

**FINAL**  
**Summary of the Mackerel Committee**  
**December 5, 2013**  
**Hilton Wilmington Riverside**  
**Wilmington, NC**

**Members**

Ben Hartig, Chair  
Robert Beal  
Anna Beckwith  
Mel Bell  
Zack Bowen  
Jack Cox  
Roy Crabtree

David Cupka, Vice-Chair  
Michelle Duval  
Doug Haymans  
Jessica McCawley  
Charlie Phillips  
Pres Pate, MAFMC Liaison

The agenda was adopted, and the minutes of the September 2013 meeting were approved. The Committee received an update on the status of commercial catch. The update on recreational catch for coastal migratory pelagics had been presented on Tuesday during the Snapper Grouper Committee meeting. NMFS staff also provided a report on Amendment 20A, which was submitted for Secretarial review and is under review at the Region. The South Atlantic CMP Framework Action 2013 was still under review by Council staff and chair, and will be submitted for Secretarial review soon.

**Amendment 20B (Zones and Boundaries, Framework Procedure, Cobia ACL)**

The South Atlantic Council took final action on Amendment 20B in September 2013, but the Gulf Council made a change in a preferred alternative under Action 1 at their October 2013 meeting. The Committee reviewed Gulf Council actions, and made a change to the preferred alternative under Action 2. The Committee approved the following motions:

*Action 1: Commercial hook and line trip limits for Gulf migratory group king mackerel*

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 OPTION C AS THE PREFERRED AND DESELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 OPTION C AS THE S ATLANTIC PREFERRED.

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

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

Option a: For the Western zone

Option b: For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone

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

**Alternative 4:** Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 1,250 lbs. with no reduction

Option a: For the Western zone

~~South Atlantic Preferred~~/**Gulf Preferred** Option b: For the Eastern Zone Northern Subzone

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

*Action 2: Fishing season for Gulf group king mackerel*

**MOTION:** DE-SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2A AS A SOUTH ATLANTIC PREFERRED.

**Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.**

Note: This makes the South Atlantic Preferred Alternatives to be that the Western Zone fishing season does not change (July 1-June 30), and the Eastern Zone fishing season will change to October 1-September 30.

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

~~South Atlantic Preferred~~ / **Gulf Preferred Option a:** For the Western Zone

Option b: For the Eastern Zone

**MOTION:** ADD A PROVISION TO THE FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE THAT WOULD ALLOW A TRANSFER OF UNUSED ACL NOT TO EXCEED 10% FOR CMP SPECIES (KING MACKEREL, SPANISH MACKEREL, COBIA) BETWEEN SECTORS.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN.**

*Approval for submission for Secretarial review*

**MOTION:** APPROVE AMENDMENT 20B FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW, AND DEEM THE REVISED CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE, AND 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.**

### Joint Framework Actions (Spanish Mackerel ACLs)

In June 2013, the Mackerel Committee received recommendations for the ABC and OFL for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The South Atlantic Council requested that the SSC review the projections at their October 2013 meeting. The Committee received the revised recommendations for the ABC and OFL from Dr. Luiz Barbieri, SSC Chair, and these are included in the action to revise the ACL for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel in the Joint Framework Actions. The Committee approved the following motions:

**MOTION:** APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED AS STATED.

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

#### **Purpose for Actions**

The purpose of this amendment is to revise the ACLs for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel based on the results of the stock assessment completed in 2012.

#### **Need for Actions**

The need for this amendment is to ensure the annual catch limits are based on the best available and most recent information, and ensure overfishing does not occur in the coastal migratory pelagics fishery.

*Action 1. Modify the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel*

**MOTION:** APPROVE LANGUAGE FOR ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 2, AND INCLUDE AS THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 1.

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

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Retain the ACL, OY and ACT for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel:

Current ABC = 5,690,000 lbs ww, recommended by the SSC based on the third highest point over a ten-year period (equivalent to the 80th percentile) for the time series ranging from 1999-2008. The recreational ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater. Where PSE is an average from MRFSS based on landings in weight from 2005-2009.

ACL = OY = ABC = 5,690,000 lbs ww  
Commercial ACL (55%) = 3,130,000 lbs ww  
Recreational ACL (45%) = 2,560,000 lbs ww  
Recreational ACT = 2,320,000 lbs ww

**Alternative 2.** Revise the ACL (including sector ACLs), OY, and ACT for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 and 2015. The ABC recommended by the SSC is 6,063,000 lbs (ww). Set ACL = ABC, and the recreational ACT = ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater. The ABC, ACL, and recreational ACT values are based on landed catch only; discards are accounted for in specifying the ABC in terms of landed catch and not total kill. The average PSE from MRIP for 2005-2009 is 13.34. The values would remain until modified.

