

# Framework Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region



## (Spanish Mackerel Accountability Measures and Trip Limits)

### Decision Document

## Background

During their April 2018 and April 2019 meetings, the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel (AP) expressed concern about increased participation in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery and how this increase may affect Spanish mackerel in the long term. Of concern were recent closures to commercial Spanish mackerel harvest in federal waters off the Atlantic Northern Zone (New York/Connecticut/Rhode Island line to the North Carolina/South Carolina line). During the 2017/2018 season, 100,000 pounds of quota was transferred from the Atlantic Southern Zone (North Carolina/South Carolina line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line, Florida) to the Atlantic Northern Zone to prevent an early closure. However, the Atlantic Northern Zone quota was still projected to be met and federal waters were closed to commercial harvest of Spanish mackerel on November 7, 2018. The Atlantic Southern Zone did not close but harvested 95% its remaining quota. During the 2018/2019 season there was no transfer of quota between the two zones. The Atlantic Northern Zone was closed to commercial harvest on November 4, 2018 and the Atlantic Southern Zone was closed to commercial harvest on February 5, 2019.

During the current season (2019/2020), the Atlantic Northern Zone was closed to commercial harvest on August 24, 2019. A transfer of quota from the Atlantic Southern Zone to the Atlantic

Northern Zone was requested by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NC DMF). However, The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) denied the request due the Atlantic Southern Zone being projected to close early as well.

Atlantic Spanish mackerel commercial landings since 2000 have ranged from a low of 2,551,932 pounds in 2000 to a high of 4,560,542 pounds in 2010 (**Table 1**). Majority of Atlantic Spanish mackerel landed commercially in the Northern Zone are landed in North Carolina. Southern Zone commercial landings are primarily from Florida. Over the time period examined, landings have generally fluctuated. After peaking in 2010, commercial landings of Atlantic Spanish mackerel decreased until 2015, at which point they began to increase. Generally, landings over the time period have averaged around 3.3 million pounds (current commercial ACL is 3,330,000 pounds).

**Table 2.** Atlantic Spanish mackerel total commercial landings (pounds) and ACL 2000 through 2017, by zone.

Fishing Year	Northern Zone Landings	Southern Zone Landings	Total Landings	Commercial ACL	%ACL
2000-2001	659,325	1,892,607	2,551,932	3,870,000	65.9%
2001-2002	653,490	2,162,003	2,815,493	3,870,000	72.8%
2002-2003	698,828	2,354,067	3,052,895	3,870,000	78.9%
2003-2004	539,797	3,151,738	3,691,535	3,870,000	95.4%
2004-2005	522,576	3,129,649	3,652,225	3,870,000	94.4%
2005-2006	486,676	2,667,777	3,154,453	3,870,000	81.5%
2006-2007	515,388	3,156,272	3,671,660	3,620,000	101.4%
2007-2008	537,230	2,520,826	3,058,056	3,620,000	84.5%
2008-2009	568,592	2,591,622	3,160,214	3,620,000	87.3%
2009-2010	1,101,977	3,073,997	4,175,974	3,620,000	115.4%
2010-2011	959,621	3,600,921	4,560,542	3,620,000	126.0%
2011-2012	906,885	3,095,993	4,002,878	3,880,660	103.1%
2012-2013	934,187	2,208,754	3,142,941	3,130,000	100.4%
2013-2014	628,668	2,517,549	3,146,217	3,130,000	100.5%
2014-2015	682,167	2,189,814	2,871,981	3,330,000	86.2%
2015-2016	575,920	2,043,861	2,619,781	3,330,000	78.7%
2016-2017	640,183	2,558,623	3,198,806	3,330,000	96.1%
2017-2018	845,495	2,430,385	3,275,880	3,330,000	98.4%

Source: ALS

Note: From 2000-2004 the fishing year started on April 1<sup>st</sup>. In following years, the fishing year started on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

During the June 2019 meeting, after reviewing the MCAP’s concerns, the Council directed staff to prepare a white paper with a thorough analysis of effort in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery and a discussion of possible avenues to control effort, including: a limited access commercial permit, a limited access gillnet endorsement in the southern zone, and collaboration with state agencies. After reviewing the white paper, the Council determined that addressing accountability measures and trip limits would provide a short-term solution to recent

federal water closures of the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery while long-term solutions could be developed.

