

**MACKEREL COMMITTEE DECISION DOCUMENT  
AND MOTIONS  
JANUARY 7, 2011**

**I. MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA**

**2.1 ACTION 1: Modifications to the Fishery Management Unit**

**Alternative 1:** No Action – Retain the following species in the Fishery Management Plan for data collection purposes only, but do not add them to the Fishery Management Unit: cero, little tunny, dolphin (Gulf only), and bluefish (Gulf only).

**Alternative 2:** Add the following species to the Fishery Management Unit Set and set annual catch limits and accountability measures:

Option a: Cero

    Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region

    Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region

**Option b: Little tunny**

    Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region

**Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region**

Option c: Dolphin (In the Gulf of Mexico region only)

Option d: Bluefish (In the Gulf of Mexico region only)

**Preferred Alternative 3 (Gulf):** Remove the following species from the Fishery Management Plan:

**Option a: Cero**

    Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region

    Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region

Option b: Little tunny

    Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region

    Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region

**Option c: Dolphin**

    Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region

    Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region

Option d: Bluefish (In the Gulf of Mexico region only)

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**The following alternative and approaches were provided to the GMFMC for their February 2011 meeting:**

**SAFMC Preferred (12/10) Alternative 5. Include and analyze alternatives to retain Little Tunny in the management unit.** SAFMC staff has developed the following approaches that are necessary to retain Little Tunny based on guidance from Council:

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**Approach #1.** If the Gulf Council agrees to retain Little Tunny, then the actions/alternatives will be included as joint actions to be approved by both Councils. The Councils could also agree to a management boundary and manage as two separate migratory groups as is being proposed for Cobia. This would require both Councils to establish ACLs/AMs/etc. for their respective management groups.

**Approach #2.** If the Gulf Council does not agree to retain little Tunny, then the one joint action would be to create a separate Atlantic Migratory Group at the Council boundary similar to what is being proposed by the South Atlantic Council for Cobia. The South Atlantic Council would then develop ACLs/AMs/etc. for Atlantic Migratory Group Little Tunny.

**Management Boundary:**

**Alternative 1.** No Action. Maintain one group of Little Tunny.

**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.

**Alternative 4.** Establish an Atlantic Migratory Group of Little Tunny including the SAFMC and MAFMC areas of jurisdiction.

**2.2 ACTION 2: Modify the Framework Procedure**

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

**Alternative 2.** Update the framework procedure to incorporate the SEDAR process and adjustments to ACLs (Appendix A).

**Alternative 3.** Revise the framework procedure to incorporate the SEDAR process and adjustments to ACLs, and expand the procedure to allow adjustments of greater range of management measures under specific procedural guidelines.

**GMFMC Preferred Option 1: Adopt the base Framework Procedure (Appendix B)**

**SAFMC Preferred Option 2: Adopt the more broad Framework Procedure (Appendix C)**

**Option 3: Adopt the more narrow Framework Procedure (Appendix D)**

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

For Action 3 the Gulf Council agreed with the SAFMC’s Preferred, but noted that they would consider a Dade/Monroe County switch if the SAFMC felt that was more appropriate.

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

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

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

For Action 4 and the other actions for Gulf group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia, the Gulf Council voted to add ACL alternatives based on the ABC Control Rule in our Generic ACL amendment. Gulf Council staff will add these actions/information once they receive recommendations from the Gulf SSC on those ABCs which will be in March.

The Gulf Council approved all of the preferred alternatives for Actions 14-21 pertaining to the Atlantic as previously approved by the SAFMC.

Note: Gulf Council should have also approved Action 13 which we will get them to do at their April 2011 meeting.

## 2.13 ACTION 13: Specify MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL (TAC), and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

### 2.13.3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

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

**SAFMC Preferred Alternative 2.** Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish ABC as 10.46 million pounds (MP).

