



Amendment 33: Gulf King Mackerel Catch Limits and Sector Allocations

SAFMC September 2022 Meeting



Background

- 2020 Gulf king mackerel update (SEDAR 38U):
 - Not overfished, not experiencing overfishing
 - Biomass above MSST but below MSY
- Proposed modifications:
 - Catch limits (OFL, ABC, ACLs) – moved to Gulf CMP FA 11
 - Currently in CHTS; proposed in FES
 - Catch limits not affected by sector allocation
 - Gulf Council took final action at its June '22 meeting
 - Sector allocations (commercial, recreational)
 - Currently 68% recreational, 32% commercial; in effect since 1985

Background

- Proposed modifications:
 - Sector allocations (commercial, recreational)
 - Currently 68% recreational, 32% commercial; in effect since 1985.
 - The commercial sector generally lands or exceeds its sector ACL; the recreational sector does not land all of its sector ACL.
 - *Reallocation is being considered to address the differences in sector landings relative to sector ACL, while accounting for adjustments in historical recreational landings from the replacement of Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) data with MRIP's Fishing Effort Survey (FES) data.*

Gulf Council & South Atlantic Council Joint Coastal CMP FMP Objectives

- The Gulf Council and the South Atlantic Council last modified the FMP objectives in CMP Amendment 6 (1992), which brought the number of objectives from 7 to 8.
- NMFS Procedural Directive 01-119-02 (NMFS 2016) provides recommended practices during an allocation review, which includes a Council re-assessing the FMP objectives, if they are not current, clear, or measurable.
- Also, helpful to identify the FMP Objective(s) that CMP 33 is working to accomplish.

Gulf Council & South Atlantic Council Joint Coastal CMP FMP Objectives

1. The primary objective of this FMP is to stabilize yield at the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), allow recovery of overfished populations, and maintain population levels sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment.
2. To provide a flexible management system for the resource which minimizes regulatory delay while retaining substantial Council and public input in management decisions and which can rapidly adapt to changes in resource abundance, new scientific information, and changes in fishing patterns among user groups or by areas.
3. To provide necessary information for effective management and establish a mandatory reporting system for monitoring catch.
4. To minimize gear and user group conflicts.

Gulf Council & South Atlantic Council Joint Coastal CMP FMP Objectives

5. To distribute the total allowable catch of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel between recreational and commercial user groups based on the catches that occurred during the early to mid-1970s, which is prior to the development of the deep water run-around gillnet fishery and when the resource was not overfished.
6. To minimize waste and bycatch in the fishery.
7. To provide appropriate management to address specific migratory groups of king mackerel.
8. To optimize the social and economic benefits of the coastal migratory pelagic fisheries.

Motion from Gulf Council's June 2022 Meeting

- **Motion:** To add the following language to the joint CMP FMP objectives:
 - To achieve robust fishery reporting and data collection systems across all sectors for monitoring the coastal migratory pelagic fishery which minimizes scientific, management, and risk uncertainty.

Motion carried with no opposition.

- Motion from the South Atlantic Council is needed in order to proceed with adding the proposed objective.
 - If this new objective is added, does it make Objective 3 redundant, and should it be removed? The Gulf Council will be asked the same at its October meeting.
 - Objective 3: To provide necessary information for effective management and establish a mandatory reporting system for monitoring catch.

Suggestion from Council staff

- Objective 1 reads as follows: The primary objective of this FMP is to stabilize yield at the **maximum sustainable yield (MSY)**, allow recovery of overfished populations, and maintain population levels sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment.
- Standard 1 from MSA reads as follows: Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the **optimum yield (OY)** from each fishery for the U.S. fishing industry.
- Suggest changing ‘maximum sustainable yield (MSY)’ to ‘optimum yield (OY)’ in Objective 1.
 - Will present this to the Gulf Council at its October meeting
- Any other modifications to the Joint FMP Objectives?

Purpose and Need

(Updated after FA 11 Split)

- Purpose:
 - The purpose of this amendment is to revise the Gulf king mackerel allocation between the commercial and recreational sectors in order to address the differences in sector landings relative to sector ACL and to continue to achieve optimum yield from the Gulf king mackerel stock.
- Need:
 - The need for this amendment is to increase social and economic benefits for the king mackerel component of the CMP fishery through sustainable harvest in accordance with provisions set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Recent Sector Landings, Sector ACLs, and % ACL Landed

