

Summary Report
Mackerel Committee
June 12, 2014
Sawgrass Marriott
Ponte Vedra, FL

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the March 2014 meeting. NMFS staff reported on the status of commercial catch and recreational catch, in addition to updates on amendments under review. The final rule for Amendment 20A will publish on June 16, 2014. The final rule package for the South Atlantic CMP Framework Action 2013 is under review at the Regional Office. Amendment 20B was submitted on May 22, 2014, and Framework Amendment 1 was submitted on May 28, 2014, and both are under review at the Regional Office.

Framework Amendment 2 (Atlantic Spanish mackerel trip limits in Florida)

The Committee approved the following motions:

MOTION: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Alternative 2. Establish a trip limit of 3,500 lbs for the Florida EEZ.

The following motions pertained to the alternatives:

MOTION: ACCEPT THE PROPOSED SOUTHERN ZONE QUOTA AS THE TRIGGER MECHANISM.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

MOTION: HAVE THE ALTERNATIVES IN FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 2 APPLY TO EEZ OFF SOUTHERN ZONE.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

MOTION: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES AS MODIFIED.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not modify the current system of trip limits for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 3. Establish a trip limit of 3,500 lbs for the Southern Zone for March 1- November 30. After December 1, when 75% of the adjusted [proposed] Southern Zone Quota has been landed or projected to be landed, the trip limit would be reduced to 1,500 lbs.

Alternative 4. Establish a trip limit of 3,500 lbs for the Southern Zone. When 75% of the [proposed] Southern Zone commercial quota has been landed or projected to be landed, the trip limit would be reduced to 500 lbs.

Alternative 5. Establish a trip limit of 3,500 lbs for the Southern Zone. When 75% of adjusted quota of the [proposed] Southern Zone quota has been landed or projected to be landed, the trip limit would be reduced to 1,500 lbs. When 100% of adjusted quota of the [proposed] Southern Zone quota is reached, the trip limit is reduced to 500 lbs until the end of the fishing year or until the [proposed] Southern Zone commercial quota is met or projected to be met.

MOTION: ACCEPT THE MODIFIED PURPOSE AND NEED.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

MOTION: ACCEPT THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED TO REFLECT THAT THEY APPLY TO THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN ZONE.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Purpose for Actions

The purpose of this amendment is to modify the current trip limit system for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel in the Southern Zone.

Need for Actions

The need for this amendment is to tailor the trip limit system for the Southern Zone to current conditions in the fishery and the new catch limits, while increasing social and economic benefits of the CMP fishery through sustainable and profitable harvest of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

MOTION: APPROVE FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 2 FOR AUGUST PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Amendment 24 (Allocations/ACL shift)

Council staff reviewed an options paper for ways to allocate or shift the Atlantic Spanish mackerel ACL. The Committee provided input and direction to staff for upcoming meetings. Staff will continue work on options for Amendment 24 and present additional options at the December 2014 meeting.

Task and Timing Motion Suggested Language:

MOTION: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:

1. PREPARE FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 2 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN AUGUST 2014.
2. CONTINUE WORK ON THE OPTIONS PAPER FOR AMENDMENT 24 TO PRESENT IN DECEMBER 2014.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL