

# **DECISION DOCUMENT**

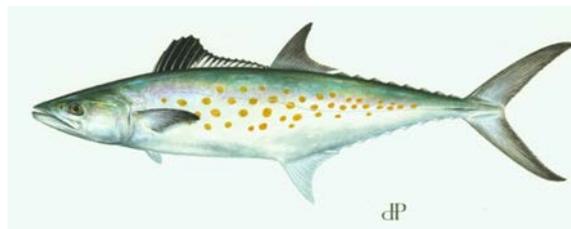
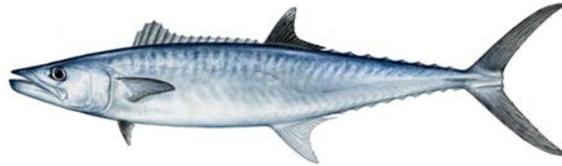
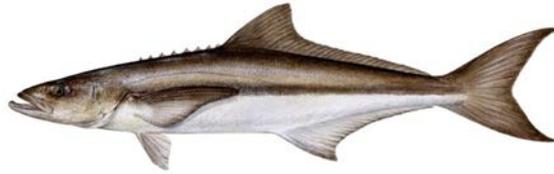
for

## **AMENDMENT 20**

to the joint Fishery Management Plan for  
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources

of the

**Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic**  
**(zones and boundaries)**



**Committee Meeting**

**Stuart, FL**

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

## **Expected Schedule**

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

July/August 2013- Public hearings

September 2013- South Atlantic Council final approval

October 2013- Gulf 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.**

**THIS ACTION WAS REMOVED BY THE GULF COUNCIL IN APRIL 2013.**

**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.

### **Committee Actions**

1) Does the committee want to remove this action?

**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.

- Gulf Preferred** Option a: For the Western zone
- Option b: For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone
- Gulf Preferred** Option c: For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone

<b>Gulf Council Actions</b>
<p>In April 2013 the Gulf Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- removed Alternatives 2 and 3</li><li>- added new Alternative 6:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Alternative 6:</b> Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 1,250 with no reduction.</li><li><b>Option a.</b> For the Western zone.</li><li><b>Option b.</b> For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone</li><li><b>Option c.</b> For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>- selected as the Preferreds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Alternative 5, Option a and Option c</li><li>Alternative 6, Option b</li></ul>

**South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2013)**

At the April 2013 meeting, the Mackerel AP recommended that the South Atlantic should track Gulf decisions for Action 2 because the changes would affect Gulf fishermen.

**South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2012)**

Support a trip limit of 3,000 lbs in the Gulf/Eastern/Southern Subzone (Alternative 5, Option c)

**Gulf Mackerel AP Recommendations (May 2013)**

The Mackerel AP recommended Alternative 1 (No Action) as the Preferred.

**Committee Actions**

- 1) Does the committee want to remove Alternatives 2 and 3?
- 2) Does the committee want to add new Alternative 6?

**Alternative 6:** Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 1,250 with no reduction.

**Option a.** For the Western zone.

**Gulf Preferred Option b.** For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone

**Option c.** For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone.

- 3) Does the committee want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 4) Does the committee want to select Preferred Alternative(s)/option(s)?

The Gulf Preferred Alternatives/options are:

**Alternative 5:** Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 3,000 pounds with no reduction.

**Gulf Preferred** Option a: For the Western zone

**Gulf Preferred** Option c: For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone

**Alternative 6:** Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 1,250 with no reduction.

**Gulf Preferred Option b.** For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone

**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.

**Gulf Preferred 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

**Gulf Council Actions**

In April 2013 the Gulf Council:  
- selected Alternative 2 as the Preferred.  
- removed Alternative 4.

**South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2013)**

At the April 2013 meeting, the Mackerel AP recommended Alternative 1 (No Action) as the Preferred Alternative.

**South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2012)**

At the April 2012 meeting, the Mackerel AP recommended Alternative 1 (No Action) as the Preferred Alternative.

**Gulf Mackerel AP Recommendations (May 2013)**

The Gulf AP recommended Alternative 1 (No Action) for the Western Zone and Eastern Zone Southern Subzone, and Alternative 3, Option B for the Northern Subzone.

**Committee Actions**

1) Does the committee want to remove Alternative 4?

**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

- 2) Does the committee want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 3) Does the committee want to select a Preferred Alternative/option?

**Gulf Preferred 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

## **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.

**Gulf Preferred 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.

**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*

### **Gulf Council Actions**

In April 2013 the Gulf Council:

- removed Alternative 3.
- selected Alternative 5 as the Preferred.

