

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
MACKEREL COBIA COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Webinar
September 16, 2021

The Committee approved minutes from the June 2021 meeting and the agenda.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 34 - Updates to king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020

At the June 2020 meeting the Council directed staff to begin work on an options paper that would include consideration of sector allocations and catch level adjustments based on SSC recommendations and the recent stock assessment update. Council staff reviewed a decision document and draft document for CMP Amendment 34 with updated analyses and action/alternative language based on guidance provided by the Council at their June 2021 meeting.

The Committee provided the following direction to staff:

- For the new constant catch stream alternative proposed under Action 1, set the catch level equal to the 2026/2027 ABC.
- Work with the IPT to add additional language and/or a new action that looks at removing the 5% undersized king mackerel allowance for the commercial sector.
- Ask the public for input on proposed changes to the minimum size limits for recreational and commercial Atlantic king mackerel and proposed changes to the cut/damaged fish regulations during public hearings.

The following motions were approved:

MOTION 1: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE FOR A CONSTANT CATCH STREAM

Action 1. Revise the stock annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is set equal to the current acceptable biological catch level (12,700,000 pounds).

Alternative 2. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is equal to the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Preferred Alternative 3. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is equal to 95% of the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 4. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is equal to 90% of the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 5. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is equal to the updated acceptable biological catch level

of 21,800,000 pounds. This is a constant catch value for 2022/2023 and subsequent fishing years or until changed by a future management action.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 2: APPROVE ALTERNATIVE 5 UNDER ACTION 1 FOR INCLUSION IN COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AMENDMENT 34.

Action 1. Revise the stock annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 5. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is equal to the updated acceptable biological catch level of 21,800,000 pounds. This is a constant catch value for 2022/2023 and subsequent fishing years or until changed by a future management action.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 3: REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 4 AND ALTERNATIVE 6

Action 2. Revise sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 4. Allocate 70.95% of the revised total annual catch limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to the recreational sector. Allocate 29.05% of the revised total annual catch limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to the commercial sector. The allocations are calculated based on MRIP-FES average landings for Atlantic king mackerel for the years 2004 – 2019.

Alternative 6. Allocate 72.92% of the revised total annual catch limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to the recreational sector. Allocate 27.08% of the revised total annual catch limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to the commercial sector. The allocations are calculated based on MRIP-FES landings which balanced historical catches (2000-2008) with more recent landings (2017-2019) using the following formula.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 4: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR ACTION 2 AND REMOVE ALTERNATIVE 2

Action 2. Revise sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the current allocations of 62.9% to the recreational sector and 37.1% to the commercial sector, apply those allocations to the revised total annual catch limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel. The allocations are based on landings from 1979-1983.

Alternative 2. Allocate 62.9% of the revised total annual catch limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to the recreational sector. Allocate 37.1% of the revised total annual catch limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to the commercial sector.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 5: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 3

Action 3. Revise the recreational annual catch target for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 2. Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level. The recreational annual catch target equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 6: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 IN ACTION 6 AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Action 6. Reduce the minimum size limit for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 2. Reduce the minimum size limit for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to 22-inches fork length.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 7: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AMENDMENT 34 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 32 - Updates to Gulf cobia management based on SEDAR 28 Update 2020 and the CMP Framework Procedure

An update to SEDAR 28 assessment for Gulf cobia was completed in July 2020. The results indicate that Gulf cobia is undergoing overfishing, which puts the stock at risk of becoming overfished without management action. The Gulf SSC reviewed the results of the updated SEDAR 28 assessment and provided recommendations for new ABCs for Gulf cobia. The Gulf Council reviewed this amendment at their August meeting and approved the document for public hearings. Council staff reviewed a decision document and draft document for CMP Amendment 32 as well as discussions had by the Gulf Council at their August 2021 meeting. Additionally, Council staff reviewed an error that will be corrected in this amendment regarding sale and purchase of Gulf cobia.

The Committee provided the following direction to staff:

- Work with FWC staff when scheduling public hearings/listening stations for CMP Amendment 32. Suggested locations include: the Florida Keys, Jupiter, Port Canaveral, and Jacksonville.

The following motions were approved:

MOTION 8: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AMENDMENT 32 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Other Business

Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION 9: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

1. Continue work on CMP Amendment 34 and prepare a draft for discussion at the Gulf Council's October 2021 meeting and the South Atlantic Council's December 2021 meeting.
2. Work with FWC and Gulf Council staff to conduct in-person public hearings for CMP Amendment 32 prior to the December 2021 meeting.
3. Continue work with Gulf Council staff on CMP Amendment 32 and prepare a draft for discussion and consideration for formal approval at the December 2021 meeting.
4. Conduct public hearings for CMP Amendment 34.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL