

**FINAL SUMMARY REPORT  
FROM THE  
MACKEREL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Stuart, FL  
June 12 and 13, 2013**

The Committee received an update on current king mackerel and Spanish mackerel landings (commercial and recreational). The Committee reviewed results from the SEDAR 28 stock assessment for cobia and Spanish mackerel, including ABC recommendations from the SSC. Council staff provided a summary of the Mackerel AP meeting, followed by review of CMP Amendment 19 and CMP Amendment 20, which incorporated Gulf Council actions and advisory panel (AP) recommendations. The Committee also reviewed the South Atlantic CMP Framework Actions. Amendments 19 and 20 along with the Framework Actions were approved for public hearings.

**The Council made the following motion in regards to the SSC recommendations for the OFL and ABC for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel:**

**MOTION:** REQUEST THAT THE SSC REVIEW THE SPANISH MACKEREL PROJECTIONS AND REVISIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFL AND ABC. THE SSC IS ASKED TO CONSIDER BASING OFL AND ABC ON EQUILIBRIUM PROJECTIONS OF MSY, IN LIGHT OF EFFECTS OF SELECTIVITY AND RECRUITMENT PATTERNS ON SHORT-TERM YIELD ESTIMATES.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**Additional language was added to provide guidance and clarification to the SSC:**

Considering the high degree of confidence that the stock is not only not-overfished nor undergoing overfishing, but that current biomass is high ( $SSB/MSST = 2.29$ ) and exploitation is low ( $F/F_{msy} = 0.53$ ) and that the stock has not experienced overfishing over the assessment period, the Council believes that use of a less risk-averse reference point such as the equilibrium MSY, (6.063 mp) as OFL for 2013-2015 is justified. Due to the exploitation history and stock status, the Council believes such a reference point does not significantly increase the probability of overfishing during these years.

The Council recommends that the SSC consider whether OFL recommendations could be based on equilibrium conditions for stocks which are neither overfished nor overfishing. Such an approach would provide stable landings and enable the Council to implement constant regulations that will provide stability to the fishery. In addition, the Council is willing to accept the risk associated with small buffers between OFL and ABC for stocks well above reference limits, and requests that the SSC provide guidance on OFL-ABC buffers in such situations.

**The South Atlantic Council made the following motions for Amendment 19:**

Action 1: Sale of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel.

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3, OPTION B AND ALTERNATIVE 4, OPTION A AS 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 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.

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

**Alternative 4:** Prohibit sale of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit with the exception of state-permitted or licensed tournaments. 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. King or Spanish mackerel caught during a tournament may be donated to a dealer in exchange for a charitable donation if the tournament organizers have a permit from a state to conduct that tournament, and transfer and reporting requirements are followed.

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

#### Action 2. Elimination of Inactive King Mackerel Permits

**MOTION:** ACCEPT IPT PROPOSED WORDING CHANGES UNDER THIS ACTION.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

Proposed language changes:

**Option a.** The permit has an annual average of at least 500 lbs of king mackerel from 2002-2011.

**Option b.** The permit has an annual average of at least 1,000 lbs of king mackerel from 2002-2011.

**Option c.** The permit has at least 500 lbs of king mackerel in at least one year between 2002-2011.

**Option d.** The permit has at least 1,000 lbs of king mackerel in at least one year between 2002-2011.

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

**Alternative 4:** Allow two-for-one permit reduction in the king mackerel commercial fishery similar to the system for Snapper Grouper Unlimited Permits.

**Approved by Council.**

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

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

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**Gulf Preferred Alternative 2:** Eliminate income requirements for commercial king and Spanish mackerel permits.

**MOTION:** APPROVE AMENDMENT 19 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

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

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

**MOTION:** MOVE ACTION 1 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

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

**MOTION:** MOVE ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**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

**MOTION:** ADD ALTERNATIVE 6.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**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.

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 5, OPTIONS A AND C, AND ALTERNATIVE 6 OPTION B AS PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**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.

**MOTION:** REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**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

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

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**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

**MOTION:** REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 3.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**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.

**MOTION:** CHANGE OUR PREFERRED TO ALTERNATIVE 5.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**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.