Fishing Year	Total TAC/ACL	Comm Sector ACL	Comm Landings	Rec Sector ACL (CHTS)	Rec Landings (CHTS)	% of Sector ACL Landed		% of Total ACL Landed
						Comm ¹	Rec ²	
2012/2013	10,800,000	3,456,000	3,501,893	7,344,000	3,224,351	101.3%	43.9%	62.3%
2013/2014	10,800,000	3,456,000	3,236,234	7,344,000	2,082,852	93.6%	28.4%	49.3%
2014/2015	10,800,000	3,456,000	3,753,959	7,344,000	4,015,683	108.6%	54.7%	71.9%
2015/2016	10,800,000	3,456,000	3,642,992	7,344,000	2,531,260	105.4%	34.5%	57.2%
2016/2017	9,210,000	2,950,000	2,902,360	6,260,000	2,587,187	98.4%	41.3%	59.6%
2017/2018	8,880,000	2,840,000	3,031,397	6,040,000	2,356,343	106.7%	39.0%	60.7%
2018/2019	8,710,000	2,790,000	2,780,813	5,920,000	2,338,564	99.7%	39.5%	58.8%
2019/2020	8,550,000	2,740,000	2,658,942	5,810,000	1,622,334	97.0%	27.9%	50.1%

Proportion of sector ACLs landed and proportion of total ACL landed for Gulf king mackerel in MRIP-CHTS for the 2012/2013 – 2019/2020 fishing years. The total ACL, commercial ACL, recreational ACL, recreational landings, and commercial landings are in lbs lw.

¹Commercial allocation = 32% ²Recreational allocation = 68%



Action: Modify the Sector Allocation for Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Migratory Group King Mackerel (Gulf King Mackerel)

Alternative 1: No Action. Maintain the sector allocation of the total annual catch limit (ACL) for Gulf king mackerel between the commercial and recreational sectors. The sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel is 32% commercial and 68% recreational. This allocation was derived from the average landings using available landings data from the years 1975 through 1979, and established in Amendment 1 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in 1985.

Action: Modify the Sector Allocation for Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Migratory Group King Mackerel (Gulf King Mackerel)

Alternatives 2 and 3 use information derived from a simulation model from the SEFSC where FES recreational landings data were used in the SEDAR 38 model instead of CHTS recreational landings data. This generated a hypothetical OFL and ABC which represent what the catch limits from SEDAR 38 (in 2014) would have been if FES data had been used.

Action: Modify the Sector Allocation for Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Migratory Group King Mackerel (Gulf King Mackerel)

Alternative 2: Modify the sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel by reallocating to the commercial sector 25% of the average difference between the total landings from the 2016/2017 through 2019/2020 fishing years using Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey (FES) data and the total simulated annual catch limit (ACL) for Model 2 in Appendix B for the predicted total landings by sector and the total projected ACL. The resulting sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel is 42% commercial and 58% recreational.

Action: Modify the Sector Allocation for Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Migratory Group King Mackerel (Gulf King Mackerel)

Alternative 3: Modify the sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel by reallocating to the commercial sector 50% of the average difference between the total landings from the 2016/2017 through 2019/2020 fishing years using MRIP-FES data and the total simulated ACL for Model 2 in Appendix B for the predicted total landings by sector and the total projected ACL. The resulting sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel is 53% commercial and 47% recreational.

Action: Modify the Sector Allocation for Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Migratory Group King Mackerel (Gulf King Mackerel)

