

DRAFT
SUMMARY REPORT – SOUTH ATLANTIC MACKEREL COMMITTEE
June 9, 2015
Key West, FL

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the March 2015 meeting.

NMFS staff reported on the status of commercial catch and recreational catch, in addition to updates on amendments under review. The proposed rule for CMP Framework Amendment 2 was published on April 9, 2015, and the comment period closed on May 11, 2015. The final rule package is under review at the Region.

Mackerel Advisory Panel Report

Council staff provided a report from the Mackerel Advisory Panel meeting on April 15, 2015. The AP reviewed and provided recommendations on CMP Amendments 26 and 28, in addition to the Charterboat Reporting Amendment.

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: APPROVE THE NEW LANGUAGE FOR ALTS 2 AND 3 UNDER ACTION 1.
Approved by Committee.

ACTION 1. Modify the Management Boundary for Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups of King Mackerel

Alternative 2. Establish a permanent, year-round boundary for separating management of the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Gulf/South Atlantic Council boundary (**Figure 2**). 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' North latitude, then south at 83° West longitude 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 (**Figure 3**). 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' North latitude, then south at 83° West longitude 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: APPROVE THE NEW LANGUAGE FOR BIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS IN ACTION 2.

Approved by Committee.

ACTION 2. Update Reference Points (MSY, MSST, MFMT/OFL), and Revise the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

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.~~ In October 2014, the SSC recommended a proxy for MSY at 30%SPR (spawning potential ratio), which is 12.7 mp.

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 million hydrated eggs (SEDAR 16). Based on the SEDAR 38 assessment, MSST = 1,991 million 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 = $F_{MSY} = F_{30\%SPR} = 0.157$.

MOTION: MAKE THE SUGGESTED CHANGES TO ACTION 2-1.

Approved by Committee.

Action 2-1. Revise the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1 (No action). Retain the current ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel (10.46 mp).

Alternative 2. Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016/17 through 2019/20 based on the ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a high recruitment scenario.

Alternative 3. Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016/17 through 2019/20 based on the ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a medium recruitment scenario.

Alternative 4. Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016/17 through 2019/20 based on the ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a low recruitment scenario (**Table 3**).

MOTION: ACCEPT THE CHANGES IN ACTION 2-2.
Approved by Committee.

Action 2-2. Revise the ACL and Recreational ACT for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 2. Set ACL = OY = ABC based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1.

Alternative 3. Establish ACL = OY = Deterministic equilibrium yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 12.7$ mp for fishing years 2016/17 through 2019/20.

Alternative 4. Establish ACL = OY = Deterministic equilibrium yield at $75\% F_{30\%SPR} = 11.6$ mp for fishing years 2016/17 through 2019/20.

Alternative 5. Establish ACL = OY = 90% ABC based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1.

Alternative 6. Establish ACL = OY = 80% ABC based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1.

MOTION: ACCEPT THE CHANGES IN ACTION 3, WITH ALTERNATIVE 3 MOVED TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.
Approved by Committee.

ACTION 3. Incidental Catch Allowance for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Caught in the Shark Gillnet Fishery

Alternative 1: No action - Do not allow retention and sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the gillnet portion of the commercial shark fishery.

Alternative 2: Allow retention and sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the gillnet portion of the commercial shark fishery for any vessel with a valid shark directed commercial permit AND valid federal king mackerel commercial permit. The king mackerel must be sold to a dealer with the Southeast federal dealer permit.

Option 2a: For shark gillnet trips in the EEZ off Florida, no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip. For shark gillnet trips in the EEZ north of the GA/FL line, no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip.

Option 2b: For shark gillnet trips in the Southern Zone, no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip. For shark gillnet trips in the Northern Zone, no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be on board, and no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be sold from the trip.

MOTION: ACCEPT ALTERNATIVES AS PROPOSED UNDER ACTION 4-1.

Approved by Committee.

Action 4-1. Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action - Do not establish a Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel. Commercial harvest in the EEZ off the east coast of Florida will be counted towards the Atlantic Southern Zone commercial quota (as established in Action 1), and recreational harvest in the EEZ off the east coast of Florida will be counted towards the Atlantic king mackerel recreational ACT and ACL (as established in Action 1).

Alternative 2: Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone that exists year-round with boundaries at:

Option 2a: Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 2b: Volusia/Brevard county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 2c: Volusia/Brevard county line and Council jurisdictional boundary (as designated Action 1).

Alternative 3: Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone that exists March 1 through September 30 with boundaries at:

Option 3a: Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 3b: Volusia/Brevard county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 3c: Volusia/Brevard county line and the Council jurisdictional boundary (as designated in Action 1).

Alternative 4: Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone that exists October 1 through the end of February with boundaries at:

Option 4a: Flagler/Volusia county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 4b: Volusia/Brevard county line and Dade/Monroe county line.

Option 4c: Volusia/Brevard county line and Council boundary (as designated in Action 1).

MOTION: APPROVE THE LANGUAGE AND ALTERNATIVES OF ACTION 4-2.
Approved by Committee.

Action 4-2. Allocate Quota for the Florida East Coast Subzone within the Atlantic Southern Zone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action - Do not allocate quota among areas or seasons.

Alternative 2: Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone sub-quota within the Southern Zone quota for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel in which x% of the quota would be allocated to the Subzone. Commercial harvest of king mackerel in the area designated in Action 3-1/ would be counted towards the Florida East Coast Subzone sub-quota. When the quota for the season is met or expected to be met, commercial harvest of king mackerel in the subzone will be prohibited for the remainder of the fishing year for the subzone (as designated in Action 4-1).

Option 2a: Use historic landings in the Southern Zone from the 2009/10 through the 2013/14 fishing seasons (last five years) to calculate the FLEC Subzone quota.

Option 2b: Use historic landings in the Southern Zone from the 2004/05 through the 2013/14 fishing seasons (last ten years) to calculate the FLEC Subzone quota.

Option 2c: Other?

Alternative 3: Establish a split season for the Southern Zone Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel in which 60% of the quota would be allocated to March 1- September 30 and 40% of the quota would be allocated October 1- end of February. Commercial harvest of king mackerel in the area designated in Action 4-1 would be counted towards the Southern Zone quota. When the quota for the season is met or expected to be met, commercial harvest of king mackerel in the entire zone will be prohibited for the remainder of the fishing year.

MOTION: APPROVE THE MODIFICATIONS TO ACTION 4-3.
Approved by Committee.

Action 4-3. Modify Trip Limits for the Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1: No action - Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

(a) From April 1 through October 31

In the area between the Flagler/ Volusia county line and the Volusia/Brevard county line, the trip limit is 3,500 lbs from April 1 through October 31.

In the area from the Volusia/Brevard county line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe county line, the trip limit is 75 fish.

(b) From November 1 through March 31, no trip limit is in place for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 2: The commercial trip limit in the Florida East Coast Subzone would be 75 fish with a step-down to 50 fish. The commercial trip limit north of the Florida East Coast Subzone northern boundary would be 3,500 lbs.

Option 2a: The step-down would apply for only the month of May.

Option 2b: The step-down would apply from May-August.

Option 2c: The step-down would apply from April 15- May 15.

Alternative 3: The commercial trip limit in the Florida East Coast Subzone would be 75 fish. The commercial trip limit north of the Florida East Coast Subzone northern boundary would be 3,500 lbs.

Alternative 4: The commercial trip limit in the Florida East Coast Subzone would be 50 fish with an increase to 75 fish if X% of the quota has not been met by [date]. The commercial trip limit north of the Florida East Coast Subzone northern boundary would be 3,500 lbs.

Amendment 28 (separate FMPs/permits)

In March 2015, the South Atlantic Council approved a motion to stop development of Amendment 28, which would include actions for separate permits or FMPs. The Gulf Council is currently moving forward with Amendment 28 with scoping in April 2015 and the Councils will discuss next steps for Amendment 28 at the joint meeting on June 11, 2015. Council staff reviewed a discussion document, but the Committee did not change the position for future development of Amendment 28.

Task and Timing Motion:

MOTION: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:

1. PREPARE DRAFT AMENDMENT 26 FOR REVIEW IN SEPTEMBER 2015.
2. ALLOW STAFF/IPT TO REORGANIZE DOCUMENT AND ACTIONS AS NECESSARY.