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

**MOTION:** ESTABLISH SEPARATE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SUBZONES FOR KM WITH THE BOUNDARY AT THE NC/SC STATE LINE. CONTINUE OPTIONS A-D UNDER THE NEW ALTERNATIVE.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**MOTION:** ESTABLISH SEPARATE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SUBZONES FOR SM WITH THE BOUNDARY AT THE NC/SC STATE LINE. CONTINUE OPTIONS A-D UNDER THE NEW ALTERNATIVE.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**MOTION:** Approve the language and organization of alternatives for Action 5(4).

**Approved by Council.**

[Attached at end of report.]

Action 6. Modify the Framework Procedure.

No Committee or Council motions.

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

**MOTION:** APPROVE IPT LANGUAGE CHANGES FOR ALTERNATIVE 3.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**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.~~

**MOTION:** ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 3 OPTION D AS THE PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**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 d:** Use 1998-2012 (15 years) landings 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).

**MOTION:** APPROVE AMENDMENT 20 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

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

Action 1: Modify the Atlantic migratory group king mackerel minimum size limit.

**MOTION:** REMOVE ACTION 1 FROM THE FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT.

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

Action 2: Modify restrictions on transfer-at-sea and gillnet allowances for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

**No Committee Motions.**

**Staff suggestion to replace Alternatives 2 and 3 with new Alternative 2.**

**CURRENT:**

**Alternative 2:** Modify commercial gear specifications for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Option a. Remove the maximum number of gillnets.

Option b. Remove the requirement for different mesh sizes.

Option c. Allow federally-permitted Spanish mackerel vessels to possess three gillnets.

Option d. Allow three gillnets for the vessel receiving transfer.

**Alternative 3.** Allow transfer of a portion an Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel gillnet and its catch from one vessel that has reached its trip limit to another vessel that has not caught the trip limit.

- a) Transfer is allowed if directed harvesting gear used to harvest the Spanish mackerel being transferred is allowable net gear. Spanish mackerel harvested with other than directed allowable net harvesting gear shall not be transferred.
- b) Transfer shall only take place in the EEZ between vessels with valid Spanish mackerel commercial permits.
- c) The Spanish mackerel removed from the directed harvesting gear aboard the harvesting vessel shall be isolated aboard the vessel and shall not exceed the applicable daily vessel limit specified in this subsection. All fish exceeding the applicable daily vessel limit shall remain entangled in the meshes of the net until transfer. The quantity of fish transferred to any single vessel shall not exceed the applicable daily harvest limit.
- d) Call-in required for both vessels engaged in the transfer.

**SUGGESTED**

**Alternative 2.** Alternative 2 applies only to commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel with gillnet. This alternative recognizes that the current biomass levels of Spanish mackerel

may result in catches of Spanish mackerel in excess of the commercial trip limit by vessels using gillnets. Specifically, even with very short sets, these gillnets may exceed the daily trip limit. As such, the regulations would be modified to allow for the transfer of Spanish mackerel at sea. Any amount of Spanish mackerel less than the commercial trip limit could be transferred between two vessels given the following conditions:

- a) Transfer is allowed if directed harvesting gear used to harvest the Spanish mackerel being transferred is allowable net gear. Spanish mackerel harvested with other than directed allowable net harvesting gear shall not be transferred.
- b) Transfer shall only take place in the EEZ between vessels with valid Spanish mackerel commercial permits.
- c) The receiving vessel may possess no more than three gillnets on board after the transfer is complete.
- d) All fish exceeding the applicable daily vessel limit shall remain entangled in the meshes of the net until transfer. The quantity of fish transferred to any single vessel shall not exceed the applicable daily trip limit.
- e) Call-in required for both vessels engaged in the transfer.

The following describes how transfer at sea may occur: After catching the Spanish mackerel in the gillnet, the donor vessel would cut the net into two sections. The captain would transfer the portion of the net to the receiving vessel. The receiving vessel would accept the portion of the net and retrieve that portion on the vessel. Call-in by both vessels should be made prior to the net being cut.