### **South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2013)**

At the April 2013 meeting, the Mackerel AP recommended Alternative 5 as the Preferred Alternative.

### **South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2012)**

The alternatives have been modified since April 2012, but the AP supported a transit provision.

<b>Gulf Mackerel AP Recommendations (May 2013)</b>
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The Gulf AP recommended Alternative 5 but only for vessels with VMS.
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**Committee Actions**

1) Does the committee want to remove Alternative 3?

**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.

3) Does the committee want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?

4) Does the committee want to 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 2007-08 through 2011-12.
- Option b-** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2002-03 through 2011-2012.
- Option c-** 50% based on the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2002-03 through 2011-2012 and 50% based on the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2007-08 through 2011-12 (Boyles Law)
- Option d-** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 1997-98 through 2011-12.

**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 2007-08 through 2011-12.
- Option b-** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2002-03 through 2011-2012.
- Option c-** 50% based on the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2002-03 through 2011-2012 and 50% based on the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2007-08 through 2011-12 (Boyles Law)
- Option d-** the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 1997-98 through 2011-12.

**Alternative 4:** Allow for transfer of quota between the General Atlantic Group king mackerel and Spanish mackerel ACLs and the North Carolina king mackerel and Spanish mackerel ACLs.  
[Example process for transfers below]

**Table 1.** Expected Allocations for King Mackerel under each option.

	<b>North Carolina KM Allocation</b>	<b>General Atlantic Group KM Allocation</b>
<b>Option a</b>	24.8%	75.2%
<b>Option b</b>	33.2%	66.8%
<b>Option c</b>	29%	71%
<b>Option d</b>	37.2%	62.8%

Comparison of Options under Alternative 2 (King Mackerel)

**Table 2.** Percentage and pounds that would be allocated to North Carolina under each option.

	<b>North Carolina KM Commercial Allocation</b>	
	<b>% of Quota</b>	<b>Lbs under Current ACL</b>
<b>Option a</b> NC proportion of total landings 2007/08-2011/12	24.8%	920,080
<b>Option b</b> NC proportion of total landings 2002/03-2011/12	33.2%	1,231,720
<b>Option c</b> Boyles Law (a+b)/2	29.0%	1,075,900
<b>Option d</b> NC proportion of total landings 1997/98-2011/12	37.2%	1,443,360

<b>Year</b>	<b>North Carolina KM Landings (Lbs)</b>
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 3.** Percentage and pounds for the General KM Commercial ACL under each option.

	<b>General KM Commercial Allocation</b>	
	% of Quota	Lbs under Current ACL
<b>Option a</b> NC proportion of total landings 2007/08-2011/12	75.2%	2,789,920
<b>Option b</b> NC proportion of total landings 2002/03-2011/12	66.8%	2,478,280
<b>Option c</b> Boyles Law (a+b)/2	71.0%	2,634,100
<b>Option d</b> NC proportion of total landings 1997/98-2011/12	62.8%	2,436,644

<b>Year</b>	<b>SC/GA/FL KM Landings (Lbs)</b>
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

Comparison of Options under Alternative 3 (Spanish Mackerel)

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

	<b>North Carolina SM Allocation</b>	<b>General Atlantic Group SM Allocation</b>
<b>Option a</b>	18.7%	81.3%
<b>Option b</b>	16.7%	83.3%
<b>Option c</b>	17.7%	82.3%
<b>Option d</b>	18.2%	81.8%

**Table 5.-** Percentage and pounds that would be allocated to North Carolina under each option for SM.

	<b>North Carolina SM Commercial Allocation</b>	
	% of Quota	Lbs under Current/Possible ACL
<b>Option a</b> NC proportion of total Landings 2007/08-2011/12	18.7%	677,323/ 445,958
<b>Option b</b> NC proportion of total landings 2002/03-2011/12	16.7%	604,880/ 398,262
<b>Option c</b> Boyles Law (a+b)/2	17.7%	641,101/ 422,110
<b>Option d</b> NC proportion of total landings 1997/98-2011/12	18.2%	569,660/ 434,034

<b>Year</b>	<b>North Carolina SM Landings (Lbs)</b>
2002 - 2003	698,827
2003 - 2004	456,968
2004 - 2005	455,616
2005 - 2006	445,975
2006 - 2007	471,631
2007 - 2008	487,209
2008 - 2009	415,074
2009 - 2010	961,865
2010 - 2011	911,897
2011 - 2012	871,275

