

**FINAL REPORT  
FROM THE  
MACKEREL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Charleston, SC  
September 12, 2012**

The Committee received an update on current king mackerel and Spanish mackerel landings (commercial and recreational). Council staff reviewed CMP Amendment 19 and CMP Amendment 20, which incorporated Gulf Council actions, Mackerel AP recommendations, and public comments. The Committee also received a summary of public input on potential framework actions for the Atlantic group king mackerel commercial fishery, and directed staff on framework items.

**The Committee made the following motions for Amendment 19:**

Action 1: Sale of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel.

**MOTION: Approve the Gulf language change in Alternative 3.**

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

Alternative 3: 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 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.

**MOTION: Select Alternative 1 as the Preferred Alternative under Action 1.**

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

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.

Action 2: Sale of cobia

**MOTION: Select Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative.**

**Approved by Committee (1 objection). APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Alternative 4: For a person to sell cobia in or from the EEZ of the Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico, those fish must have been harvested on a commercial trip aboard a vessel with at least one of the following commercial vessel permits: king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, Gulf reef fish, South Atlantic snapper/grouper, or South Atlantic dolphin/wahoo.

**MOTION: Remove Alternative 5.**

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

Alternative 5: Prohibit sale of cobia caught under the bag limit.

Option a: South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction

Option b. Gulf Council's jurisdiction.

**MOTION: Approve the Gulf language change in Alternatives 2 and 3.**  
**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**MOTION: Approve the Gulf language change in Alternative 4.**  
**APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**NOTE: The Council needs to approve this language change for Alternative 2-4.**

Alternative 2: Create a new commercial cobia permit. For a person to sell cobia in or from the EEZ of the Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico, those fish must have been harvested ~~on a commercial trip~~ **under a commercial quota** aboard a vessel with a commercial cobia vessel permit.

Alternative 3: For a person to sell cobia in or from the EEZ of the Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico, those fish must have been harvested ~~on a commercial trip~~ **under a commercial QUOTA** aboard a vessel with a commercial vessel king mackerel or Spanish mackerel permit.

Alternative 4: For a person to sell cobia in or from the EEZ of the Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico, those fish must have been harvested ~~on a commercial trip~~ **under a commercial QUOTA** aboard a vessel with at least one of the following commercial vessel permits: king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, Gulf reef fish, South Atlantic snapper/groupers, or South Atlantic dolphin/wahoo.

Action 3: Tournament Sales of King Mackerel

**MOTION: Remove Action 3 from the Amendment to be placed in a stand-alone amendment.**  
**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 4. Elimination of Latent Endorsements in the Gulf Group King Mackerel Gillnet Sector

**MOTION: Remove Action 4 to the Considered but Rejected.**  
**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 5. Elimination of Latent Permits in the King Mackerel Hook-and-Line Sector

**MOTION: Replace SA Alternative 4 with Gulf Alternative 4.**  
**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Gulf Alternative 4: Allow transfer of latent commercial king mackerel permits only to immediate family members and allow transfer to another vessel owned by the same entity. Permits will be considered latent if average landings did not meet the threshold (defined below) during:

Option a. All years with data available (1998/1999-2009/2010)

Suboption i. Average of all years

Suboption ii. At least one of the 12 years

Option b. Ten years (1999/2000-2008/2009 or 2000/2001-2009/2010)

Suboption i. Average of all years

Suboption ii. At least one of the ten years

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

Suboption i. 1 lb

- Suboption ii. 100 lbs
- Suboption iii. 500 lbs
- Suboption iv. 1,000 lbs.

**MOTION: Remove Alternative 5.**

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

Alternative 5: Establish an appeals process.

**MOTION: Add a suboption for 2005-2006 through 2009-2010.**

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

Direction to staff: suboptions under Alternatives 2 and 4.

Clarify if you mean to have:

1998/99 thru 2009/10 (12 years)

1999/00-2008/09 or 2000/01 – 2009/10 (10 years)

2005/06- 2009/10 (5 years)

**Motion: Remove option for 12-year period from the analysis.**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Direction to staff- use 2000/01 -2009/10 for the 10-year period.**

**MOTION: Add an option under Alternative 4 to consider a range of poundage thresholds of commercial landings (any species) based on federal logbooks.**

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

Option d: The threshold for average reported landings *for any species* would be:

Suboption i. 1 lb

Suboption ii. 100 lbs

Suboption iii. 500 lbs

Suboption iv. 1,000 lbs.

**Action 6. Federal Regulatory Compliance**

**MOTION: Add Alternative 3.**

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

Alternative 3: If a cobia permit is established in Action 2, all vessels with federal commercial cobia permits must comply with federal cobia regulations when fishing in state waters if the federal regulations are more restrictive.

