

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT –MACKEREL COMMITTEE
December 7, 2015
Atlantic Beach, NC

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the September 2015 meeting. Jack McGovern provided a briefing on the status of commercial and recreational landings, including a reminder that recreational landings of Atlantic cobia (NY-GA stock) are currently at 241% of the recreational ACL. The recreational accountability measure that will apply is to reduce the length of the following recreational season for the NY-GA stock of cobia. The Committee discussed concern for a short recreational season in 2016 and may direct staff to start work on a framework amendment to change the bag limit or other management measures.

Amendment 26 (King mackerel ACLs and stock boundary)

Council staff reviewed the decision document for Amendment 26. The Committee approved the following motions:

MOTION #1: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 1 WAS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 1. Adjust the Management Boundary for Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups of King Mackerel

Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 3: Establish a single year-round boundary for separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Miami-Dade/Monroe county line (**Figure 3** (Amendment Figure 2.1.3)). The Gulf Council would be responsible for management measures in the mixing zone. **(Gulf and South Atlantic AP Recommended)**

MOTION #2: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE UNDER ACTION 2-1. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 2-1. Revise the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 2: Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016/17 through 2019/20 based on the ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a high recruitment scenario. **(Gulf AP and South Atlantic AP Recommended)**

MOTION #3: UNDER ACTION 2-2, SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 2-2. Revise the ACLs, Commercial Quotas, and Recreational ACT for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 3: Establish ACL = OY = Deterministic equilibrium yield at F30%SPR = 12.7 mp for fishing years 2016/17 through 2019/20.

MOTION #4: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 3 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE. APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 3. Incidental Catch Allowance of Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Caught in the Shark Gillnet Fishery

Alternative 3: Allow retention and sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with gillnet as incidental catch in the gillnet portion of the commercial shark fishery for any vessel with a valid shark directed commercial permit AND valid federal king mackerel commercial permit. The king mackerel must be sold to a dealer with the Southeast federal dealer permit. For shark gillnet trips in the Southern Zone, no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip. For shark gillnet trips in the Northern Zone, no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip. **(Gulf AP and South Atlantic AP Recommended)**

MOTION #5: ACCEPT IPT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FOR ALTERNATIVES 2-4 UNDER ACTION 4. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 4. Establish Commercial Split Seasons for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel in the Southern Zone

Alternative 2: Allocate the Southern Zone quota for Atlantic king mackerel into two split season quotas: 60% to the period March 1 - September 30 (season 1) and 40% to the period October 1 – February 28 (season 2). Any remaining quota from season 1 would transfer to season 2. Any remaining quota from season 2 would not be carried forward. When the quota for the season is met or expected to be met, commercial harvest of king mackerel in the Southern Zone will be prohibited for the remainder of the season. **(South Atlantic Mackerel AP Recommended)**

Alternative 3: Allocate the Southern Zone quota for Atlantic king mackerel into two split season quotas: 60% to the period March 1 – October 31 (season 1) and 40% to the period November 1 – February 28 (season 2). Any remaining quota from season 1 would transfer to season 2. Any remaining quota from season 2 would not be carried forward. When the quota for the season is met or expected to be met, commercial harvest of king mackerel in the Southern Zone will be prohibited for the remainder of the season.

Alternative 4: Allocate the Southern Zone quota for Atlantic king mackerel into two split season quotas: 50% to the period March 1 – October 31 (season 1) and 50% to the period November 1 – February 28 (season 2). Any remaining quota from season 1 would transfer to season 2. Any remaining quota from season 2 would not be carried forward. When the quota for the season is met or expected to be met, commercial harvest of king mackerel in the Southern Zone will be prohibited for the remainder of the season.

MOTION #6: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 4. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 4. Establish Commercial Split Seasons for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel in the Southern Zone

Alternative 2: Allocate the Southern Zone quota for Atlantic king mackerel into two quotas: 60% to the period March 1 - September 30 (season 1) and 40% to the period October 1 – February 28 (season 2). Any remaining quota from season 1 would transfer to season 2. Any remaining quota from season 2 would not be carried forward. When the Southern Zone quota for the season is met or expected to be met, commercial harvest of king mackerel in the Southern Zone will be prohibited for the remainder of the season.