\*Current= 3,130,000

\*Possible (2014 ABC P\*=0.4)= 2,384,800

**Table 6.-** Percentage and pounds for the General SM Commercial Allocation under each option.

	<b>General SM Commercial Allocation</b>	
	% of Quota	Lbs under Current/Possible ACL
<b>Option a</b> NC proportion of total Landings 2007/08-2011/12	81.3%	2,942,677/ 1,938,842
<b>Option b</b> NC proportion of total landings 2002/03-2011/12	83.3%	3,015,120/ 1,986,538
<b>Option c</b> Boyles Law (a+b)/2	82.3%	2,978,899/ 1,962,690
<b>Option d</b> NC proportion of total landings 1997/98-2011/12	81.8%	2,560,340/ 1,950,766

<b>Year</b>	<b>SC/GA/FL SM Landings (Lbs)</b>
2002 - 2003	2,353,648
2003 - 2004	3,151,032
2004 - 2005	2,631,953
2005 - 2006	3,163,591
2006 - 2007	3,155,226
2007 - 2008	2,520,799
2008 - 2009	2,591,088
2009 - 2010	3,073,962
2010 - 2011	3,600,523
2011 - 2012	3,094,138

\*Current= 3,130,000

\*Possible (2014 ABC P\*=0.4)= 2,384,800

## Summer Flounder regulations in gray highlight

### Example Process for Transfer

Quota transfer for commercial king mackerel or Spanish mackerel:

South Carolina, Georgia and Florida as a group may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of its annual quota to the North Carolina quota, and North Carolina may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of its annual quota to the General Atlantic group quota. All states may request approval from the Regional Administrator to combine their quotas or part of their quotas into an overall regional quota. Requests for transfer or combination of commercial quotas for king mackerel or Spanish mackerel must be made by an individual or joint letter (s) signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for each state involved. The letter(s) must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the amount of quota to be transferred or combined.

(2) *Quota transfers and combinations.* Any state implementing a state commercial quota for **summer flounder** may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part or its entire annual quota to one or more states. Two or more states implementing a state commercial quota for **summer flounder** may request approval from the Regional Administrator to combine their quotas, or part of their quotas, into an overall regional quota. Requests for transfer or combination of commercial quotas for **summer flounder** must be made by individual or joint letter(s) signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for each state involved. The letter(s) must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the states involved and the amount of quota to be transferred or combined.

(i) Within 10 working days following the receipt of the letter(s) from the states, the Regional Administrator shall notify the appropriate state officials of the disposition of the request. In evaluating requests to transfer a quota or combine quotas, the Regional Administrator shall consider whether:

(A) The transfer or combination would preclude the overall annual quota from being fully harvested;

(B) The transfer addresses an unforeseen variation or contingency in the fishery; and

(C) The transfer is consistent with the objectives of the FMP and the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

(i) Within 10 working days following the receipt of the letter(s) from the states involved, the Regional Administrator shall notify the appropriate state officials of the disposition of the request. In evaluating requests to transfer a quota or combine quotas, the Regional Administrator shall consider whether:

(A) The transfer or combination would preclude the overall annual quota from being fully harvested;

(B) The transfer addresses an unforeseen variation or contingency in the fishery; and

(C) The transfer is consistent with the objectives of the FMP and the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

(i) The transfer of quota or the combination of quotas will be valid only for the calendar year for which the request was made;

(ii) The transfer of quota or the combination of quotas will be valid only for the calendar year for which the request was made;

(iii) North Carolina or South Carolina, Georgia and Florida may not submit a request to transfer quota or combine quotas if a request to which it is party is pending before the Regional Administrator. A state may submit a new request when it receives notice that the Regional Administrator has disapproved the previous request or when notice of the approval of the transfer or combination has been filed at the Office of the Federal Register.

(iii) A state may not submit a request to transfer quota or combine quotas if a request to which it is party is pending before the Regional Administrator. A state may submit a new request when it receives notice that the Regional Administrator has disapproved the previous request or when notice of the approval of the transfer or combination has been filed at the Office of the Federal Register.

(iv) If the North Carolina quota and General Atlantic quota is combined and there is an overage at the end of a fishing year in addition to the stock status designated as overfished and if the total ACL (commercial and recreational) has been exceeded, the overage will be deducted from the following year's total commercial ACL. The deduction will be proportional, based on the relative share of the total commercial ACL for the previous year for the North Carolina quota and the General Atlantic group quota. A transfer of quota or combination of quotas does not alter the percentage share of the total commercial ACL selected under Alternatives 2 and 3 in this action.

(iv) If there is a quota overage among states involved in the combination of quotas at the end of the fishing year, the overage will be deducted from the following year's quota for each of the states involved in the combined quota. The deduction will be proportional, based on each state's relative share of the combined quota for the previous year. A transfer of quota or combination of quotas does not alter any state's percentage share of the overall quota specified in paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section.

