

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT – SOUTH ATLANTIC MACKEREL COMMITTEE
June 9, 2015
Key West, FL

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the March 2015 meeting.

NMFS staff reported on the status of commercial catch and recreational catch, in addition to updates on amendments under review. The proposed rule for CMP Framework Amendment 2 was published on April 9, 2015, and the comment period closed on May 11, 2015. The final rule package is under review at the Region.

The South Atlantic Council met jointly with the Gulf Council on June 11, 2015, to review committee motions for Amendment 26 and Amendment 28. The motions approved by the South Atlantic Council at the joint meeting are included in this report.

Mackerel Advisory Panel Report

Council staff provided a report from the Mackerel Advisory Panel meeting on April 15, 2015. The AP reviewed and provided recommendations on CMP Amendments 26 and 28, in addition to the Charterboat Reporting Amendment.

Amendment 26 (King mackerel ACLs and stock boundary)

Council staff reviewed the decision document for Amendment 26 and the Committee approved language for actions and alternative to include in the amendment. The Committee and Council approved the following motions:

Purpose and Need

MOTION: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED FOR AMENDMENT 26.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Purpose for Action

The purpose of this amendment is to modify the stock boundary and revise the ACLs for Atlantic and Gulf migratory group king mackerel; to modify the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory king mackerel; to revise recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory king mackerel; to create an incidental catch allowance of Atlantic migratory king mackerel for the shark gillnet fishery; and to revise or create management measures for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel in the Florida East Coast Subzone.

Need for Action

The need for this amendment is to ensure annual catch limits are based on the best scientific information available and to ensure overfishing does not occur in the coastal migratory pelagics fishery, while increasing social and economic benefits of the CMP fishery through sustainable and profitable harvest of Gulf and Atlantic migratory group king mackerel in accordance with provisions set forth in Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act.

MOTION: APPROVE THE NEW LANGUAGE WITH THE DELETION FOR ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 IN ACTION 1.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

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

Alternative 1: No action - Maintain the current shifting management boundary between the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel.

Alternative 2. Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating management of the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Gulf/South Atlantic Council boundary (**Figure 2**). ~~The mixing zone would be designated as the area south of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, demarcated in the west by a line west from Key West to the Dry Tortugas at 24°35' North latitude, then south at 83° West longitude from the Dry Tortugas (the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Council boundary) to the shelf edge, and in the east from the Dade-Monroe county line to the shelf edge. The South Atlantic Council would be responsible for management measures in the mixing zone.~~

Alternative 3. Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Dade/Monroe County line (**Figure 3**). ~~The mixing zone would be designated as the area south of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, demarcated in the west by a line west from Key West to the Dry Tortugas at 24°35' North latitude, then south at 83° West longitude from the Dry Tortugas (the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Council boundary) to the shelf edge, and in the east from the Dade-Monroe county line to the shelf edge. The Gulf Council would be responsible for management measures in the mixing zone.~~

MOTION: APPROVE THE NEW LANGUAGE FOR BIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS IN ACTION 2.
Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

ACTION 2. Update Reference Points (MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL), and Revise the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

The South Atlantic Council has determined that the value for MSY is the value of yield at F_{MSY} from the most recent stock assessment. Currently $MSY = 10.4$ mp (SEDAR 16). ~~The SSC did not recommend a value for MSY so the 10.4 mp estimate remains in place.~~ In October 2014, the SSC recommended a proxy for MSY at 30% SPR (spawning potential ratio), which is 12.7 mp.

The South Atlantic Council has determined that the value for MSST is the value from the most recent stock assessment. Currently $MSST = 1,827.5$ million hydrated eggs (SEDAR 16). Based on the SEDAR 38 assessment, $MSST = 1,991$ million hydrated eggs.

The South Atlantic Council has determined that the value for MFMT is the value of F_{MSY} or proxy from the most recent stock assessment. Currently $MFMT = F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR} = 0.256$ (SEDAR 16). Based on the SEDAR 38 assessment, $MFMT = F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR} = 0.157$.

MOTION: MAKE THE SUGGESTED CHANGES TO 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 1 (No action). Retain the current ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel (10.46 mp).

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.

Alternative 3. 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 medium recruitment scenario.

Alternative 4. 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 low recruitment scenario (**Table 3**).

