

**MACKEREL COMMITTEE**  
**Charleston, SC**  
**September 18, 2013**

**FINAL REPORT**

The Committee received an update on current king mackerel and Spanish mackerel landings (commercial and recreational). Council staff provided a summary of public comments from written submissions and hearings, followed by the review of CMP Amendment 20A (formerly Amendment 19) and CMP Amendment 20B (formerly Amendment 20). The Committee also reviewed the South Atlantic CMP Framework Actions. The Committee approved motions to submit Amendment 20B and the Framework Action for Secretarial review; Amendment 20A was approved for Secretarial review by the full Council. Lastly, the Committee discussed upcoming amendments and directed staff to develop options papers for an amendment to review sector allocations including Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and for an amendment to separate the commercial king mackerel and Spanish mackerel permits into South Atlantic and Gulf permits.

**The South Atlantic Council made the following motions for CMP Amendment 20A:**

Action 1: Sale of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel.

**MOTION:** APPROVE IPT LANGUAGE FOR ALTERNATIVE 4 UNDER ACTION 1.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**MOTION:** REMOVE THE SELECTED LANGUAGE FROM THE ALTERNATIVE. *that is not part of the tournament*

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Alternative 4:** In addition to Alternative 1, 2, or 3, king or Spanish mackerel harvested or possessed under the bag limit during a fishing tournament may be donated to a dealer who will sell those fish and donate the proceeds to a charity, but only if the tournament organizers have a permit from a state to conduct that tournament, and the transfer and reporting requirements listed below are followed.

**South Atlantic Preferred/Gulf Preferred Option a.** The South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

**Gulf Preferred Option b.** The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

*Transfer and reporting requirements: A federally licensed wholesale dealer ~~that is not part of the tournament~~ must be present to accept the donated fish directly from the anglers. The wholesale dealer sells the fish and must donate the monetary value (sale price or cash equivalent of value received for the landings) from the sale of tournament-caught fish to a charitable organization as determined by the state, ~~religious, educational, civic, or conservation organization~~. The monetary value received from the sale of tournament-caught fish may not be used to pay for tournament expenses. The wholesale dealer instructs the tournament what records participating anglers must provide (according to their trip ticket or other reporting requirements) and how fish must be handled and iced according to HACCP standards. The fish are reported through normal reporting procedures by the wholesale dealer and must be identified as tournament catch.*

**MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 OPTION B AS A SOUTH ATLANTIC PREFERRED.  
Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Alternative 4:** In addition to Alternative 1, 2, or 3, king or Spanish mackerel harvested or possessed under the bag limit during a fishing tournament may be donated to a dealer who will sell those fish and donate the proceeds to a charity, but only if the tournament organizers have a permit from a state to conduct that tournament, and the transfer and reporting requirements listed below are followed.

**South Atlantic Preferred/Gulf Preferred Option a.** The South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

**Gulf Preferred Option b.** The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

**MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 OPTION B AS A PREFERRED.  
Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**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

**Gulf Preferred Option b.** The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

**MOTION: DE-SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 OPTION B AS A SOUTH ATLANTIC PREFERRED.  
Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**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 exclusive economic zone (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

**South Atlantic Preferred Option b.** The Gulf Council's jurisdiction

**MOTION: FOR THE PURPOSES OF TOURNAMENT-CAUGHT KING MACKEREL AND SPANISH MACKEREL, THOSE LANDINGS WILL BE COUNTED AGAINST THE COMMERCIAL ACL. NOAA WILL REPORT BACK IN 3 YEARS AS TO THE LEVEL OF TOURNAMENT-CAUGHT KING MACKEREL AND SPANISH MACKEREL FOR A DETERMINATION OF REALLOCATION OF QUOTA.  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 2. Elimination of Inactive King Mackerel Permits

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 AS THE SOUTH ATLANTIC PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Gulf Preferred Alternative 1:** No Action – Do not eliminate any commercial king mackerel permits.

Action 3. Modify or Eliminate Income Requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic Commercial Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permits

**No Council motions.**

**MOTION:** APPROVE JOINT CMP AMENDMENT 20A FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

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**The South Atlantic Council made the following motions for Amendment 20B:**

Action 1: Modify the Commercial Hook-and-Line Trip Limits for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel.

**MOTION:** ACCEPT THE LANGUAGE CHANGE IN ALTERNATIVE 2.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Alternative 2:** Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at ~~2,500~~ 2,000 lbs with no reduction.

**Option a:** For the Western Zone

**Option b:** For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone

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

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 OPTION C AS A SOUTH ATLANTIC PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Alternative 2:** Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at ~~2,500~~ 2,000 lbs with no reduction.

