

**SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE
JOINT MACKEREL COMMITTEE MEETING
St Simons Island, GA
March 4, 2013**

The Gulf of Mexico Mackerel Committee and South Atlantic Mackerel Committee met jointly to discuss joint Amendments 19 and 20. The committee received an update on current commercial and recreational landings for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. Council staff reviewed Amendment 19 and the joint committee made some changes to the actions and alternatives. The joint committee did not review Amendment 20 and the South Atlantic committee did not review the Framework Action.

The South Atlantic Committee made the following motions for Amendment 19:

Action 1: Sale of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel.

MOTION: Approve the wording in Alternatives 2 and 3.

Approved by Committee.

Alternative 2: Prohibit sale of king mackerel caught under the bag limit, with the exception of for-hire trips in which the vessel also holds a federal king mackerel commercial permit. Prohibit sale of Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit, with the exception of for-hire trips in which the vessel also holds a federal Spanish mackerel commercial permit. All sales of king and Spanish mackerel during a commercial closure are prohibited.

Option a. The South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

Option b. The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

Gulf Preferred Alternative 3: Prohibit sale of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit. For a person to sell king or Spanish mackerel in or from the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic, those fish must have been harvested on a commercial trip aboard a vessel with a commercial vessel permit/endorsement. A king mackerel permit is required to sell king mackerel and a Spanish mackerel permit is required to sell Spanish mackerel.

Option a. The South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

Option b. The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

MOTION: Add "in or from the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic" to Alternatives 1 and 2.

Approved by Committee.

South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 1: No Action - No federal permit requirement to sell king and Spanish mackerel. Sale of king and Spanish mackerel harvested under the bag limit is allowed for persons that possess the necessary state permits. However, if a commercial closure has been implemented, the sale or purchase of king or Spanish mackerel of the closed species, migratory group, subzone, or gear type, is prohibited, including any king or Spanish mackerel taken under the bag limits.

Alternative 2: Prohibit sale of king mackerel caught under the bag limit, with the exception of for-hire trips in which the vessel also holds a federal king mackerel commercial permit. Prohibit sale of Spanish

mackerel caught under the bag limit, with the exception of for-hire trips in which the vessel also holds a federal Spanish mackerel commercial permit. All sales of king and Spanish mackerel during a commercial closure are prohibited.

Option a. The South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

Option b. The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

Action 3. Elimination of Latent King Mackerel Permits

MOTION: Move Alternative 3 in the Considered but Rejected Appendix.

Approved by Committee.

Alternative 3: Renew commercial king mackerel permits only if the permit had reported landings in:

Option a. The fishing year ending September 30, 2010

Option b. At least one of the five years preceding the September 30, 2010 control date

Option c. At least two of the five years preceding the September 30, 2010 control date

MOTION: Remove suboptions i and ii under Alternatives 2d, 4d, and 4e.

Approved by Committee.

Option d. The threshold for average reported landings would be:

Suboption i. 1 lbs

Suboption ii. 100 lbs

Suboption iii. 500 lbs

Suboption iv. 1,000 lbs.

MOTION: Remove Option c (five years 2006-2010) under Alternatives 2 and 4.

Approved by Committee.

Option c. Five years (2006-2010)

Suboption i. Average of all years

Suboption ii. At least one of the five years

MOTION: Change time series in Alternatives 2b and 4b to 2002-2011.

Approved by Committee.

Option b. Ten years (2001-2010)

Action 4. Federal Regulatory Compliance

MOTION: Move Action 4 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.

Approved by Committee.

Action 5. Modify or Eliminate Income Requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic Commercial Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permits

MOTION: Add Alternative 5 to Action 5 : To obtain or renew a commercial permit for king or Spanish mackerel, at least [Option A] 75% or [Option B] 50% of the applicant's earned income must have been derived from commercial fishing or from for-hire fishing during one of the three calendar years preceding the application.

Approved by Committee.