MOTION: ACCEPT THE CHANGES IN ACTION 2-2.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Action 2-2. Revise the ACL and Recreational ACT for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 2. Set $ACL = OY = ABC$ based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1.

Alternative 3. Establish $ACL = OY =$ Deterministic equilibrium yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 12.7$ mp for fishing years 2016/17 through 2019/20.

Alternative 4. Establish $ACL = OY =$ Deterministic equilibrium yield at $75\% F_{30\%SPR} = 11.6$ mp for fishing years 2016/17 through 2019/20.

Alternative 5. Establish $ACL = OY = 90\%$ ABC based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1.

Alternative 6. Establish $ACL = OY = 80\%$ ABC based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1.

MOTION: ACCEPT THE CHANGES IN ACTION 3, WITH ALTERNATIVE 3 MOVED TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

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

Alternative 1: No action - Do not allow retention and sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the gillnet portion of the commercial shark fishery.

Alternative 2: Allow retention and sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift 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.

Option 2a: For shark gillnet trips in the EEZ off Florida, 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 EEZ north of the GA/FL line, 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.

Option 2b: 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.

MOTION: ACCEPT ALTERNATIVES AS PROPOSED UNDER ACTION 4-1.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Action 4-1. Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action - Do not establish a Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel. Commercial harvest in the EEZ off the east coast of Florida will be counted towards the Atlantic Southern Zone commercial quota (as established in Action 1), and recreational harvest in the EEZ off the east coast of Florida will be counted towards the Atlantic king mackerel recreational ACT and ACL (as established in Action 1).

Alternative 2: Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone 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 Council jurisdictional boundary (as designated Action 1).

Alternative 3: Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone that exists March 1 through September 30 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.

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

Alternative 4: Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone that exists October 1 through the end of February with boundaries at:

Option 4a: Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

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

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

MOTION: ACCEPT THE SUGGESTED LANGUAGE CHANGES UNDER ACTION 4-2. **Approved by Committee.**

Action 4-2. Allocate Quota for the Florida East Coast Subzone within the Atlantic Southern Zone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action - Do not allocate quota among areas or seasons.

Alternative 2: Establish a Florida East Coast (FLEC) Subzone sub-quota within the Southern Zone quota for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel in which a proportion of the Southern Zone quota would be allocated to the FLEC Subzone. Commercial harvest of king mackerel in the area designated as the FLEC Subzone in Action 4-1 will be counted towards the FLEC Subzone sub-quota. When the sub-quota for the season is met or expected to be met, commercial harvest of king mackerel in the FLEC Subzone will be prohibited for the remainder of the fishing year for the FLEC Subzone.

Option 2a: Use historic landings in the Southern Zone from the 2009/10 through the 2013/14 fishing seasons (last five years) to calculate the FLEC Subzone quota.

Expected: 93% FLEC Subzone

Option 2b: Use historic landings in the Southern Zone from the 2004/05 through the 2013/14 fishing seasons (last ten years) to calculate the FLEC Subzone quota.

Expected: 92.3% FLEC Subzone

Option 2c: Use historic landings in the Southern Zone from the 1999/00 through the 2013/14 fishing seasons (last fifteen years) to calculate the FLEC Subzone quota.

Expected: 90.5% FLEC Subzone

Alternative 3: Establish a split season for the Southern Zone Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel in which 60% of the Southern Zone quota will be allocated to March 1- September 30 and 40% of the Southern Zone quota would be allocated October 1- end of February. 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 fishing year.

MOTION: APPROVE THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 4-3.
Approved by Committee.

Action 4-3. Modify Trip Limits for the Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action - Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

(a) From April 1 through October 31

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.

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

Alternative 2: The commercial trip limit in the FLEC Subzone as designated in Action 4-1 is 75 fish. The commercial trip limit north of the FLEC Subzone northern boundary is 3,500 lbs.

Alternative 3: The commercial trip limit in the Florida East Coast (FLEC) Subzone as designated in Action 4-1 is 75 fish with a step-down to 50 fish. The commercial trip limit north of the Florida East Coast Subzone northern boundary is 3,500 lbs.

Option 3a: The step-down applies for only the month of May.

Option 3b: The step-down applies from May-August.

Option 3c: The step-down applies from April 15- May 15.