The white paper on commercial effort in the Atlantic Spanish mackerel fishery can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2NCxmoD>

## Action in this amendment

- **Action 1.** Revise the in-season commercial accountability measures and establish in-season recreational accountability measures for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.
- **Action 2.** Revise the post-season commercial and recreational accountability measures for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.
- **Action 3.** Modify the commercial trip limits for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel in the northern and southern zones.

## Objectives for this meeting

- Review analysis and draft public hearing document
- Approve purpose and need statement
- Approve actions and alternatives
- Select preferred alternatives
- Consider approval for public hearings

## Expected amendment timing

	Process Step	Date
✓	Council directs staff to start work on a framework amendment.	September 2019
	Council approves actions/alternatives, reviews draft amendment, selects preferred alternative, and approves for public hearings.	December 2019
	Public Hearings	January 2020
	Council reviews the draft amendment, modifies the document as necessary, and approves for formal review.	January 2020
	CMP Framework Amendment 8 transmitted for Secretarial Review.	March 2020

# Draft Purpose and Need Statement

## Purpose for Actions

The *purpose* of the framework amendment is to revise accountability measures and commercial trip limits for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

## Need for Actions

The *need* for the framework amendment is to prevent commercial in-season closures, reduce regulatory discards, and achieve optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

## Committee Action:

REVIEW THE SUGGESTED PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT  
MODIFY AS NECESSARY  
APPROVE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT  
OTHER?

# Proposed Action and Alternatives

## **Action 1. Revise the in-season commercial accountability measures and establish in-season recreational accountability measures for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The commercial in-season accountability measure for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel is to close the northern or southern zone of the Atlantic exclusive economic zone for the remainder of the fishing year if that zone's applicable quota is reached or projected to be reached. There are no in-season recreational accountability measures for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

**Alternative 2.** Remove the existing commercial in-season accountability measure for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel that closes the northern or southern zone of the Atlantic exclusive economic zone for the remainder of the fishing year if that zone's applicable commercial quota is reached or projected to be reached. An in-season closure will occur for the both the commercial sector (northern and southern zones) and recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year when the stock annual catch limit (commercial northern and southern zone quotas and recreational annual catch limit, combined) is reached or is projected to be reached.

**Alternative 3.** Remove the existing commercial in-season accountability measure for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel that closes the northern or southern zone of the Atlantic exclusive economic zone for the remainder of the fishing year if that zone's applicable commercial quota is reached or projected to be reached. An in-season closure will occur for the recreational sector if the combined catch (commercial and recreational) reaches or is projected to reach the stock annual catch limit. An in-season closure will occur for the commercial sector (northern and southern zone) if the commercial annual catch limit has been reached and the combined catch (commercial and recreational) reaches, or is projected to reach:

**Sub-alternative 3a.** 90% of the stock annual catch limit.

**Sub-alternative 3b.** 80% of the stock annual catch limit.

**Sub-alternative 3c.** 70% of the stock annual catch limit.

## **Discussion**

- **Action 1** would revise the current in-season accountability measures for Atlantic Spanish mackerel to allow for the trip limit system proposed under **Action 3**.
  - Current accountability measures (**Alternative 1 (No Action)**) close the northern and southern commercial zones once a zone's respective quota is reached or projected to be reached.
- **Alternative 2** would remove the in-season closure for the commercial zones once their quota has been reached. Instead, the commercial sector would be allowed to continue fishing until the stock ACL (commercial and recreational combined) was reached or projected to be reached. **Alternative 2** would also implement an in-season accountability measure for the recreational sector, closing recreational harvest when the stock ACL is reached or projected to be reached.

- **Alternative 3** would remove the in-season closure for the commercial zones once their quota has been reached. Instead, the commercial sector would be allowed to continue fishing until a set percentage of the stock ACL (**Sub-alternatives 3a, 3b, and 3c**) was reached or projected to be reached (**Table 2**). **Alternative 3** would also implement an in-season accountability measure for the recreational sector, closing recreational harvest when the stock ACL is reached or projected to be reached.