**MOTION: REPLACE ALTERNATIVE 2 AND 3 WITH NEW SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE 2.**

**Approved by Council.**

Action 3: Modify the king mackerel commercial trip limit in the East Coast Florida Subzone.

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

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Committee.**

**Alternative 4.** In the Florida East Coast Subzone, king mackerel in or from the EEZ may be possessed on board at any time or landed in a day from a vessel with a commercial permit for king mackerel as follows:

(A) From November 1 through the end of February--not to exceed 50 fish.

(B) Beginning on March 1 and continuing through March 31--

(1) If 70 percent or more of the [Gulf group] Florida east coast subzone quota has been taken-- not to exceed 50 fish.

(2) If less than 70 percent of the [Gulf group] Florida east coast subzone quota has been taken --not to exceed 75 fish.

Action 4: Modify the system of quota and trip limit adjustments for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

**MOTION: REMOVE ACTION 4 FROM THE FRAMEWORK ACTION 2013 FOR A FUTURE DOCUMENT.**

**Approved by Committee.**

**Approved by Council.**

**The Council needs to approve the Purpose and Need for the Framework Action:**

**Purpose for Actions (revised)**

The purpose of this amendment is to modify the restrictions on transfer-at-sea and gillnet allowances for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and modify the king mackerel trip limit in the Florida East Coast Subzone.

**Need for Actions (revised)**

The need for the action is to modify current king and Spanish mackerel regulations to minimize dead discards of target and other species; reduce the potential of lost fishing opportunities for mackerel fishermen in the Atlantic; and optimize utilization of the resource, while minimizing adverse biological impacts.

**MOTION: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE FRAMEWORK ACTION.**

**Approved by Council.**

**MOTION: APPROVE THE FRAMEWORK ACTION FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

**Approved by Council.**

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**Task and Timing Motion Suggested Language:**

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

**Approved by Council.**

1. MAKE THE NECESSARY REVISIONS TO CMP AMENDMENT 19 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN AUGUST AND FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING.
2. MAKE THE NECESSARY REVISIONS TO CMP AMENDMENT 20 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN AUGUST AND FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING.
3. MAKE THE NECESSARY REVISIONS TO SOUTH ATLANTIC CMP FRAMEWORK ACTION FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN AUGUST AND FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING.
4. TARGET FINAL APPROVAL OF CMP AMENDMENT 19, AMENDMENT 20, AND FRAMEWORK ACTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2013.



(Amendment 20, Action 5 Revisions)

## **Action 4.1 – Establish Regional Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.**

**Alternative 1:** No Action - retain one commercial ACL for the Atlantic migratory group king mackerel

**Alternative 2:** Establish a separate commercial ACL of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel for North Carolina based on Options a-d below. Monitoring and implementation would be based on Options e-g below.

**Option a-** The North Carolina ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2007-08 through 2011-12.

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

**Option c-** The North Carolina ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times (50% of the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2002-03 through 2011-2012 and 50% of the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2007-08 through 2011-12).

**Option d-** The North Carolina ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 1997-98 through 2011-12.

**Option e-** NMFS would monitor landings in both North Carolina and the rest of the states and close the EEZ of each area when the respective ACL is met or expected to be met.

**Option f-** North Carolina would monitor landings in North Carolina and prohibit landings in North Carolina when the North Carolina ACL is met or projected to be met. NMFS would monitor landings in the rest of the states and close the entire EEZ when the General Atlantic ACL is reached.

**Option g-** North Carolina would monitor landings in North Carolina and inform NMFS when the North Carolina ACL is met or expected to be met; NMFS would then close the EEZ off North Carolina. NMFS would monitor landings in the rest of the states and close the EEZ off those states when the ACL is reached.

**Alternative 3:** Establish ACLs for Northern and Southern Zones for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel based on Options a-d below. Monitoring and implementation would be based on Options e-g 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 a-** Each zone ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in that zone from 2007-08 through 2011-12.

**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.

**Option c-** Each zone ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average (50% of the proportion of landings from that zone 2002-03 through 2011-2012 and 50% of the proportion of landings from that zone 2007-08 through 2011-12).

