 | 17.7% | 641,101 | |
| Possible Option F NC proportion of total quota 2007-2012 | 20.2% | 729,464 | |
| Possible Option G Option F + Proportion of unused quota 07-12 | 15.1% | 545,542 | |
| Possible Option H NC proportion of total quota 2003-2012 | 16.7% | 604,343 | |
| Possible Option I Option H + Proportion of unused quota 03-12 | 18.5% | 669,536 | |

| Year | North Carolina SM Landings (Lbs) |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2002 - 2003 | 698,827 |
| 2003 - 2004 | 456,968 |
| 2004 - 2005 | |
| 2005 - 2006 | |
| 2006 - 2007 | |
| 2007 - 2008 | 487,209 |
| 2008 - 2009 | |
| 2009 - 2010 | 961,865 |
| 2010 - 2011 | 911,897 |
| 2011 - 2012 | 871,275 |

Table 8.

| Table 8. | | SC/GA/FL | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | SM Commercial Allocation | | |
| | % of | Lbs under Current | |
| | Quota | ACL | |
| Option A NC proportion of total Landings 2007-2012 | 81.3% | 2,942,677 | |
| Option B Option A + Proportion of unused quota 07-12 | 86.4% | 3,126,600 | |
| Option C NC proportion of total landings 2003-2012 | 83.3% | 3,015,120 | |
| Option D Option A + Proportion of unused quota 03-12 | 81.5% | 2,949,927 | |
| Option E Boyles Law (A+C)/2 | 82.3% | 2,978,899 | |
| Possible Option F NC proportion of total quota 2007-2012 | 79.8% | 2,890,536 | |
| Possible Option G Option F + Proportion of unused quota 07-12 | 84.9% | 3,074,458 | |
| Possible Option H NC proportion of total quota 2003-2012 | 83.3% | 3,015,657 | |
| Possible Option I Option H + Proportion of unused quota 03-12 | 81.5% | 2,950,464 | |

| Year | SC/GA/FL SM Landings (Lbs) |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 2002 - 2003 | 2,353,648 |
| 2003 - 2004 | 3,151,032 |
| 2004 - 2005 | |
| 2005 - 2006 | |
| 2006 - 2007 | |
| 2007 - 2008 | 2,520,799 |
| 2008 - 2009 | |
| 2009 - 2010 | 3,073,962 |
| 2010 - 2011 | 3,600,523 |
| 2011 - 2012 | 3,094,138 |

- 1) Do the committees want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 2) Do the committees want to select the Preferred Alternative(s)/option(s)?

Action 6. Modify the Framework Procedure.

Alternative 1: No Action – Do not modify the framework procedure adopted through Amendment 18.

Gulf Preferred Alternative 2: Modify the framework procedure to include changes to ABCs, ABC/ACL control rules and, accountability measures (AMs) under the standard documentation process for open framework actions. Accountability measures that could be changed would include: Inseason AMs

- Closures and closure procedures
- Trip limit reductions or increases
- Designation of an IFQ program as the AM for species in the IFQ program
- Implementation of gear restrictions

Postseason AMs

- Adjustment of season length
- Implementation of a closed season
- Adjustment or implementation of bag, trip, or possession limit
- Reduction of the ACL to account for the previous year overage
- Revoking a scheduled increase in the ACL if the ACL was exceeded in the previous year
- Implementation of gear restrictions
- Reporting and monitoring requirements

Alternative 3: Modify the framework procedure to include changes to accountability measures (AMs) under the standard documentation process for open framework actions. Accountability measures that could be changed would include:

Inseason AMs

- Closure procedures
- Trip limit reductions or increases

Postseason AMs

- Adjustment of season length
- Adjustment of bag, trip, or possession limit

Gulf Preferred Alternative 4: Modify the framework procedure to include designation of responsibility to each Council for setting regulations for the migratory groups of each species. This pertains to:

Responsibilities of Each Council:

- 1. Recommendations with respect to the Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia will be the responsibility of the South Atlantic Council, and those for the Gulf migratory groups of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia will be the responsibility of the Gulf Council, with the following exceptions:
 - a. The South Atlantic Council will have responsibility to set vessel trip limits, closed seasons or areas, or gear restrictions for (1) the Eastern Zone East Coast Subzone for Gulf migratory group king mackerel and (2) the east coast of Florida including the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys for Gulf migratory group cobia.
- 2. For stocks where a stock assessment indicates a different boundary between the Gulf and

Atlantic migratory groups than the management boundary, a portion of the ACL for one migratory group may be apportioned to the appropriate zone, but management measures for that zone will be the responsibility of the Council within whose management area that zone is located.