**Table 2.** In-season closure triggers proposed in Action1/Sub-alternatives 3a, 3b, and 3c.

	<b>Proposed Percentage of the Stock ACL</b>	<b>Proposed Poundage of the Stock ACL</b>
<b>Sub-alternative 3a</b>	90%	5,451,300
<b>Sub-alternative 3b</b>	80%	4,845,600
<b>Sub-alternative 3c</b>	70%	4,239,900

Current stock ACL: 6,057,000 pounds

## **IPT Recommendations**

### *Things for the Council to Consider:*

- Tracking the ACL for Spanish mackerel is challenging. Commercial state landings often come in late and there is a substantial Spanish mackerel fishery occurring in state waters. Additionally, recreational landings come in waves and often take a while to be reported. These issues may result in exceeding the stock ACL.
  - In-season closures become difficult. Additional work to project recreational landings.
- Action 1 increases the likelihood that there will be an in-season closure for the recreational fishing sector.

## **Advisory Panel Recommendations:**

### *October 2019 Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting –*

Comments in support of proposed modifications to the Spanish mackerel accountability measures:

- The original allocation for Spanish mackerel (76% commercial, 24% recreational) was the correct allocation because the recreational sector has not caught the amount of poundage that was given to them when Spanish mackerel was reallocated (55% commercial, 45% recreational).
- North Carolina needs approximately 900,000 pounds of fish, the poundage they are currently allocated (662,670 pounds) is insufficient.
  - the Northern Zone receives 20% and the Southern Zone receives 80% of the commercial ACL.
- The current ACL ensures that the fish stock remains abundant and scientists already include buffers to account for uncertainty.
- Given that there is an unutilized portion of Spanish mackerel ACL, a system should be set up that would allow a common pool allocation or there should be an adjustment to allocations.

- Recently, Spanish mackerel have been available in the later part of year. Commercial fishermen are catching them and want to be able to make money off them and reduce discards.
- A few communities in North Carolina (Swan Quarter, Hatteras, Ocracoke, and Engelhard) base half of their year's work on Spanish mackerel. Fishermen don't want to waste the Spanish mackerel they catch, so the closure has made it challenging for the gillnet fleet to work at all.
- It is important that the season in the Northern Zone is extended until there is another stock assessment and, hopefully, an increase in the ACL.
- CMP Framework Amendment 9 seems to be the only solution until long-term solutions like limited entry can be examined.

Comments in opposition of proposed modifications to the Spanish mackerel accountability measures:

- While the recreational ACL is not being harvested, that poundage is being utilized. For the recreational sector abundance is most important. High abundance ensures that encounter rates remain high and fish are available for a longer period of time, which is especially important during peak fishing season.
- The Spanish mackerel that are not harvested from the recreational ACL provide a buffer in case there were any errors in the stock assessment.
- It is important to compare the economic impact of the recreational and commercial sectors in North Carolina. Though the recreational fishery may catch fewer fish it is possible that they are more important to the economy.
- It might be ideal to wait until after the stock assessment before moving forward with any changes to Spanish mackerel.
- The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission was not consulted when the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery was reopened in North Carolina.
- Allowing commercial fishermen to continue to harvest Spanish mackerel after their quota has been met is a slippery slope. The gillnet fishery in North Carolina is large and can be hard to manage.
- More people are getting into the Spanish mackerel fishery, especially with the available southern flounder catch being reduced. Some AP members felt they could not support CMP Framework 9 without a limited access system for the commercial fishery.

General comments the status and management of the Spanish mackerel fishery:

- There is a need to come up with a management system that will work for both recreational and commercial fishermen.
- In North Carolina, Spanish mackerel are important for the charter fleet, especially during the summer tourist season.
- Spanish mackerel stick around longer when the waters remain warm, which is happening more often. When sink-netting for spots it is easy to catch 500-pounds of Spanish mackerel in just two sets.
- There are two types of Spanish mackerel fishermen, those that directly target Spanish mackerel and base majority of their income on the fishery and those that catch Spanish mackerel when targeting other species like spot.