**Option d-** Each zone ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in that zone from 1997-98 through 2011-12.

**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.

**Process for Transfer under Alternative 2**

Florida, in consultation with Georgia, South Carolina, and the Mid-Atlantic states, may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of the General Atlantic ACL to the North Carolina ACL. Requests for transfer must be made by letter signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for Florida, after consultation with all other states. The letter must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the amount of quota to be transferred.

North Carolina may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of the North Carolina ACL to the General Atlantic ACL. Requests for transfer must be made by letter signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for North Carolina. The letter must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the amount of quota to be transferred.

**Process for Transfer under Alternative 3**

Florida, in consultation with Georgia and South Carolina, may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of the Southern Zone ACL to the Northern Zone ACL. Requests for transfer must be made by letter signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for Florida, after consultation with Georgia and South Carolina. The letter must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the amount of ACL to be transferred.

North Carolina, in consultation with all Mid-Atlantic states, may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of the Northern Zone ACL to the Southern Zone ACL. Requests for transfer must be made by letter signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for North Carolina, after consultation with the Mid-Atlantic states. The letter must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the amount of ACL to be transferred.

## Action 4.2 – Establish Regional Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel.

**Alternative 1:** No Action - retain one commercial ACL for the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel

**Alternative 2:** Establish a separate commercial ACL of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel for North Carolina based on Options a-d below. Monitoring and implementation would be based on Options e-g below.

- Option a-** The North Carolina ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2007-08 through 2011-12.
- Option b-** The North Carolina ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 2002-03 through 2011-2012.
- Option c-** The North Carolina ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times (50% of the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2002-03 through 2011-2012 and 50% of the proportion of landings in North Carolina 2007-08 through 2011-12).
- Option d-** The North Carolina ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in North Carolina from 1997-98 through 2011-12.
  
- Option e-** NMFS would monitor landings in both North Carolina and the rest of the states and close the EEZ of each area when the respective ACL is met or expected to be met.
- Option f-** North Carolina would monitor landings in North Carolina and prohibit landings in North Carolina when the North Carolina ACL is met or projected to be met. NMFS would monitor landings in the rest of the states and close the entire EEZ when the General Atlantic ACL is reached.
- Option g-** North Carolina would monitor landings in North Carolina and inform NMFS when the North Carolina ACL is met or expected to be met; NMFS would then close the EEZ off North Carolina. NMFS would monitor landings in the rest of the states and close the EEZ off those states when the ACL is reached.

**Alternative 3:** Establish ACLs for Northern and Southern Zones for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel based on Options a-d below. Monitoring and implementation would be based on Options e-g 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 a-** Each zone ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in that zone from 2007-08 through 2011-12.
- 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.
- Option c-** Each zone ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average (50% of the proportion of landings from that zone 2002-03 through 2011-2012 and 50% of the proportion of landings from that zone 2007-08 through 2011-12).
- Option d-** Each zone ACL would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of the proportion of landings in that zone from 1997-98 through 2011-12.

**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.

**Process for Transfer under Alternative 2**

Florida, in consultation with Georgia, South Carolina, and the Mid-Atlantic states, may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of the General Atlantic ACL to the North Carolina ACL. Requests for transfer must be made by letter signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for Florida, after consultation with all other states. The letter must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the amount of quota to be transferred.

North Carolina may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of the North Carolina ACL to the General Atlantic ACL. Requests for transfer must be made by letter signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for North Carolina. The letter must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the amount of quota to be transferred.

**Process for Transfer under Alternative 3**

Florida, in consultation with Georgia and South Carolina, may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of the Southern Zone ACL to the Northern Zone ACL. Requests for transfer must be made by letter signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for Florida, after consultation with Georgia and South Carolina. The letter must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the amount of ACL to be transferred.

North Carolina, in consultation with all Mid-Atlantic states, may request approval from the Regional Administrator to transfer part of the Northern Zone ACL to the Southern Zone ACL. Requests for transfer must be made by letter signed by the principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously named designee, for North Carolina, after consultation with the Mid-Atlantic states. The letter must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the amount of ACL to be transferred.