

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT - MACKEREL COMMITTEE
March 5, 2015
St Simons, GA

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the December 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 20B published on January 27, 2015, and went into effect on March 1, 2015. The final rule for South Atlantic CMP Framework Action 2013 published on November 19, 2014, with regulations effective on December 19, 2014. Next, the final rule for Framework Amendment 1 published on November 20, 2014, with an effective date of December 22, 2014. Last, Framework Amendment 2 was submitted to NMFS on November 5, 2014, and the proposed rule package is under review at the Region.

Council staff provided a report from the January 2015 meeting of the Gulf Council. The Gulf Council approved items in Amendments 26 and 28 for scoping. Additionally, the Gulf Council approved a motion to develop a framework amendment to address trip limits, accountability measures, and latent permits in the king mackerel gillnet fishery.

January/February 2015 Scoping Summary

Council staff reviewed the scoping comments received during scoping in January/February 2015. Comments addressed scoping items in Amendment 26 in addition to other mackerel-related topics, including bag limit sales and Northern/Southern zone allocations. Council staff also provided a report of recommendations from the Gulf Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP) meeting held on March 4, 2015.

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 approved the following motions:

MOTION: ACTION 1: ADD ALTERNATIVES 1-3 INTO THE DOCUMENT.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

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

Alternative 1 (No action). Maintain the current mixing zone designation and stock boundaries for Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel.

Alternative 2. Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Gulf/South Atlantic Council boundary. 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' N. lat, then south at 83° W 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. From November 1- March 31, king mackerel landings in the mixing zone would be counted as 50% toward the Gulf King Mackerel ACL and 50% towards the Atlantic King Mackerel ACL.

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. 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' N. lat, then south at 83° W 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. From November 1- March 31, king mackerel landings in the mixing zone would be counted as 50% toward the Gulf King Mackerel ACL and 50% towards the Atlantic King Mackerel ACL.

MOTION: ADD ACTION 2 IN CMP AMENDMENT 26 AND ADD LANGUAGE FOR MSY, MSST, MFMT AND OFL.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

ACTION 2. Revise MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL, ABC, OY, ACL, and ACT levels for Atlantic Migratory group King Mackerel

Language for Amendment 26:

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.

The South Atlantic Council has determined that the value for MSST is the value from the most recent stock assessment. Currently $MSST = 1,827.5$ billion hydrated eggs (SEDAR 16). Based on the SEDAR 38 assessment, $MSST = 1,991$ billion 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, $MFMT = F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR} = 0.157$.

The SSC provided the following OFLs at their October 2014 meeting (**Table 1**):

Table 1. Recommendation for OFL from the October 2014 SSC meeting for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Fishing year	OFL
2015	22.0581
2016	19.75
2017	18.2914
2018	16.6987
2019	15.1871
2020	14.2985

MOTION: ACTION 2-1: APPROVE ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 2 FOR INCLUSION IN THE DOCUMENT.

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 ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel (10.46 mp).

Alternative 2. Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016-2020 (**Table 3**).

Sub-Alternative 2a. Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for ABC under a high recruitment scenario.

Sub-Alternative 2b. Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for ABC under a medium recruitment scenario.

Sub-Alternative 2c. Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for ABC under a low recruitment scenario.

Sub-Alternative 2d. Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for deterministic equilibrium yield at $F_{30\%SPR}$

Sub-Alternative 2e. Adopt the ABC levels based on the SSC recommendation for deterministic equilibrium yield at 75 % of $F_{30\%SPR}$

MOTION: DIRECT THE SSC TO LOOK INTO THE SPECIFICS OF A RUMBLE STRIP OR TRIGGER MECHANISM WHERE APPROPRIATE.

[Note: “where appropriate” indicates that the SSC can discuss a rumble strip or trigger mechanism for Atlantic group king mackerel in addition to other species managed by the SAFMC]

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION 2-2.
Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Action 2-2. Revise Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel and Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)

Alternative 1 (No action). Retain the ACL and ACT for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC

Alternative 3. ACL = OY = 90% ABC

Alternative 4. ACL = OY = 80% ABC

MOTION: INCLUDE ACTION 3 AND ALTERNATIVES IN THE DOCUMENT.
Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL. (2 OBJECTIONS)

ACTION 3. Allow Bag Limit Sales of Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Caught in the Small Coastal Shark Drift Gillnet Fishery

Alternative 1 (No Action). Sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the Drift Gillnet Small Coastal Shark Fishery is prohibited.

Alternative 2. Allow sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the Drift Gillnet portion of the commercial sector of the Small Coastal Shark Fishery for any vessel with a valid Shark Directed or Shark Incidental commercial permit AND valid federal king mackerel commercial permit. For shark vessels fishing in the Florida EEZ, no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be sold on each trip. For shark vessels in the EEZ north of the GA/FL line, no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be sold on each trip. The king mackerel must be sold to a dealer with the Southeast federal dealer permit.

DIRECTION TO IPT: Provide language to clarify how authorized gear will work in the gillnet fishery for bag limit sales of king mackerel for June 2015 meeting.

MOTION: ADD AN ACTION TO RETAIN THE FLORIDA EAST COAST SUBZONE.
Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

DIRECTION TO IPT: At June 2015 meeting, provide options for FLEC sub-quota, catch levels in the FLEC zone, and AP input on boundaries.

MOTION: ALLOW STAFF/IPT TO REORGANIZE DOCUMENT AND ACTIONS AS NECESSARY.
Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Amendment 28 (separate FMPs/permits)

NOAA General Counsel provided an overview of considerations for separating the CMP Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The procedure would follow a similar process for separating the Coral FMPs in 1994: A joint amendment would include an action to create separate CMP FMPs; the Council would need to write a letter to the Secretary of Commerce outlining the rationale for separate FMPs. These reasons could include timing issues between the Councils, different habitats, different management philosophies, reducing time and resources required for joint FMPs, and other factors. The Council would need to identify if different rationales would be necessary for each species, because there are different management boundaries for the species.

Council staff provided a review of the current management boundaries and permit requirements for each species. The Committee requested a summary of expected pros and cons for each species if the FMP was separated (included in the Timing and Task motion below). The Committee decided not to move forward with Amendment 28 and passed the following motion:

MOTION: DISCONTINUE WORK ON AMENDMENT 28.

Approved by Committee. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Task and Timing Motion:

MOTION: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:

1. PREPARE DRAFT AMENDMENT 26 FOR REVIEW IN JUNE 2015.
2. PREPARE A SUMMARY DOCUMENT OF PROS AND CONS FOR EACH CMP SPECIES IF THERE WERE SEPARATE FMPS FOR THE JUNE 2015 MEETING.
3. SSC REVIEW OF RUMBLE STRIP OR TRIGGER MECHANISM FOR STOCKS, WHERE APPROPRIATE.
4. GET MACKEREL AP INPUT IN APRIL 2015 ON BOUNDARIES FOR THE FLORIDA EAST COAST SUBZONE.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.