**MOTION:** RECOMMEND THE COUNCIL MOVE FORWARD WITH REVISING SPANISH MACKEREL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES AS PROPOSED IN MOTION 5 FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

*MOTION #5: REVISE SPANISH MACKEREL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES SO WHEN THE NORTHERN ZONE COMMERCIAL SECTOR QUOTA IS MET A STEPDOWN TO 500-LBS WILL OCCUR. THE SPANISH MACKEREL FISHERY WILL CLOSE WHEN THE TOTAL ACL (COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL COMBINED) IS MET OR PROJECTED TO BE MET.*  
MOTION APPROVED (8 IN FAVOR, 5 OPPOSED)

### **Committee Action**

REVIEW DRAFT ACTION 1 AND ALTERNATIVES  
MODIFY AS NECESSARY  
APPROVE ACTION 1 AND ALTERNATIVES FOR INCLUSION  
SELECT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE  
OTHER?



## **Action 2. Revise the post-season commercial and recreational accountability measures for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The commercial post-season accountability measure for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel is to reduce the commercial quota for the northern or southern zone for that following year by the amount of any commercial sector overage in the prior fishing year for that zone if the sum of the commercial and recreational landings exceeds the stock annual catch limit, and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel are overfished.

The recreational post-season accountability measure for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel is to reduce the bag limit by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings may achieve the recreational annual catch target, but do not exceed the recreational annual catch limit, in the following fishing year if the recreational landings exceed the recreational annual catch limit and the sum of the commercial and recreational landings exceeds the stock annual catch limit.

If the sum of the commercial and recreational landings exceeds the stock annual catch limit and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel are overfished, reduce the recreational annual catch target for that following year by the amount of any recreational sector overage in the prior fishing year.

**Alternative 2.** Remove the existing post-season commercial and recreational accountability measures for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

**Alternative 3.** Remove the existing commercial post-season accountability measures.

Remove the existing recreational post-season accountability measure that reduces the recreational annual catch target for that following year by the amount of any recreational sector overage in the prior fishing year if the sum of the commercial and recreational landings exceeds the stock annual catch limit and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel are overfished.

**Sub-alternative 3a.** Reduce the stock annual catch limit for the following fishing year by the amount of the stock annual catch limit overage in the prior fishing year, if Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel are overfished.

**Sub-alternative 3b.** Reduce the recreational annual catch limit, commercial northern zone quota, and commercial southern zone quota, and the stock ACL, by the amount of their respective catch limit overages of the respective zone or sector that had an overage in the prior fishing year, if both the commercial and recreational landings exceed their sector annual catch limit and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel are overfished.

## **Discussion**

- **Action 2** would revise the post-season accountability measures for Spanish mackerel in order to allow for the trip limit system proposed in **Action 3**.

- Current post-season accountability measures require the northern and southern zones to payback any overage the following fishing year if the stock ACL is exceeded and Spanish mackerel are overfished. However, the new trip limit system proposed under **Action 3** would allow commercial fishermen to keep fishing past their quota, essentially “breaking” this accountability measure.
- **Alternative 2** would remove post-season accountability measures for the Atlantic Spanish mackerel entirely. While accountability measures are required by the Magnuson Stevens Act, the Council has the option to implement in-season accountability measures OR post-season accountability measures OR both.
- **Alternative 3** would remove the existing commercial post-season accountability measures. The recreational post-season accountability measure that reduces that bag limit by the amount necessary to ensure the recreational ACT is met, but the recreational ACT is not exceeded would remain.
  - **Sub-alternative 3a** would reduce the stock ACL by the amount of any overage the following fishing year if Spanish mackerel are overfishing (everybody pays based on their allocation).
  - **Sub-alternative 3b** would reduce each group (commercial northern zone, commercial southern zone, and recreational) by the amount of their respective overage the following fishing year if BOTH the commercial and the recreational landings exceed their respective ACL and Spanish mackerel is overfished.

## **IPT Recommendations**

### *Things for the Council to Consider:*

- **Action 1** increases the likelihood that there will be an in-season closure for the recreational fishing sector. Post-season accountability measures may result in penalties to the recreational sector, particularly if Spanish mackerel were ever to be designated overfished.
  - Note: because the post-season recreational accountability measures only consider recreational landings (“If the recreational landings exceed the recreational ACL as specified in this paragraph and the sum of the commercial and recreational landings, as estimated by the SRD, exceeds the stock ACL...”) commercial landings causing the total ACL to be exceeded should not result in a bag limit reduction for the recreational sector.