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

Note: OFL=12.8359

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

**Alternative 4a.** ABC = 65%OFL (8.3433 million pounds)

**Alternative 4b.** ABC = 75%OFL (9.6269 million pounds)

**Alternative 4c.** ABC = 85%OFL (10.9105 million pounds)

**Table 2.13.3.4. Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel ABC recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and current allocations.**

Year	ABC	Recreational (62.9%)	Commercial (37.1%)
2011	10.95	6.89	4.06
2012	10.36	6.52	3.84
2013	10.06	6.33	3.73
Average	10.46	6.58	3.88

Under **Alternative 3**  $ABC = OFL = 12.8359$  million pounds which corresponds to the yield at  $F_{30\%SPR}$ , the accepted MSY proxy from the last stock assessment.

#### 2.13.4 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

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

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

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

**Alternative 4.**  $ACL = OY = ABC = 10.95$  million pounds which is the highest value within the 2011-2013 recommendations (10.06 – 10.95 million pounds).

**Alternative 5.**  $ACL = OY = X\%$  of ABC = \_\_\_\_\_ million pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 5a.**  $ACL = 65\%ABC$ .

Note: If  $ABC=10.46$ ,  $ACL = 6.799$ .

**Sub-Alternative 5b.**  $ACL = 75\%ABC$ .

Note: If  $ABC=10.46$ ,  $ACL = 7.845$ .

**Sub-Alternative 5c.**  $ACL = 85\%ABC$ .

Note: If  $ABC=10.46$ ,  $ACL = 8.891$ .

**Sub-Alternative 5d.**  $ACL = 80\%ABC$ .

Note: If  $ABC=10.46$ ,  $ACL = 8.368$ .

**Sub-Alternative 5e.**  $ACL = 90\%ABC$ .

Note: If  $ABC=10.46$ ,  $ACL = 9.414$ .

#### 2.13.5 Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

##### Action 2.13.5a. Commercial Sector ACT

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

**Alternative 2.** The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

**Alternative 3.** The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Table 2.13.5.1. The commercial sector ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Species	Preferred Commercial ACL	Commercial Sector ACT		
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=ACL	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=90%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 4; ACT=80%(ACL)
Atlantic migratory group king mackerel	3.88	3.88	3.49	3.10

**Action 2.13.5b. 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.

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

Table 12.13.5.2. Proportional Standard Errors (PSEs) for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel from numbers estimates (A+B1) for all modes.

Source: Obtained from <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov> on May 12, 2010.

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	3 year average (2007-09)	5 year average (2005-09)
Atlantic migratory group king mackerel	5.6	5.8	6.1	5.6	5.8	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.1

Table 2.13.5.3. The recreational ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Species	Preferred Private Recreational Sector ACL	Recreational Sector ACT		
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=85%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=75%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 4; ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]
Atlantic migratory group king mackerel	6.58	5.59	4.94	6.18

**2.14 ACTION 14: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel**

**The Councils may specify multiple preferred from among the following:**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** 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.

Consider: (1) add “met or” before projected to be met and (2) change 2011 to 2011/12 fishing year, 2012 to 2012/13 fishing year, and 2013 to 2013/2014 fishing year.

**Alternative 2.** The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is projected to be 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.

**Sub-Alternative a.** 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.

**Sub-Alternative b (SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred).** Reduce the bag limit to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

**Alternative 3.** Commercial payback of any overage.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 3a.** Payback regardless of stock status.

**Sub-Alternative 3b.** Payback only if overfished.

**Alternative 4.** Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 4a.** Payback regardless of stock status.

**Sub-Alternative 4b.** Payback only if overfished.

**2.15 ACTION 15: Management Measures for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel**  
**SAFMC and GMFMC agree:** No changes to existing management measures are being proposed because the ACLs do not appear likely to be exceeded.

**2.16. ACTION 16: Specify MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL (TAC), and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel**

#### **2.16.2 Overfishing Level (OFL) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel**

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 OFL is unknown.**

Council could in the interim set  $OFL = \text{mean of 10 years landings} + (2 * \text{Standard Deviation})$  (OFL=6.14 MP) based on the Gulf Council's ABC Control Rule. The SAFMC's SSC is meeting in April and they can review the Council's interim OFL.

#### **2.16.3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel**

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

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 2.** Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish ABC as 4.91 5.29 million pounds (MP).

**Alternative 2.** Establish ABC based on the SSC's recommendation.

Table 2.16.3.1. Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel ABC recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and current allocations.

Year	ABC	Recreational (45%)	Commercial (55%)	Source
2011	4.91	2.21	2.70	SSC
2011	5.29	2.38	2.91	SSC & Updated Landings

### 2.16.4 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

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

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 2.** ACL = OY = ABC = 5.29 million pounds which is the ABC recommended by the SSC.

**Alternative 3.** ACL = OY = X% of ABC = \_\_\_\_\_ million pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 3a.** ACL = 75%ABC = 3.97 million pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 3b.** ACL = 85%ABC = 4.50 million pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 3c.** ACL = 95%ABC = 5.03 million pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 3d.** ACL = 80%ABC = 4.23 million pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 3e.** ACL = 90%ABC = 4.76 million pounds.

### 2.16.5 Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

#### Action 2.16.5a Commercial Sector ACT

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 1.** Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

**Alternative 2.** The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

**Alternative 3.** The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.



Table 2.16.5.1. The commercial sector ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Species	Preferred Commercial ACL	Commercial Sector ACT	
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=90%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=80%(ACL)
Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel	2.91	2.62	2.33

**Action 2.16.5b 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.

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

Table 2.16.5.2. Proportional Standard Errors (PSEs) for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel from numbers estimates (A+B1) for all modes.

Source: Obtained from <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov> on May 12, 2010.

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	3 year average (2007-09)	5 year average (2005-09)
Atlantic migratory group king mackerel	7.4	8.7	8.2	8.9	8.1	7.7	8.1	8.0	8.2

Table 2.16.5.3. The recreational ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight. The 5-year average PSE was used.

Species	Preferred Recreational Sector ACL	Recreational Sector ACT		
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=85%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=75%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 4; ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]
Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel	2.38	2.02	1.79	2.19

## 2.17 ACTION 17: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

**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.

Consider: (1) add “met or” before projected to be met and (2) change 2011 to 2011/12 fishing year, 2012 to 2012/13 fishing year, and 2013 to 2013/2014 fishing year.

**Alternative 2.** The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is projected to be 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.

**Sub-Alternative a.** 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.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative b (Preferred).** Reduce the bag limit to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

**Alternative 3.** Commercial payback of any overage.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 3a.** Payback regardless of stock status.

**Sub-Alternative 3b.** Payback only if overfished.

**Alternative 4.** Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 4a.** Payback regardless of stock status.

**Sub-Alternative 4b.** Payback only if overfished.

## **2.18 ACTION 18: Management Measures for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel**

**[Note: More than one alternative may be selected as preferred.]**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Individual recreational bag limit is 15 NY-FL. Bag limit sales are allowed consistent with state regulations. The commercial 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.

**Alternative 32.** Set a maximum bag limit of 60 Spanish mackerel per boat for charter boats.

**Alternative 43.** Set a maximum bag limit of 60 Spanish mackerel per boat for private recreational boats.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 54.** Reduce the individual bag limit from 15 to 10 per person.

Table 2.18.1. Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel percentage reductions by reducing the bag limit from 15 to 10.

Source: ACCSP.

Year	Florida	Georgia	South Carolina	North Carolina	Virginia
2009	0%	0%	13%	17%	0%
2008	14%	0%	0%	17%	36%
2007	20%	0%	0%	19%	0%
2006	6%	0%	0%	16%	0%
2005	27%	53%	0%	15%	0%
Range	0-27%	0-53%	0-13%	15-19%	0-36%
Average	13%	11%	3%	17%	7%

**2.19 ACTION 19: Specify MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL (TAC), Allocations, and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia**

**2.19.2 Overfishing Level (OFL) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia**

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.**”

**The Council used the SSC methodology (median of 10 years of landings) and updated landings data to calculate a new OFL = 1,302,740 pounds.**

The SSC provided the following OFL at their March 3, 2011 meeting: OFL = unknown.