Alternative 4. The commercial trip limit in the FLEC Subzone as designated in Action 4-1 in summer (as defined in Action 4-1) is 75 fish and in winter (as defined in Action 4-1) is 50 fish.

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

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

(2) If less than 70 % of the quota or sub-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 quota or sub-quota has been taken the trip limit is 50 fish.

(2) If less than 70 % of the quota or sub-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 quota or sub-quota has been taken the trip limit is 50 fish.

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

MOTION: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED IN ACTION 5 FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Action 5. Modify the ACL for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action - Retain the current Gulf migratory group king mackerel ACL as designated in Amendment 18 (GMFMC/SAFMC 2011) of 10.8 million pounds.

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. ABC values are in millions of pounds, whole weight:

Year	ABC (mp ww)
2015	9.62
2016	9.21
2017	8.88
2018	8.71
2019	8.55

Alternative 3: Establish a constant catch scenario for the Gulf migratory group king mackerel ACL for one of the following time periods. The ACL during the selected time period may not exceed the ABC recommended by the Gulf SSC for any year during the selected time period.

Option a: A three-year period (2015-2017)

Option b: A five-year period (2015-2019)

MOTION: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED IN ACTION 6 FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Action 6. Revise the Commercial Zone Quotas for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action – Maintain the current commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel (Western Zone: 31%; Northern Zone: 5.17%; Southern Zone Handline: 15.96%; Southern Zone Gillnet: 15.96%; Florida East Coast Zone: 31.91%).

Alternative 2: Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by dividing the Florida East Coast Zone’s quota into four equal parts, to be added to each of the remaining Gulf commercial zones.

Alternative 3: Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by dividing each individual zone’s quota percentage by the sum of the quota percentages for all Gulf commercial zones *except* the Florida East Coast Zone, with each resultant percentage becoming that respective zone’s new commercial quota.

Alternative 4: Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel as follows: 40% for the Western Zone; 18% for the Northern Zone; 21% for the Southern Zone Handline component; and 21% for the Southern Zone Gillnet component.

MOTION: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED IN ACTION 7 FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Action 7. Revise the Recreational and Commercial Allocations for the Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action – Maintain the current recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel (68% recreational, 32% commercial).

Alternative 2: Revise the recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by shifting a percentage of the recreational allocation to the commercial sector.

Option a: Shift 5% of the recreational allocation to the commercial sector.

Option b: Shift 10% of the recreational allocation to the commercial sector.

Option c: Shift 20% of the recreational allocation to the commercial sector.

Alternative 3: Revise the recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by shifting a percentage of the recreational allocation 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 shifted from the recreational allocation to the commercial allocation.

Option a: Shift 2% of the recreational allocation annually to the commercial allocation.

Option b: Shift 5% of the recreational allocation annually to the commercial allocation.

MOTION: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 7 TO CONDITIONALLY TRANSFER A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE (5%, 10%, 20%) OF THE RECREATIONAL QUOTA TO THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR UP UNTIL THE POINT THAT THE RECREATIONAL QUOTA IS MET. IF THE RECREATIONAL ACL IS MET, THE RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL ALLOCATIONS WILL REVERT TO 68% FOR THE RECREATIONAL SECTOR AND 32% FOR THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO CRAFT THE ALTERNATIVE APPROPRIATELY.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

MOTION: ACCEPT THE ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED IN ACTION 8 FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Action 8. Modify the Recreational Bag Limit for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action - Maintain the current recreational bag limit of two fish per person per day.

Alternative 2: Increase the bag limit to three fish per person per day.

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

Amendment 28 (separate FMPs/permits)

In March 2015, the South Atlantic Council approved a motion to stop development of Amendment 28, which would include actions for separate permits or FMPs. The Gulf Council is currently moving forward with Amendment 28 with scoping in April 2015 and the Councils will discuss next steps for Amendment 28 at the joint meeting on June 11, 2015. Council staff reviewed a discussion document, but the Committee did not change the position for future development of Amendment 28.

Task and Timing Motion:

MOTION: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:

1. PREPARE DRAFT AMENDMENT 26 FOR REVIEW IN SEPTEMBER 2015.
2. ALLOW STAFF/IPT TO REORGANIZE DOCUMENT AND ACTIONS AS NECESSARY.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.