## **Committee Action**

REVIEW DRAFT ACTION 2 AND ALTERNATIVES  
MODIFY AS NECESSARY  
APPROVE ACTION 2 AND ALTERNATIVES FOR INCLUSION  
SELECT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE  
OTHER?

### **Action 3. Modify the commercial trip limits for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel in the northern and southern zones.**

**Alternative 1. (No Action).** Northern Zone. The commercial trip limit in the northern zone of the Atlantic exclusive economic zone for Spanish mackerel harvested from, possessed on board, or landed in a day, from a vessel for which a permit for Spanish mackerel has been issued is 3,500-pounds whole weight or gutted weight.

Southern Zone. The commercial trip limit in the southern zone of the Atlantic exclusive economic zone for Spanish mackerel harvested from, possessed on board, or landed in a day, from a vessel for which a permit for Spanish mackerel has been issued is 3,500-pounds whole weight or gutted weight. When 75% of adjusted southern zone quota is met or projected to be met, the trip limit would be reduced to 1,500 pounds whole weight or gutted weight. When 100% of adjusted southern zone quota is met or projected to be met, the trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the end of the fishing year or until the southern zone commercial quota is met or projected to be met, at which time the commercial sector in the southern zone would be closed to the harvest of Spanish mackerel.

**Alternative 2.** Reduce the commercial trip limit for Spanish mackerel in the northern zone of the Atlantic exclusive economic zone harvested from, possessed on board, or landed in a day, from a vessel for which a permit for Spanish mackerel has been issued.

**Sub-alternative 2a.** 2,500-pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the northern zone commercial quota has been reached or is projected to be reached, then 500-pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the end of the fishing year or until the in-season commercial accountability measures have been triggered.

**Sub-alternative 2b.** 2,000-pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the northern zone commercial quota has been reached or is projected to be reached, then 500-pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the end of the fishing year or until the in-season commercial accountability measures have been triggered.

**Sub-alternative 2c.** 1,500-pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the northern zone commercial quota has been reached or is projected to be reached, then 500-pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the end of the fishing year or until the in-season commercial accountability measures have been triggered.

**Alternative 3.** The commercial trip limit in the southern zone of the Atlantic exclusive economic zone for Spanish mackerel harvested from, possessed on board, or landed in a day, from a vessel for which a permit for Spanish mackerel has been issued is 3,500-pounds whole weight or gutted weight. When 75% of the adjusted southern zone quota is met or projected to be met, the trip limit would be reduced to 1,500 pounds whole weight or gutted weight. When 100% of adjusted southern zone quota is met or projected to be met, the trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the end of the fishing year or until the commercial sector closes as a result of in-season commercial accountability measures being triggered.

## Discussion

- **Action 3** would revise the current trip limit system to allow the commercial northern and southern zones sector to continue fishing at a 500-pound trip limit after their respective zone quotas have been reached or are projected to be reached.
- **Alternative 2** addresses trip limits in the commercial northern zone. **Sub-alternatives 2a, 2b, and 2c** proposed varying trip limits for harvest until the northern zone commercial quota has been reached. All three sub-alternatives include a 500-pound trip limit until the end of the fishing year or until the in-season accountability (**Action 1**) has been triggered.
- **Alternative 3** addresses trip limits in the commercial southern zone. The adjusted quota system would remain in place. When 100% of the adjusted quota is reached or projected to be reached, the commercial trip limit would drop to 500-pounds and remain at 500-pounds until the end of the fishing year or until the in-season accountability (**Action 1**) has been triggered.

## IPT Recommendations

### *Things for the Council to Consider:*

- Action 3 would require an exception be made for Atlantic Spanish mackerel in the portion of the CFR that address quota closures (50 CFR §622.8 (b)). Currently, “when a quota specified in this part is reached, or is projected to be reached, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification to that effect with the Office of the Federal Register. On and after the effective date of such notification, for the remainder of the fishing year, the applicable closure restrictions for such a quota, as specified in this part apply.”
  - Can be included in the discussion and does not require an additional action.
- There is a gillnet fishery for Spanish mackerel that operates in federal waters off Florida. Currently, that fishery cannot operate once the Southern Zone quota is met even though Florida keeps state waters open at 500-pounds (gillnets are not an allowable gear in Florida state waters).