**Council could in the interim set OFL = mean of 10 years landings + (2\*Standard Deviation) (OFL=1.68 MP) based on the Gulf Council’s ABC Control Rule. The SAFMC’s SSC is meeting in April and they can review the Council’s interim OFL.**

### 2.19.3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

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

**Alternative 2.** Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish ABC as xxxx pounds.

Note: During their March 3, 1011 meeting, the SSC developed a new ABC = median of last 10 years and using the updated ACL data set, ABC = 1,026,079 pounds.

**Alternative 3.** Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL (1,302,740 pounds)

**Alternative 4.** Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule and establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

**Alternative 4a.** ABC=65%OFL. (846,781 pounds)

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 4b (Preferred).** ABC=75%OFL (977,055 pounds)

**Alternative 4c.** ABC=85%OFL (1,107,329 pounds)

**Alternative 5.** Establish an ABC equal to the mean plus 1.5 times the standard deviation of the most recent 10 years of landings data (ABC = 1,571,399 pounds).

### 2.19.5 Allocations for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

**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 2006-2008. The allocation would be 8% commercial and 92% recreational. The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 3 (Preferred).** 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% \* average of long catch range (lbs) 2000-2008 + (50% \* average of recent catch trend (lbs) 2006-2008). The allocation would be 8% commercial and 92% recreational. The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Table 2.19.4.1. Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia ABC recommendation from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and proposed allocations.

				Preferred		
		Allocation Alt.2		Allocation Alt.3		Source
Year	ABC	Rec (92%)	Com (8%)	Rec (92%)	Com (8%)	
2011	643,286	591,823	51,463	591,823	51,463	SSC
2011	977,055	898,891	78,164	898,891	78,164	SSC's method & updated landings

### 2.19.5 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

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

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 2.** ACL = OY = ABC = 977,055 pounds based on the SSC recommendation.

Note: During their March 3, 2011 meeting, the SSC developed a new ABC = median of last 10 years and using the updated ACL data set, ABC = 1,026,079 pounds.

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

**Sub-Alternative 3a.** ACL = 65%ABC = 635,086 pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 3b.** ACL = 75%ABC = 732,791 pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 3c.** ACL = 85%ABC = 830,497 pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 3d.** ACL = 80%ABC = 781,644 pounds.

**Sub-Alternative 3e.** ACL = 90%ABC = 879,350 pounds.

### 2.19.6 Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

#### Action 2.19.6a Commercial Sector ACT

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Alternative 1.** Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

**Alternative 2.** The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

**Alternative 3.** The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Table 2.19.6.1. The commercial sector ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Note: This table will be completed once the Council chooses the preferred ACL alternative.

Species	Preferred Commercial ACL	Commercial Sector ACT	
		ACT Alt. 3; ACT=90%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 4; ACT=80%(ACL)
Atlantic migratory group cobia	51,463	46,317	41,170
	78,164	70,348	62,531

**Action 2.19.6b 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.

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

Table 2.19.6.2. Proportional Standard Errors (PSEs) for Atlantic migratory group cobia from numbers estimates (A+B1) for all modes.

Source: Obtained from <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov> on May 12, 2010.

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	3 year average (2007-09)	5 year average (2005-09)
Atlantic migratory group cobia	15.0	20.2	21.4	14.7	15.2	18.9	14.8	16.3	17.0

Table 2.19.6.3. The recreational ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight. Three year average PSE used.

Species	Preferred Recreational Sector ACL	Recreational Sector ACT		
		ACT Alt. 2; ACT=85%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 3; ACT=75%(ACL)	ACT Alt. 4; ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]
Atlantic migratory group cobia	898,891	764,057	674,168	752,372

**2.20 ACTION 20. Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** There is no quota for cobia and there are no AMs in place for cobia.

**Consider:** (1) add "or projected to be met" after "met".

**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.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred 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.** Commercial payback of any overage.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 4a.** Payback regardless of stock status.

**Sub-Alternative 4b.** Payback only if overfished.

**Alternative 5.** Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

**SAFMC and GMFMC Preferred Sub-Alternative 45a.** Payback regardless of stock status.

**Sub-Alternative 45b.** Payback only if overfished.



**2.21 ACTION 21: Management Measures for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia**  
**[Note: More than one alternative may be selected as preferred.]**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Recreational and commercial fishermen are limited to two cobia per person. 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 for recreational and 2 per person for commercial), (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.** Specify a commercial trip limit:

Sub-Alternative 3A. Two cobia per person.

