



Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan Objectives

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

The current Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Regions (CMP FMP) lists eight objectives and was last updated via Amendment 6 (1992):

<i>Objective 1</i>	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.
<i>Objective 2</i>	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.
<i>Objective 3</i>	To provide necessary information for effective management and establish a mandatory reporting system for monitoring catch.
<i>Objective 4</i>	To minimize gear and user group conflicts.
<i>Objective 5</i>	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.
<i>Objective 6</i>	To minimize waste and bycatch in the fishery.
<i>Objective 7</i>	To provide appropriate management to address specific migratory groups of king mackerel.
<i>Objective 8</i>	To optimize the social and economic benefits of the coastal migratory pelagic fisheries.

At their September 2022 meeting, the Council proposed several changes to the CMP FMP Objectives:

1. Add a new objective to achieve robust fishery reporting and data collection systems across all sectors for monitoring the Coastal Migratory Pelagics fishery which minimizes scientific, management, and risk uncertainty.



2. Remove Objective 3 from the CMP FMP.
3. Amend the language of Objective One to read as follows: The primary objective of this FMP is to **ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN OPTIMUM** yield ~~at the maximum sustainable yield (MSY)~~, **TO** allow recovery of overfished populations, and maintain population levels sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment.

Questions for the Advisory Panel:

1. Do the current objectives accurately reflect the current needs of the coastal migratory pelagic fisheries: Atlantic and Gulf king mackerel, Atlantic and Gulf Spanish mackerel, and Gulf cobia?
2. Are there still significant gear and user group conflicts occurring within the coastal migratory pelagic fisheries?
3. Should the Council still distribute the annual catch limit for Atlantic Spanish mackerel between the recreational and commercial sectors based on catches during the early to mid-1970s? Note: reliable landings data may not be available this far back in time.
4. Are there still concerns about waste and bycatch in the coastal migratory pelagic fisheries?
5. Have the separate migratory groups of king mackerel been adequately addressed by management?