

**SUMMARY REPORT  
FROM THE MACKEREL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Charleston, SC  
September 13, 2010**

The Mackerel Committee met on September 13, 2010 in Charleston, SC. The committee received presentations by:

1. Gregg Waugh, Council Staff, reviewed actions from the Joint GMFMC/SAFMC June 2010 meeting, the Gulf Council June 2010 meeting, and the South Atlantic Council June 2010 meeting. The Team has recommended that the South Atlantic Council move all management measures to a future amendment and focus on ACLs and AMs in Mackerel Amendment 18. All management measures are now included in Appendix B. The South Atlantic Council should review all management measures and determine which should be addressed in Amendment 18 and which ones could be addressed in a future amendment.

The Committee reviewed the Options Paper for Amendment 18 and focused on Appendix B. The Committee discussed the current workload and timing and decided to only include the management measures that were necessary to limit catches to the anticipated ACLs for Atlantic Migratory Group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. Ben Hartig asked about the timing for a future amendment or using the framework process to address some of the other items that have been under consideration for many years. The Committee provided guidance as shown below.

**The committee approved the following motions:**

**MOTION #1:** ADD PROHIBITION OF BAG LIMIT SALES OF ATLANTIC MIGRATORY GROUP KING & SPANISH MACKEREL AND COBIA TO AMENDMENT 18; ALSO ADD COBIA BAG LIMITS  
APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

**MOTION #2:** ADD ACTIONS TO ADJUST SPANISH MACKEREL BAG LIMITS AND COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMITS  
APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

**In addition, the committee provided the following guidance and/or made the following requests:**

1. Directed staff to review the current mackerel framework and determine what actions can be taken. **The current framework is shown on the page 2 along with proposed modifications being considered in Amendment 18.**
2. Directed staff to determine the Gulf Council's timing for working on the next mackerel amendment.

- F. If the RA concurs that the councils' recommendations are consistent with the goals and objectives of the plan, the National Standards, and other applicable law, the RA shall implement the regulations by proposed and final rules in the Federal Register prior to the appropriate fishing year or such dates as may be agreed upon with the councils. A reasonable period for public comment shall be afforded, consistent with the urgency, if any, of the need to implement the management measure.

Appropriate regulatory changes that may be implemented by the RA by proposed and final rules in the Federal Register are:

1. Adjustment of the overfishing level (MFMT) for Spanish and Spanish mackerels and ~~cobia other stocks~~. Specification of  $B_{MSY}$  and the MSST for the stocks. Respecification of levels or statements of OY and MSY (proxy).
2. Setting ~~ACLs total allowable catches (TACs)~~ for each stock or migratory group of fish which should be managed separately, as identified in the FMP provided:
  - a. ~~No ACL TAC may exceed the best point estimate of MSY by more than 10 percent for more than one year.~~
  - b. ~~No ACL TAC may exceed the upper range of ABC or the ABC recommended by the respective SSC if it results in overfishing (as previously defined).~~
  - c. Downward adjustments of ~~ACL TAC~~ of any amount (i.e. to ACT) are allowed in order to protect the stock and prevent overfishing.
  - d. Reductions or increases in allocations as a result of changes in the ~~ACL TAC~~ are to be as equitable as may be practical utilizing similar percentage changes to allocations for participants in a fishery.
3. Adjusting user group allocations in response to changes in ~~ACLs TACs~~ according to the formula specified in the FMP.
4. The reallocation of Atlantic Spanish mackerel between recreational and commercial fishermen may be made through the framework after consideration of changes in the social and/or economic characteristics of the fishery. Such allocation adjustments shall not be greater than a ten percent change in one year to either sector's allocation. Changes may be implemented over several years to reach a desired goal, but must be assessed each year relative to changes in TAC and social and/or economic impacts to either sector of the fishery.
5. Modifying (or implementing for a particular species):
  - a. quotas (including zero quotas)
  - b. trip limits
  - c. bag limits (including zero bag limits)
  - d. minimum sizes
  - e. re-allocation of Atlantic group Spanish mackerel by no more than 10 percent per year to either the commercial or recreational sector.
  - f. gear restriction (ranging from modifying current regulations to a complete prohibition)
  - g. permit requirements, or
  - h. season/area closures and re-openings (including spawning closure)
  - i. **zones, subzones, migratory group boundaries and allocations**

Authority is also granted to the RA to close any fishery, i.e., revert any bag limit to zero, and close and reopen any commercial fishery, once a quota has been established through the procedure described above; and such quota has been filled. When such action is necessary, the RA will recommend that the Secretary publish a notice in the Federal Register as soon as possible.