## **Example Process for Accountability Measures**

(1) *Commercial sector closure in EEZ off of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.* The Regional Administrator shall close the EEZ off of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida to fishing for king mackerel or Spanish mackerel by commercial vessels for the remainder of the fishing year by publishing notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER if he/she determines that the General Atlantic group ACL for king mackerel or Spanish mackerel has been exceeded or is expected to be exceeded.

(a) *Commercial sector EEZ closure.* The Regional Administrator shall close the EEZ to fishing for **summer flounder** by commercial vessels for the remainder of the calendar year by publishing notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER if he/she determines that the inaction of one or more states will cause the commercial sector ACL to be exceeded, or if the commercial fisheries in all states have been closed. The Regional Administrator may reopen the EEZ if earlier inaction by a state has been remedied by that state, or if commercial fisheries in one or more states have been reopened without causing the sector ACL to be exceeded.

(2) *General Atlantic commercial landing quotas.* The Regional Administrator will monitor the General Atlantic commercial quotas for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel based on dealer reports and other available information and shall determine the date when the General Atlantic commercial

quota will be harvested. The Regional Administrator shall publish notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER that, effective upon a specific date, the General Atlantic commercial quota has been harvested and notifying vessel and dealer permit holders that no commercial quota is available for landing king mackerel or Spanish mackerel in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

(b) *State commercial landing quotas.* The Regional Administrator will monitor state commercial quotas based on dealer reports and other available information and shall determine the date when a state commercial quota will be harvested. The Regional Administrator shall publish notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER advising a state that, effective upon a specific date, its commercial quota has been harvested and notifying vessel and dealer permit holders that no commercial quota is available for landing **summer flounder** in that state.

(3) *North Carolina commercial landing quotas.* North Carolina will monitor the North Carolina commercial quotas for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel based on dealer reports and other available information and shall determine the date when the North Carolina commercial quota will be harvested. When this date has been determined, North Carolina will notify the Regional Administrator. The Regional Administrator shall publish notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER that, effective upon a specific date, the North Carolina commercial quota has been harvested and notifying vessel and dealer permit holders that no commercial quota is available for landing king mackerel or Spanish mackerel in North Carolina.

(4) *Commercial landings overage repayment.* All king mackerel and Spanish mackerel landed for sale in North Carolina shall be applied against North Carolina's annual commercial quotas, regardless of where the king mackerel or Spanish mackerel were harvested. Any landings in excess of the commercial quota in North Carolina, inclusive of any transfer between the North Carolina quota and the General Atlantic quota, will be deducted from North Carolina's annual quota for the following year **in the final rule that establishes the annual North Carolina quotas and General Atlantic quotas** if the stock is designated as overfished and the total ACL (commercial and recreational) has been exceeded. The overage deduction will be based on landings for the current fishing year and on landings for the previous fishing year that were not included when the overage deduction was made **in the final rule that established the annual North Carolina quotas and General Atlantic quotas for the current fishing year**. If the Regional Administrator determines during the fishing year that any part of an overage deduction was based on erroneous landings data that were in excess of actual landings for the period concerned, he/she will restore the overage that was deducted in error to the appropriate quota allocation. The Regional Administrator will publish notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER announcing such restoration.

If the General Atlantic king mackerel or Spanish mackerel commercial ACL is exceeded, the amount of the overage will be deducted from the subsequent year's General Atlantic commercial ACL if the total ACL (commercial and recreational) is exceeded and the stock is overfished.

(2) *Commercial landings overage repayment.* All **summer flounder** landed for sale in a state shall be applied against that state's annual commercial quota, regardless of where the **summer flounder** were harvested. Any landings in excess of the commercial quota in any state, inclusive of any state-to-state transfers, will be deducted from that state's annual quota for the following year in the final rule that establishes the annual state-by-state quotas, irrespective of whether the commercial sector ACL is exceeded. The overage deduction will be based on landings for the current year through October 31 and on landings for the previous calendar year that were not included when the overage deduction was made in the final rule that established the annual quota for the current year. If the Regional Administrator determines during the fishing year that any part of an overage deduction was

based on erroneous landings data that were in excess of actual landings for the period concerned, he/she will restore the overage that was deducted in error to the appropriate quota allocation. The Regional Administrator will publish notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER announcing such restoration.

(5) *Commercial ACL overage evaluation.* The commercial ACL will be evaluated based on a single-year examination of total landings. Landings from North Carolina and combined landings from South Carolina, Georgia and Florida will be evaluated in determining if the commercial ACL has been exceeded for the North Carolina quota and for the General Atlantic quota.