ACL = OY = ABC = 6,063,000 lbs ww  
Commercial ACL (55%) = 3,330,000 lbs ww  
Recreational ACL (45%) = 2,727,000 lbs ww  
Recreational ACT = 2,363,218 lbs ww

**MOTION:** SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 1 AS THE PREFERRED.

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

**Alternative 2.** Revise the ACL (including sector ACLs), OY, and ACT for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 and 2015. The ABC recommended by the SSC is 6,063,000 lbs (ww). Set ACL = ABC, and the recreational ACT = ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater. The ABC, ACL, and recreational ACT values are based on landed catch only; discards are accounted for in specifying the ABC in terms of landed catch and not total kill. The average PSE from MRIP for 2005-2009 is 13.34. The values would remain until modified.

ACL = OY = ABC = 6,063,000 lbs ww  
Commercial ACL (55%) = 3,330,000 lbs ww  
Recreational ACL (45%) = 2,727,000 lbs ww  
Recreational ACT = 2,363,218 lbs ww

*Action 2. Modify the ABC and ACL for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel*

**MOTION:** APPROVE THE LANGUAGE FOR ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 2.

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

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Retain the current ABC and ACL for Gulf of Mexico migratory group Spanish mackerel:

Current ABC = 5,150,000 lbs ww.

ACL=ABC=5,150,000 lbs ww (commercial and recreational sectors combined into a single Gulf-wide ACL in CMP Amendment 18 [GMFMC/SAFMC 2011])

**Alternative 2.** Revise ABC and ACL (including sector ACLs) for Gulf of Mexico migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 through 2016 as shown below, and set ACL=ABC.

**Table 2.2.** ABC/ACLs for 2014-2016 from the SEDAR 28 Gulf Spanish mackerel stock assessment and the Gulf Council/SSC-approved projections for Gulf of Mexico migratory group Spanish mackerel. ‘WW’ = whole weight, and ‘mp’ = million pounds.

Year	ABC ww	Total ACL ww
2014	12.7 mp	12.7 mp
2015	11.8 mp	11.8 mp
2016	11.3 mp	11.3 mp

**Alternative 3.** Set the ACL (including sector ACLs) for Gulf of Mexico migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 through 2016 at 75% of the ABC.

**Option a:** Set the ACT (including sector ACLs) for Gulf of Mexico migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 through 2016 at 90% of the ABC.

**Option b:** Set the ACT (including sector ACLs) for Gulf of Mexico migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 through 2016 at 75% of the ABC

**Table 2.3.** ABC/ACLs for 2014-2016 from the SEDAR 28 Gulf Spanish mackerel stock assessment and the Gulf Council/SSC-approved projections for Gulf of Mexico migratory group Spanish mackerel. ‘WW’ = whole weight, and ‘mp’ = million pounds.

Year	ABC ww	Total ACL ww
2014	12.7 mp	9.525 mp
2015	11.8 mp	8.85 mp
2016	11.3 mp	8.475 mp

*Approval for public hearings*

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

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

Amendment 24 (Allocations)

The Committee reviewed the options paper/draft scoping document for Amendment 24, which would examine the recreational and commercial allocations for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and possibly Gulf migratory group king mackerel. The Committee provided input to staff for the scoping document, including which stocks to include, and approved the following motion:

**MOTION: APPROVE AMENDMENT 24 DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR SCOPING.**

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

**Direction to staff: include in Amendment 24 an action to include in the framework an allowance for a 10% shift in allocation on an annual basis.**

Amendment 26 (Separate Permits)

The Committee also reviewed the options paper/draft scoping document for Amendment 26, which would consider ways to separate the commercial permits for Spanish mackerel and king mackerel into Atlantic and Gulf permits. The Committee directed staff to scope the amendment very broadly to get input from the public on possibly separating the permits. The Committee approved the following motion:

**MOTION: APPROVE AMENDMENT 26 FOR SCOPING.**

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

Amendment 23 (Tournament sales)

In March 2013 the South Atlantic Council approved a motion to address tournament sales of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel in a separate amendment (Amendment 23). However, the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils addressed tournament sales in Amendment 20A and a separate amendment is not needed. The Committee approved the following motion:

**MOTION: CEASE WORK ON AMENDMENT 23.**

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

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**Task and Timing Motion Suggested Language:**

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

1. PREPARE JOINT CMP AMENDMENT 20B FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.
2. MAKE THE NECESSARY REVISIONS TO THE JOINT FRAMEWORK ACTIONS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN JANUARY 2014 AND FOR THE MARCH 2014 MEETING.
3. PREPARE A SCOPING DOCUMENT AND HOLD SCOPING MEETINGS FOR JOINT CMP AMENDMENT 24.
4. PREPARE A BROAD SCOPING DOCUMENT AND HOLD SCOPING MEETINGS FOR JOINT CMP AMENDMENT 26.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**