Sub-Alternative 3B. One cobia per person.

**Alternative 3.** Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per person.

**Alternative 4.** Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per boat per day.

**Alternative 5.** Establish a closed season for the recreational fishery.

Table 2.21.1. Summary of percentage reduction in the cobia catch by reducing the bag limit from 2 to 1 per person per day.

Source: ACCSP.

Year	Florida	Georgia	South Carolina	North Carolina	Virginia
2009	8%	100%	37%	0%	0%
2008	0%	22%	42%	0%	0%
2007	10%	0%	0%	0%	10%
2006	11%	100%	0%	10%	0%
2005	0%	100%	0%	56%	0%
Range	0-11%	0-100%	0-42%	0-56%	0-10%
Average	6%	64%	16%	13%	2%

**2.22 ACTION 22 THRU END: LITTLE TUNNY DECISIONS USE SPREADSHEET**

## II. APPROVE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

OPTION 1. DO NOT APPROVE MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS UNTIL AFTER ADDITIONAL MEASURES ARE ANALYZED AND ADDED.

OPTION 2. **APPROVE MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS AND GIVE EDITORIAL LICENSE TO STAFF TO INCORPORATE CHANGES FROM NEW DATA.**

OPTION 3. OTHERS??

## III. PUBLIC HEARING LOCATIONS & DATES

Public hearings will be held from 5-7 pm.

<b>Dates (April 2011)</b>	<b>CMP Am 18 SAFMC</b>	<b>Spiny Lobster Am 10 GMFMC</b>	<b>Spiny Lobster Am 10 SAFMC</b>
4/20	Key West, FL		Key West, FL
4/19	Marathon, FL	Marathon, FL	Marathon, FL
4/18	Cape Canaveral, FL		Cape Canaveral, FL
4/14	Jacksonville, FL		Jacksonville, FL
4/13	Savannah/Pooler, GA		Savannah/Pooler, GA
4/12	Charleston, SC		Charleston, SC
4/11	New Bern, NC		New Bern, NC

#### **IV. TIMING & TASK**

### **MOTION: DIRECT STAFF TO:**

1. MAKE THE NECESSARY REVISIONS TO MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA AND PROVIDE THE REVISED DOCUMENT TO THE GULF COUNCIL FOR USE AT THEIR APRIL 11-14, 2011 MEETING.
2. PREPARE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.
3. PROVIDE THE DOCUMENTS TO THE MACKEREL ADVISORY PANEL FOR THEIR MEETING APRIL 6-7, 2011 IN NORTH CHARLESTON).
4. COORDINATE WITH THE GULF COUNCIL TO CONDUCT THE JOINT MACKEREL COMMITTEE AND JOINT COUNCIL MEETING DURING THE GULF COUNCIL'S JUNE 6-9, 2011 MEETING IN KEY WEST (COMMITTEE JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> FROM 8:30-11 AM; PUBLIC COMMENT JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> AFTERNOON; AND JOINT COUNCIL SESSION JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> FROM 3-4 PM).
5. TARGET FINAL APPROVAL OF MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA FOR JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> DURING THE JOINT COUNCIL SESSION; MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED DURING THE SAFMC'S JUNE 13-17, 2011 MEETING IN KEY WEST.
6. WORK ON AMENDMENT 19 TO HAVE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL TO REVIEW AT JUNE 13-17, 2011 MEETING.
7. PROVIDE MATERIALS FOR THE SAFMC SSC TO REVIEW MACKEREL AMENDMENT 18/EA WITH THE GULF COUNCIL'S CONTROL RULE AT THEIR APRIL 2011 MEETING AND ASK WHETHER IT COULD BE USED AS AN INTERIM APPROACH FOR SPANISH MACKEREL, COBIA AND LITTLE TUNNY UNTIL THE SEDAR STOCK ASSESSMENT IN 2012.