(1) *Commercial ACL overage evaluation.* The commercial sector ACL will be evaluated based on a single-year examination of total catch (landings and dead discards). Both landings and dead discards will be evaluated in determining if the commercial sector ACL has been exceeded.

<b>Gulf Council Actions</b>
In April 2013 the Gulf Council tracked all South Atlantic actions.

<b>South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2013)</b>
At the April 2013 meeting, the Mackerel AP recommended Option d under Alternatives 2 and 3 as the Preferred Alternative, and supported transfer provision under Alternative 4.

<b>South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2012)</b>
At the April 2012 meeting, the AP supported Alternative 1 as the Preferred.

<b>Gulf Mackerel AP Recommendations (May 2013)</b>
The Gulf AP recommended Option d under Alternatives 2 and 43 as the Preferred Alternative, and supported transfer provision under Alternative 4.

**Committee Actions**

- 1) Does the committee want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 2) Does the committee want to select the Preferred Alternative(s)/option(s)?
- 3) Does the committee want to modify/approve the language for the transfer process?

**Table 1.** Expected Allocations for King Mackerel under each option.

	<b>North Carolina KM Allocation</b>	<b>General Atlantic Group KM Allocation</b>
<b>Option a (5 yrs)</b>	24.8%	75.2%
<b>Option b (10 yrs)</b>	33.2%	66.8%
<b>Option c (Boyles)</b>	29%	71%
<b>Option d (15 yrs)</b>	37.2%	62.8%

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

	<b>North Carolina SM Allocation</b>	<b>General Atlantic Group SM Allocation</b>
<b>Option a (5 yrs)</b>	18.7%	81.3%
<b>Option b (10 yrs)</b>	16.7%	83.3%
<b>Option c (Boyles)</b>	17.7%	82.3%
<b>Option d (15 yrs)</b>	18.2%	81.8%

## **Action 6. Modify the Framework Procedure.**

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

**South Atlantic Preferred /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

**South Atlantic Preferred /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.

**South Atlantic Preferred /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.*

<b>Gulf Council Actions</b>
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In April 2013 the Gulf Council approved the language in Alternative 4.
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<b>South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2013)</b>
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At the April 2013 meeting, the Mackerel AP recommended Alternatives 2, 4, and 5 as the Preferred Alternatives.
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<b>Gulf Mackerel AP Recommendations (May 2013)</b>
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The Gulf AP recommended Alternatives 2, 4, and 5 as the Preferred Alternatives.
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**Committee Actions**

- 1) Does the committee want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?
- 2) Does the committee want to change the Preferred Alternatives?

**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 (in millions of pounds (mp)):

Year	SA Migratory Group ABC	SA Zone ACL		SA Zone ACT	Gulf Migratory Group ABC	Gulf Zone ACL	Gulf Zone ACT
		Commercial	Recreational	Recreational		Stock	Stock
2014	0.73	0.06	0.67	0.55	2.46	2.46	2.21
2015	0.69	0.06	0.63	0.52	2.52	2.52	2.27
2016	0.67	0.05	0.62	0.50	2.60	2.60	2.34

**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 2002-2012 (10 years) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option b:** Use 2008-2012 (5 years) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option c:** Use Boyles law: 50% of landings from 2002-2012 + 50% of landings from 2008-2012 to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option d:** Use 1998-2012 (15 years) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option e:** Based on yellowtail: 50% of average landings from 1993-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option f:** Based on mutton: 50% of average landings from 1990-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
- 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.

NOTE: NOAA GC advised that the portion of the Gulf group ACL allocated to the east coast of Florida cannot be added to the Atlantic group ACL. There will need to be a Florida East Coast ACL for Florida and an Atlantic group ACL for North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

**Alternative 3 needs to be revised as:**

**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 ABC ACL (based on the ABC as determined by the SSC) would be divided into a Gulf Zone ACL jurisdictional ACL and Florida East Coast ACL an east coast of Florida ACL (FL/GA border to Council jurisdictional boundary) based on the options below.
  - Option a:** Use 2002-2012 (10 years) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option b:** Use 2008-2012 (5 years) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option c:** Use Boyles law: 50% of landings from 2002-2012 + 50% of landings from 2008-2012 to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option d:** Use 1998-2012 (15 years) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option e:** Based on yellowtail: 50% of average landings from 1993-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option f:** Based on mutton: 50% of average landings from 1990-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
- The South Atlantic jurisdictional area ACL would be equal to the ACL ABC 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.