3. Both councils must concur on recommendations that affect both migratory groups.

Gulf Preferred Alternative 5. Make editorial changes to the framework procedure to reflect changes to the Council advisory committees and panels.

Note: Alternatives 4 and 5 could be selected in addition to Alternative 2 or 3.

- 1) Do the committees want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 2) Do the committees want to select or change the Preferred Alternatives?

This action is suggested by the IPT to include in Amendment 20. It is currently not in the amendment.

Possible Action 7. Modify the Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Annual Catch Targets (ACTs).

Alternative 1: No Action. The entire Gulf migratory group cobia ACL applies to the Gulf Council jurisdictional area and the entire South Atlantic migratory group cobia ACL applies to the South Atlantic jurisdictional area. The ACLs and ACTs that were established by Amendment 18 are as follows:

| Gulf | South Atlantic |
|---------------------------|---|
| ACL = 1,460,000 lbs | ACL = ABC = OY = 1,571,399 lb |
| | Commercial ACL (8% ACL) = 125,712 lb |
| | Recreational ACL (92% ACL) = $1,445,687$ lb |
| | |
| Stock ACT = 1,310,000 lbs | Recreational ACT = 1,184,688 lb |
| | |

Alternative 2: The ACL = ABC as determined by the SSC for each migratory group. The entire Gulf migratory group cobia ACL applies to the Gulf Council jurisdictional area and the entire South Atlantic migratory group cobia ACL applies to the South Atlantic jurisdictional area. The ACLs and ACTs would be as follows:

| Gulf | South Atlantic |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ACL = x lbs | ACL = ABC = OY = x lb Commercial ACL (8% ACL) = x lb |
| | Recreational ACL (92% ACL) = $x lb$ |
| Stock ACT = 90%ACL = x lbs | Recreational ACT = ACL [(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater] = x lb |

Alternative 3: The ACL = ABC for each migratory group. The ACL for each jurisdictional area would be determined as follows:

• The Gulf migratory group cobia ACL (based on the ABC as determined by the SSC) would be divided into a Gulf jurisdictional ACL and an east coast of Florida ACL based on the options below.

Option a: Use 2002-2011 landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC. Option b: Use 2007-2011 landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC. Option c: Use Boyles law (which years?) 50% of landings from 2002-2011 + 50% of landings from 2009-2011?

Option based on yellowtail: 50% of average landings from 1993-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 (75% SA and 25% Gulf)

Option based on mutton: 50% of average landings from 1990-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 (82% SA and 18% Gulf)

• The South Atlantic jurisdictional area ACL would be the ACL for the Atlantic migratory group cobia (based on the ABC as determined by the SSC) plus the portion of the Gulf migratory group ACL for the east coast of Florida.

The ACLs and ACTs would be as follows:

| Gulf | South Atlantic |
|----------------------------|--|
| ACL = x lbs | ACL = ABC = OY = x lb |
| | Commercial ACL (8% ACL) = $x lb$ |
| | Recreational ACL (92% ACL) = $x lb$ |
| | |
| Stock $ACT = 90\% ACL = x$ | Recreational ACT = ACL $[(1-PSE) \text{ or } 0.5,$ |
| lbs | whichever is greater] = $x lb$ |
| | |

Summary

- Cobia actions were removed from Amendment 20 in order to not delay the amendment by waiting for the results of SEDAR 28 when expected final approval was December 2012, but the amendment was pushed back.
- Results of SEDAR 28 will be presented to the Gulf Council in April and the South Atlantic Council in June following SSC review.
- SEDAR 28 considered the biological boundary between the migratory groups to be the Georgia/Florida line, while the current management boundary is the Council boundary.
- If this action is added to the amendment now, the SSC recommendations can be added in before you approve for public hearing in June.

- 1) Do the committees want to add the action?
- 2) Do the committees want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 3) Choose dates for Boyle's Law, Alternative 3 Option c.