## Advisory Panel Recommendations:

### *October 2019 Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting –*

- North Carolina fishermen have indicated that they would like to consider a step-down system similar to the system currently in place in the Southern Zone:
  - For example, a step down to 1,500-pounds once 75% of the Northern Zone quota has been reached and then an additional step down to 500-pounds.
  - If the starting trip limit was lower, it may help prolong the season and ensure it was still open during the spot and croaker gillnet season preventing waste.
  - The state of North Carolina can implement changes in trip limits quickly via proclamation.

**MOTION: CONSIDER A TRIP LIMIT IN THE NORTHERN ZONE STARTING AT 3,000 POUNDS WITH A STEP DOWN TO 1,500 POUNDS ONCE 75% OF THE NORTHERN ZONE QUOTA IS REACHED.**

**MOTION APPROVED (5 IN FAVOR, 3 OPPOSED, 3 ABSENTIONS)**

## **Committee Action**

REVIEW DRAFT ACTION 2 AND ALTERNATIVES  
MODIFY AS NECESSARY  
APPROVE ACTION 2 AND ALTERNATIVES FOR INCLUSION  
SELECT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE  
APPROVE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS  
OTHER?

**DRAFT MOTION**: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FRAMEWORK  
AMENDMENT 9 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Alternative	Trip Limit (Action 3)	In-Season AMs (Action 1)	Post-Season AMs (Action 2)
<b>Alternative 1 (No Action)</b>	<p><b>Northern Zone:</b> 3,500-pounds</p> <p><b>Southern Zone:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,500-pounds</li> <li>• When 75% of the adjusted quota has been met: 1,500-pounds</li> <li>• When 100% of the adjusted quota has been met: 500-pounds until 100% of quota has been met.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Commercial:</b> close the northern or southern zone if that zone’s applicable quota is reached or projected to be reached.</p> <p><b>Recreational:</b> none.</p> <p><i>Cannot be chosen if Alternative 2 or Alternative 3 is chosen under Action 3</i></p>	<p><b>Commercial:</b> reduce the commercial zone quota by the amount of any overage for that zone if the stock ACL is exceeded and Spanish mackerel is overfished.</p> <p><b>Recreational:</b> reduce bag limit by amount necessary the following year if recreational landings exceed ACL and stock ACL is exceeded.</p> <p>Reduce the recreational ACT by the amount of any overage if the stock ACL is exceeded and Spanish mackerel are overfished.</p> <p><i>Cannot be chosen if Alternative 2 or Alternative 3 is chosen under Action 3</i></p>
<b>Alternative 2</b>	<p><b>Northern Zone:</b> [2,500, 2,000, or 1,500]-pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the northern zone commercial quota has been reached or is projected to be reached, then 500-pounds whole weight or gutted weight until the end of the fishing year or until the in-season commercial accountability measures have been triggered.</p>	<p><b>Commercial:</b> close when the stock annual catch limit is reached or is projected to be reached.</p> <p><b>Recreational:</b> close when the stock annual catch limit is reached or is projected to be reached.</p>	<p><b>Commercial:</b> none.</p> <p><b>Recreational:</b> none.</p> <p><i>Cannot be chosen if Alternative 1 (No Action) is chosen under Action 1.</i></p>
<b>Alternative 3</b>	<p><b>Southern Zone:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,500-pounds</li> <li>• When 75% of the adjusted quota has been met: 1,500-pounds</li> <li>• When 100% of the adjusted quota has been met: 500-pounds until 100% of quota has been met.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Commercial:</b> close when [90%, 80%, 70%] of the stock annual catch limit is reached or is projected to be reached.</p> <p><b>Recreational:</b> close when the stock annual catch limit is reached or is projected to be reached.</p>	<p><b>Commercial:</b> none.</p> <p><b>Recreational:</b> reduce bag limit by amount necessary the following year if recreational landings exceed ACL and stock ACL is exceeded.</p> <p><b>Joint:</b> [3a] reduce stock ACL by the amount of any overage if both commercial and recreational ACLs are exceeded and Spanish mackerel are overfished. OR [3b] reduce northern zone quota, southern zone quota, and recreational ACL by the amount of any overage if both commercial and recreational ACLs are exceeded, and Spanish mackerel are overfished.</p>