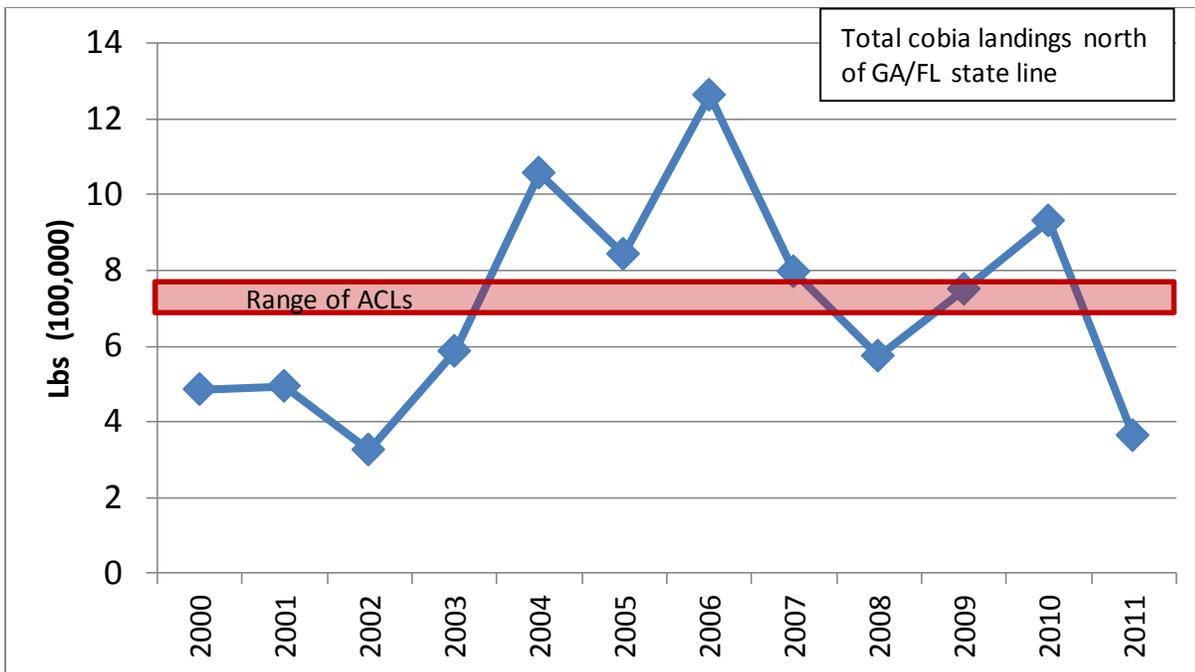
**Table 5.** Landings for the Gulf migratory group cobia (as defined by SEFSC) for each option in **Alternative 3** and the percentage attributable to the Florida east coast. The Florida East Coast Zone (FLEC) would range from the FL/GA border to the Council jurisdictional boundary in the Florida Keys. The Gulf zone would range from the TX/Mexico border to the Council jurisdictional boundary.

Option	Method/Years	Landings (lbs ww)			% FLEC Zone
		Gulf Total	FLEC Zone	Gulf Zone	
Opt a*	Average (2003-2012)	1,732,052	633,563	1,098,490	<b>36.6%</b>
Opt a	Average (2002-2012)	1,702,899	616,726	1,086,173	<b>36.2%</b>
Opt b	Average (2008-2012)	1,528,211	671,623	856,588	<b>43.9%</b>
Opt c*	(0.5*(Average (2003-2012)))+(0.5*(Average (2008-2012)))	1,630,132	652,593	977,539	<b>40.0%</b>
Opt c	(0.5*(Average (2002-2012)))+(0.5*(Average (2008-2012)))	1,615,555	644,175	971,381	<b>39.9%</b>
Opt d	Average (1998-2012)	1,729,311	623,255	1,106,056	<b>36.0%</b>
Opt e	(0.5*(Average (1993-2008)))+(0.5*(Average (2006-2008)))	1,804,756	577,702	1,227,054	<b>32.0%</b>
Opt f	(0.5*(Average (1990-2008)))+(0.5*(Average (2006-2008)))	1,794,279	580,520	1,213,760	<b>32.4%</b>