MOTION #7: REMOVE ACTION 5-1. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 5-1. Establish Boundaries for the Florida East Coast Management Zone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action - Do not establish a Florida east coast management zone.

Alternative 2: Establish a Florida east coast management zone that exists year-round with boundaries at:

Option 2a: Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 2b: Volusia/Brevard county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 2c: Volusia/Brevard county line and the Council jurisdictional boundary (as designated Action 1).

Alternative 3: Establish a Florida east coast management zone that exists for season 1 (as designated in Action 4) with boundaries at:

Option 3a: Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 3b: Volusia/Brevard county line and Dade/Monroe county line. **(Gulf AP and South Atlantic AP Recommended)**

Option 3c: Volusia/Brevard county line and the Council jurisdictional boundary (as designated in Action 1).

Alternative 4: Establish a Florida east coast management zone that exists for season 2 (as designated in Action 4) with boundaries at:

Option 4a: Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line. **(Gulf AP and South Atlantic AP Recommended)**

Option 4b: Volusia/Brevard county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 4c: Volusia/Brevard county line and the Council jurisdictional boundary (as designated in Action 1).

MOTION #8: UNDER ACTION 5-2, MOVE OPTIONS 3A-3C TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

Action 5-2. Establish a trip limit system for the Florida East Coast Management Zone

Option 3a. Reduce the trip limit to 50 fish from May 1- May 31.

Option 3b. Reduce the trip limit to 50 fish from May 1- August 31.

Option 3c. Reduce the trip limit to 50 fish from April 15- May 15.

MOTION #9: ADD NEW OPTIONS 3A AND 3B TO ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER ACTION 5 (5-2). **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 5-2. Establish a trip limit system for the Florida East Coast Management Zone

Option 3a. Beginning on August 1 and continuing through the end of season 1, if 75% of the season 1 quota has been taken, the trip limit will be 50 fish.

Option 3b. At any time during season 1, if 75% of the season 1 quota has been taken, the trip limit will be 50 fish.

MOTION #10: APPROVE MODIFIED ALTERNATIVE 3 UNDER [NEW] ACTION 5. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 5. Establish a trip limit system for the Southern Zone

Alternative 3: In the Southern Zone, the trip limit north of the Flagler/Volusia line is 3,500 lbs. For the area south of the Flagler/Volusia county line, establish a trip limit of 50 fish from March 1- March 31, and 75 fish for the remainder of in the Florida east coast management zone management zone season 1 (as designated in Action 4).

MOTION #11: APPROVE MODIFIED ACTION 5 AS READ INTO THE RECORD. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 5. Establish a trip limit system for the Southern Zone

Alternative 1: No action. The trip limits for the Southern Zone will remain:

In the area between the Flagler/ Volusia county line and the Volusia/Brevard county line, the trip limit is 3,500 lbs from April 1 through October 31.

In the area from the Volusia/Brevard county line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe county line, the trip limit is 75 fish.

From November 1 through March 31, no trip limit is in place for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 2: In the Southern Zone, the trip limit north of the Flagler/Volusia line is 3,500 lbs. For the area south of the Flagler/Volusia line, establish a year-round trip limit of 75 fish for Atlantic king mackerel.

Alternative 3: In the Southern Zone, the trip limit north of the Flagler/Volusia line is 3,500 lbs. For the area south of the Flagler/Volusia line, establish a trip limit of 50 fish from March 1- March 31, and 75 fish for the remainder of season 1 (as designated in Action 4).

Option 3a. Beginning on August 1 and continuing through the end of season 1, if 75% of the season 1 quota has been taken, the trip limit will be 50 fish.

Option 3b. At any time during season 1, if 75% of the season 1 quota has been taken, the trip limit will be 50 fish.