**Action 7. Modify or Eliminate Income Requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic Commercial Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permits**

**MOTION: Remove Alternative 4.**

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

Alternative 4: Replace the current income requirements for king and Spanish mackerel (and cobia, if applicable) with a Coastal Migratory Pelagics landings requirement, such that in one of the three years preceding the application, landings must be greater than:

- Option a. 500 lbs of coastal migratory pelagic species
- Option b. 1,000 lbs of coastal migratory pelagic species
- Option c. 5,000 lbs of coastal migratory pelagic species
- Option d. 10,000 lbs of coastal migratory pelagic species

**MOTION: Adopt Alternative 3 as the Preferred.**

**Motion fails (5 opposed, 4 support).**

Gulf Preferred Alternative 3: Eliminate income requirements for commercial king and Spanish mackerel permits.

**NOTE: This Committee motion was not included in the draft committee report.**

Action 8. Atlantic Group Spanish Mackerel Gillnet Endorsement

**MOTION: Move Action 8 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.**

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

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

Action 4: Establish a transit provision for king mackerel harvested in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Monroe County when the rest of the west coast of Florida is closed

**MOTION: Add Alternative 4 (as modified) and select as the Preferred.**

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

Alternative 4: Establish a transit provision for fish harvested in the EEZ off Monroe County to be landed in Collier County when the rest of the west coast of Florida is closed with the following provisions:

Only from April 1 – **June 30**

Only with direct and continuous transit and gear stowed

Only for fishermen holding a federal commercial king mackerel permit

Action 5. Restrictions on Fishing for King Mackerel in Multiple Zones.

**MOTION: Move Action 5 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.**

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

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

Action 8. Set Annual Catch Target (ACTs) by Sub-Zones for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia.

Action 9. Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) by Sub-Zones for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

**MOTION: Move Actions 6, 8, and 9 to a later amendment after SEDAR 28 is completed.**

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

Action 7. Establish State-by-State or Regional Quotas for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, and Cobia.

**No Motions. Direction to staff to add the following allocation options:**

Option 1- average of NC proportion of 2006-2011 landings

Option 2- average NC proportion of quota 2006-2011 + proportion of unused quota

- Option 3- average of NC proportion of 2001-2011 landings
- Option 4- above + [(NC proportion)\*average unused quota]
- Option 5- % unused percentage split proportionally between NC/FL-GA-SC/Other states
- Option 6- Boyles Law to total landings (50% 2001-2011 + 50% 2006-2011)
- Direction to staff- include landings from other Atlantic states separate from the unused quota

**Action 10. Modify the Framework Procedure.**

**Motion: Approve the Gulf’s additional wording in Alternative 2.**

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

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:

**Direction to staff: Reconvene the SAFMC Mackerel AP in February to review Amendments 19 and 20.**

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**The Council made the following motions for Framework Amendment:**

**1) Change the king mackerel size limit.**

**The Committee kept this item and alternatives in the Framework.**

**2) Retention of 1 king mackerel greater than 50 inches.**

**MOTION: Remove Item 2 from the Framework.**

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

**3) Spawning season closure for Atlantic group King Mackerel**

**MOTION: Remove consideration of a spawning season closure for KM from the Framework.**

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

**4) Change trip limits for Atlantic group King Mackerel**

**MOTION: Remove Item 4 from the Framework.**

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

**MOTION: Add consideration of an exemption from the SM minimum size limit for pound nets in NC during August and September.**

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

Direction to staff to include the following alternatives:

- Alternative 1 no action
- Alternative 2- NC only
- Alternative 3- all pound nets in Aug and Sept

**MOTION: Add consideration of allowing the addition of a third net in federal waters off Cape Canaveral to the Framework.**

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

Direction to staff to work with OLE to develop alternatives.

**Substitute Motion: Consideration of allowing the addition of a portion of a third net in the SM gillnet fishery. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**Motion: Consideration of allowing the addition of a portion of a third net in the SM gillnet fishery. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

**MOTION: Add consideration of a 50-fish commercial trip limit in the East Coast Florida subzone. Approved by Committee. [for king mackerel] APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Direction to staff to include the following alternatives and explore other reasonable alternatives.

Alternative 1- no action

Alternative 2- 50 fish all season

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**Task and Timing Motion Suggested Language:**

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

1. MAKE THE NECESSARY REVISIONS TO CMP AMENDMENT 19 AND PROVIDE THE REVISED DOCUMENT TO THE GULF COUNCIL FOR USE AT THEIR OCTOBER MEETING.
2. MAKE THE NECESSARY REVISIONS TO CMP AMENDMENT 20 AND PROVIDE THE REVISED DOCUMENT TO THE GULF COUNCIL FOR USE AT THEIR OCTOBER MEETING.
3. TARGET APPROVAL OF CMP AMENDMENT 19 AND AMENDMENT 20 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS AT THE DECEMBER 2012 MEETING.
4. TARGET FINAL APPROVAL OF CMP AMENDMENT 19 AND AMENDMENT 20 FOR MARCH 2013.
5. DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES AND COMPLETE ANALYSIS TO PROVIDE FRAMEWORK AT THE MARCH 2013 MEETING FOR REVIEW AND FINAL APPROVAL.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**