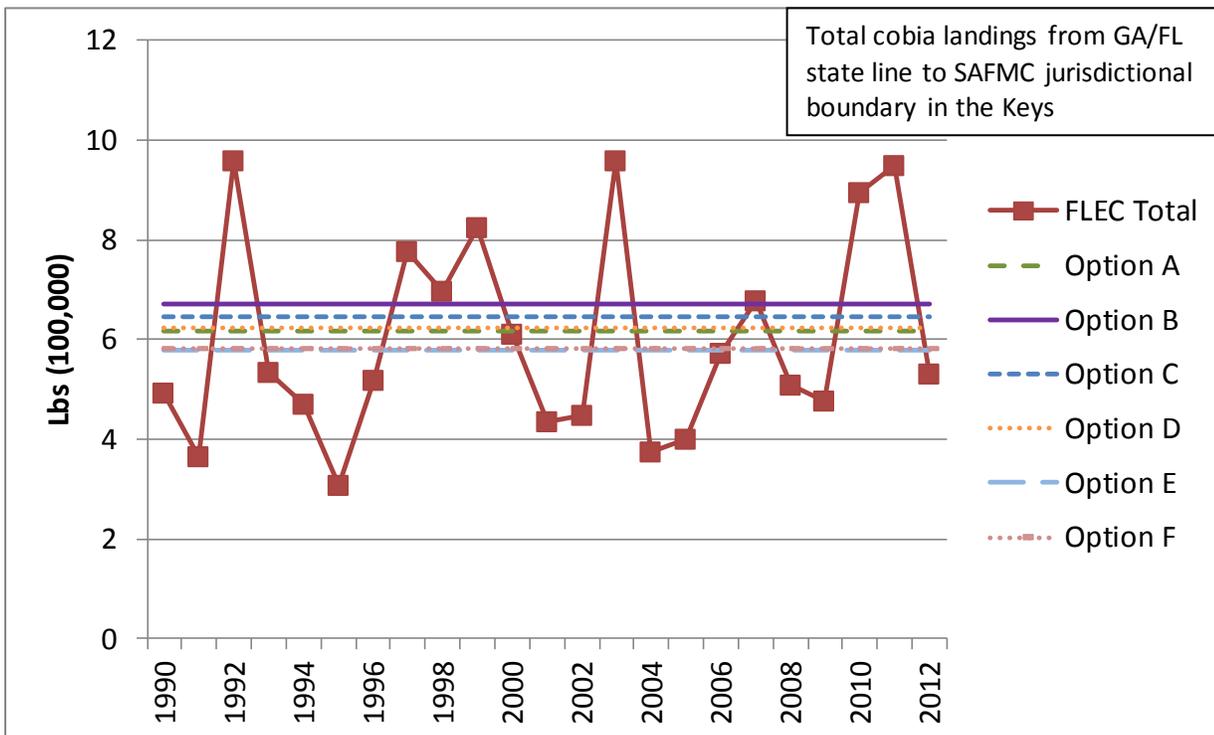
Source: SEFSC, ALS and MRIP databases

**Table 6.** ACLs and ACTs for Gulf migratory group cobia (as recommended by the Gulf SSC, based on results from SEDAR 28) for each option in **Alternative 3**. All weights for ABC, ACL, and ACT are in millions of pounds, whole weight.

Option	% landings from FLEC	Year	Gulf Migratory Group ABC	FLEC Zone ACL		FLEC Zone ACT	Gulf Zone ACL	Gulf Zone ACT
				Commercial	Recreational	Recreational	Stock	Stock
Opt a*	36.6	2014	2.46	0.07	0.83	0.68	1.56	1.40
		2015	2.52	0.07	0.85	0.69	1.60	1.44
		2016	2.60	0.08	0.88	0.72	1.65	1.48
Opt a	36.2	2014	2.46	0.07	0.82	0.67	1.57	1.41
		2015	2.52	0.07	0.84	0.69	1.61	1.45
		2016	2.60	0.08	0.87	0.71	1.66	1.49
Opt b	43.9	2014	2.46	0.09	0.99	0.81	1.38	1.24
		2015	2.52	0.09	1.02	0.83	1.41	1.27
		2016	2.60	0.09	1.05	0.86	1.46	1.31
Opt c*	40	2014	2.46	0.08	0.91	0.74	1.48	1.33
		2015	2.52	0.08	0.93	0.76	1.51	1.36
		2016	2.60	0.08	0.96	0.78	1.56	1.40
Opt c	39.9	2014	2.46	0.08	0.90	0.74	1.48	1.33
		2015	2.52	0.08	0.93	0.76	1.51	1.36
		2016	2.60	0.08	0.95	0.78	1.56	1.41
Opt d	36	2014	2.46	0.07	0.81	0.67	1.57	1.42
		2015	2.52	0.07	0.83	0.68	1.61	1.45
		2016	2.60	0.07	0.86	0.71	1.66	1.50
Opt e	32	2014	2.46	0.06	0.72	0.59	1.67	1.51
		2015	2.52	0.06	0.74	0.61	1.71	1.54
		2016	2.60	0.07	0.77	0.63	1.77	1.59
Opt f	32.4	2014	2.46	0.06	0.73	0.60	1.66	1.50
		2015	2.52	0.07	0.75	0.62	1.70	1.53
		2016	2.60	0.07	0.78	0.63	1.76	1.58