Alternative 4: In the Southern Zone, the trip limit north of the Flagler/Volusia line is 3,500 lbs. For the area south of the Flagler/Volusia line, establish a trip limit of 50 fish for season 2 (as designated in Action 4).

Option 4a. Beginning on February 1 and continuing through the end of February--

(1) If 70 % or more of the season 2 quota has been taken, the trip limit is 50 fish.

(2) If less than 70 % of the season 2 quota has been taken, the trip limit is 75 fish.

Option 4b. Beginning on January 1 and continuing through the end of February--

(1) If 70 % or more of the season 2 quota has been taken, the trip limit is 50 fish.

(2) If less than 70 % of the season 2 quota has been taken, the trip limit is 75 fish.

Option 4c. Beginning on February 1 and continuing through the end of February--

(1) If 80 % or more of the season 2 quota has been taken, the trip limit is 50 fish.

(2) If less than 80 % of the season 2 quota has been taken, the trip limit is 75 fish.

MOTION #12: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS THE PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 6.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 6. Modify the ACL for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 2: Set the Gulf migratory group king mackerel ACL equal to the ABC recommended by the Gulf Scientific and Statistical Committee for 2015-2019. (**Gulf AP Recommended**)

MOTION #13: APPROVE THE GULF COUNCIL LANGUAGE CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVES 2-5 [INCLUDING OPTION C UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4] IN ACTION 8.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 8. Revise the Recreational and Commercial Allocations of Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 2: Revise the recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by dividing the stock ACL using one of the options below.

Option a: 63% to the recreational sector, and 37% to the commercial sector.

Option b: 58% to the recreational sector, and 42% to the commercial sector.

Option c: 48% to the recreational sector, and 52% to the commercial sector.

Alternative 3: Revise the recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by transferring a percentage of the stock ACL to the commercial allocation annually

until such a time that the recreational sector lands 80% of its allocation, after which no additional allocation will be transferred from the stock ACL to the commercial allocation.

Option a: Transfer 2% of the stock ACL annually to the commercial allocation.

Option b: Transfer 5% of the stock ACL annually to the commercial allocation.

Alternative 4: Conditionally transfer a certain percentage (*Options a-d*) of the stock ACL to the commercial sector until such a time that recreational landings reach a predetermined threshold (*Options e-g*). If this threshold is met, the recreational and commercial allocations will revert to 68% for the recreational sector and 32% for the commercial sector.

Conditional Quota Transfer (MUST CHOOSE ONE):

Option a: Transfer 5% of the stock ACL to the commercial sector.

Option b: Transfer 10% of the stock ACL to the commercial sector.

NEW Option c: Transfer 15% of the stock ACL to the commercial sector.

Option d: Transfer 20% of the stock ACL to the commercial sector.

Recreational ACL Threshold (MUST CHOOSE ONE):

Option e: Revert to the status quo sector allocations if 80% of the adjusted recreational sector ACL is landed.

Option f: Revert to the status quo sector allocations if 90% of the adjusted recreational sector ACL is landed.

Option g: Revert to the status quo sector allocations if 100% of the adjusted recreational sector ACL is landed.

Alternative 5: Establish a sunset provision for any change in the sector allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel. After the predetermined time period, any change in sector allocations would revert back to the allocations specified in the original Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico (68% for the recreational sector and 32% for the commercial sector).

Option a: Sunset any change in sector allocations after a five year period (2016-2020).

Option b: Sunset any change in sector allocations after a ten year period (2016-2025).

Option c: Sunset any change in sector allocations after a fifteen year period (2016-2030).

MOTION #14: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS THE PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 9.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Action 9. Modify the Recreational Bag Limit for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 3: Increase the bag limit to four fish per person per day.

MOTION #15: APPROVE AMENDMENT 26 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS. **APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Task and Timing Motion:

MOTION #16: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:

1. PREPARE DRAFT AMENDMENT 26 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.
2. COUNCIL STAFF WORKS WITH COMMITTEE CHAIR AND SEFSC STAFF TO REQUEST UPDATED INFORMATION ON ATLANTIC KING MACKEREL PROJECTIONS.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.