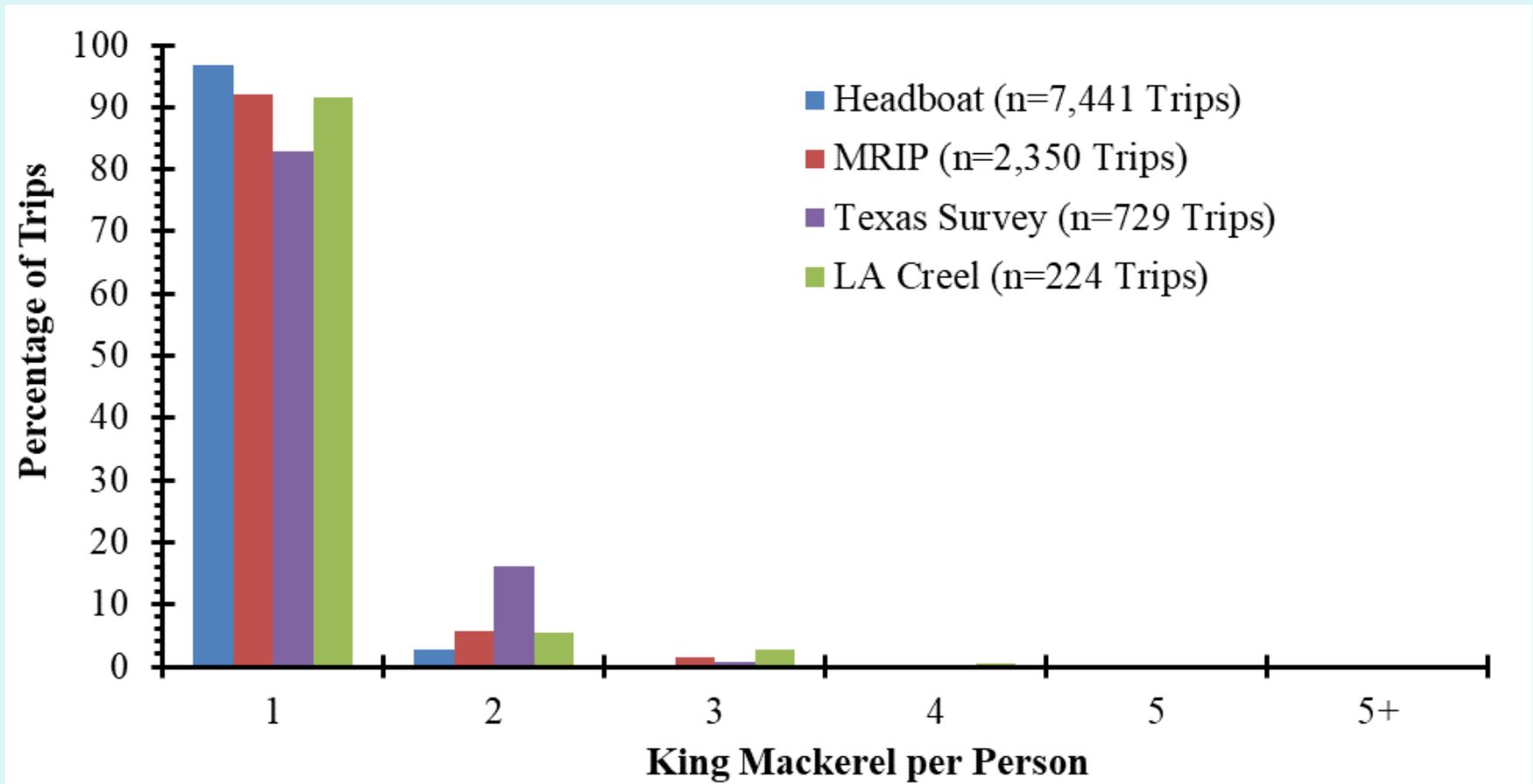
Fishing Year	Total Landings MRIP-FES (lbs lw)	Total Projected ACL from Model 2 (lbs lw)	Difference (Landings and Projected ACL, lbs lw)	Average the Difference for 4 years (lbs lw)
2016/2017	9,367,484	13,690,000	4,322,516	4,119,399
2017/2018	9,380,321	13,030,000	3,649,679	
2018/2019	9,054,434	12,530,000	3,475,566	
2019/2020	7,130,166	12,160,000	5,029,834	

Alternative	Rec ACL (lbs lw)	Rec Allocation (%)	Comm ACL (lbs lw)	Comm Allocation (%)
Alt 1: 0%	6,793,200	68%	3,196,800	32%
Alt 2: 25%	5,763,350	58%	4,226,650	42%
Alt 3: 50%	4,733,501	47%	5,256,499	53%

Comparison of Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 to the average of the sector-specific landings from the last four fishing years (2016/2017 – 2019/2020).

Average Rec Landings (FES)	2023/2024+ Rec ACL	
	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
4,620,301	5,763,350	4,733,501
<i>Percentage</i>	80.2%	97.6%
Average Com Landings (Sim 2)	2023/2024+ Com ACL	
	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
4,112,800	4,226,650	5,256,499
<i>Percentage</i>	97.3%	78.2%
Average Com Landings	2023/2024+ Com ACL	
	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
2,843,478	4,226,650	5,256,499
<i>Percentage</i>	67.3%	54.1%

Gulf king mackerel bag limit distribution from 2015/2016 through 2019/2020 fishing years



Source: Marine Recreational Information Program, Southeast Region Headboat Survey, Texas Parks and Wildlife recreational survey, and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries creel survey.

Tentative Next Steps

- Gulf Council is expected to receive a Public Hearing draft at its next meeting (Oct 24-27)
- If approved for Public hearings by the Gulf at that time, the South Atlantic Council would be afforded the same opportunity at its Dec '22 meeting
- Public hearings in Jan/Feb 2023
 - In-person
 - Virtual
 - Promote the opportunity to comment via Fish Rules app

Questions?