**Option a:** For the Western Zone

**Option b:** For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone

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

**MOTION:** DE-SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 OPTION C AS A SOUTH ATLANTIC PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

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

**South Atlantic Preferred Option c:** For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone

**MOTION: ACCEPT IPT SUGGESTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE 1.**  
**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

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

Current trip limits:

Western Zone: 3,000 lbs with no reduction

Eastern Zone Northern Subzone: 1,250 lbs until 75% of the quota is taken, at which time the trip limit decreases to 500 lbs

Eastern Zone Southern Subzone: 1,250 lbs until 75% of the quota is taken, at which time the trip limit decreases to 500 lbs

Action 2: Change the Fishing Season for Gulf Group King Mackerel for the Eastern and Western Zone.

**MOTION: APPROVE LANGUAGE CHANGE FROM FISHING SEASON TO FISHING YEAR.**  
**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2A AS PREFERRED.**  
**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

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

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

**Option b:** For the Eastern Zone

**MOTION: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3B AS PREFERRED.**  
**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

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

**Option a:** For the Western Zone

**Gulf Preferred Option b:** For the Eastern Zone

Action 3: Establish Transit Provisions for Travel Through Areas That are Closed to King Mackerel Fishing

**MOTION: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 3 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.**  
**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Alternative 3:** Establish a provision allowing transit through Collier County when the Eastern Zone, Southern Subzone is closed for vessels possessing Atlantic migratory group king mackerel that were legally harvested in the EEZ off Monroe County only from April 1 – June 30.

Action 4.1: Establish Regional ACLs for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3B AS THE PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Alternative 3:** Establish ACLs for Northern and Southern Zones for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel based on Options a-d below. The Northern Zone would include the EEZ off states from North Carolina north to New York. The Southern Zone would include the EEZ off South Carolina, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida. NMFS would monitor landings in both zones and close the EEZ of each zone when the respective ACL is reached.

**Option b-** Each zone ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in that zone from 2002-03 through 2011-2012.

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS A PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Alternative 4:** Allow for transfer of quota between regions. North Carolina and Florida would be designated as the coordinating states for any transfer request, in consultation with other states.

Action 4.2: Establish Regional ACLs for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 OPTION B AS THE PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Alternative 3:** Establish ACLs for Northern and Southern Zones for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel based on Options a-d below. The Northern Zone would include the EEZ off states from North Carolina north to New York. The Southern Zone would include the EEZ off South Carolina, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida. NMFS would monitor landings in both zones and close the EEZ of each zone when the respective ACL is reached..

**Option b-** Each zone ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in that zone from 2002-03 through 2011-2012.

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS THE PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Alternative 4:** Allow for transfer of quota between regions. North Carolina and Florida would be designated as the coordinating states for any transfer request, in consultation with other states.

Action 5. Modify the Framework Procedure.

**No Council motions.**

Action 6. Modify the Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Annual Catch Targets (ACTs).

**No Council motions.**

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**MOTION:** APPROVE JOINT CMP AMENDMENT 20B FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

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**The South Atlantic Mackerel Committee made the following motions for the South Atlantic Framework Action 2013:**

Action 1: Modify restrictions on transfer-at-sea and gillnet allowances for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 2: Modify the king mackerel commercial trip limit in the East Coast Florida Subzone.

**No Committee motions.**

**MOTION:** APPROVE THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CMP FRAMEWORK ACTION 2013 FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

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**The Committee made the following motions for future amendments:**

**MOTION:** DIRECT STAFF TO DEVELOP AN OPTIONS PAPER FOR SEPARATING PERMITS FOR KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL INTO SEPARATE JURISDICTIONS.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Task and Timing Motion Suggested Language:**

**MOTION: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:**

1. PREPARE JOINT CMP AMENDMENT 20A FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.
2. PREPARE JOINT CMP AMENDMENT 20B FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.
3. PREPARE THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CMP FRAMEWORK ACTION 2013 FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.
4. DEVELOP OPTIONS FOR JOINT CMP AMENDMENT 24 TO REVIEW SECTOR ALLOCATIONS FOR ATLANTIC MIGRATORY GROUP SPANISH MACKEREL FOR THE DECEMBER MEETING
5. DEVELOP OPTIONS PAPER FOR AN AMENDMENT TO SEPARATE THE COMMERCIAL KING MACKEREL AND SPANISH MACKEREL PERMITS INTO SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF PERMITS FOR THE DECEMBER MEETING.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**