**Figure 1.** Comparison of total landings of cobia north of the GA/FL line to the range of ACLs for Atlantic migratory group cobia



**Figure 2.** Comparison of Florida East Coast total landings of cobia to allocation under Options A-F.

**Table 7.** Comparison of Cobia landings on the Florida East Coast to options for FLEC allocation of the Gulf cobia ABC.

	<b>FLEC Cobia Landings (lbs)</b>			
	<b>Comm</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Headboat</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1995	89,816	183,786	33,359	306,961
1996	103,470	384,047	30,223	517,740
1997	90,554	664,094	19,949	774,597
1998	83,562	586,815	24,690	695,067
1999	93,019	706,347	23,548	822,914
2000	58,568	530,966	21,274	610,808
2001	65,479	345,423	25,145	436,046
2002	61,327	366,239	20,799	448,365
2003	53,242	889,104	13,962	956,308
2004	62,188	295,340	15,763	373,291
2005	37,004	329,578	32,216	398,798
2006	57,875	494,651	19,564	572,090
2007	60,805	588,244	27,975	677,024
2008	57,003	423,746	29,120	509,869
2009	65,953	386,952	24,831	477,736
2010	101,564	753,815	38,127	893,506
2011	156,069	761,440	29,209	946,718
2012	78,384	420,013	31,888	530,285

<b>Option</b>	<b>Method/Years</b>	<b>FLEC Zone</b>
Opt a*	Average (2003-2012)	633,563
Opt a	Average (2002-2012)	616,726
Opt b	Average (2008-2012)	671,623
Opt c*	$(0.5 * \text{Opt a}^*) + (0.5 * \text{Opt b})$	652,593
Opt c	$(0.5 * \text{Opt a}) + (0.5 * \text{Opt b})$	644,175
Opt d	Average (1998-2012)	623,255
Opt e	$0.5 * (\text{Avg } 93-08) + 0.5 * (\text{Avg } 06-08)$	577,702
Opt f	$0.5 * (\text{Avg } 90-08) + (0.5 * (\text{Avg } 06-08))$	580,520

**Gulf Council Actions**

In April 2013 the Gulf Council added Action 7.

**South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommendations (April 2013)**

At the April 2013 meeting, the Mackerel AP recommended setting ACL=ABC and to use the longest time period available when determining the allocation of the Gulf ACL to the Florida East Coast.

**Gulf Mackerel AP Recommendations (May 2013)**

The Gulf AP recommended Alternatives 2 as the Preferred Alternative, and will convene a web-based meeting to discuss the recommendations from the Gulf SSC on ABC for cobia.

**Committee Actions**

1) Approve the revision to Alternative 3.

**Revised Alternative 3:** The ACL for each jurisdictional area would be determined as follows:

- The Gulf migratory group cobia ABC (as determined by the SSC) would be divided into a Gulf Zone ACL and Florida East Coast ACL (FL/GA border to Council jurisdictional boundary) based on the options below.
  - Option a:** Use 2002-2012 (10 years) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option b:** Use 2008-2012 (5 years) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option c:** Use Boyles law: 50% of landings from 2002-2012 + 50% of landings from 2008-2012 to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option d:** Use 1998-2012 (15 years) landings to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option e:** Based on yellowtail: 50% of average landings from 1993-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
  - Option f:** Based on mutton: 50% of average landings from 1990-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 to establish the percentage split for the Gulf ABC.
- The South Atlantic ACL would be equal to the ABC for the Atlantic migratory group cobia (as determined by the SSC).

2) Specify the ABC=OY=ACL for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

**Table 7.** ABC values (P\*= 0.4) recommended by the SSC.

From Table 3-revised in Attachment 7c.

	ABC landings (lbs)
2014	733,244
2015	693,272
2016	674,001

3) Does the committee want to add, remove, or modify any alternatives?

~~Does the committee want to add an alternative to set ACL = Yield at 75%  $F_{msy}$ ?~~

**Table 8.** Projected landings at 75%  $F_{msy}$ .

From Table 6 in Attachment 7c.

	ABC landings (lbs)
2014	768,956
2015	761,496
2016	760,076

4) Does the committee want to select a Preferred alternative/option?