

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
MACKEREL COBIA COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Beaufort, North Carolina
December 6, 2021

The Committee approved minutes from the September 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. Public hearings for Amendment 34 were held via webinar on November 15th and 16th, 2021. Council staff reviewed public hearing comments, a decision document, and draft document for CMP Amendment 34 with updated action/alternative language based on guidance provided by NOAA GC and the Council at their September 2021 meeting.

The following motions were approved:

MOTION 1: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS, AS MODIFIED.

The *purpose* of this amendment is to revise the ~~catch limits annual catch limits and annual optimum yield~~ for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel; to revise recreational and commercial allocations for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel; and to revise or establish management measures for Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel.

The *need* for this amendment is to ensure ~~annual~~ catch limits are based on the best scientific information available and to ensure overfishing does not occur in the Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel fisheries, while increasing social and economic benefits through sustainable and profitable harvest of Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 2: APPROVE THE EDITS FOR ACTION 1.

Action 1. Revise the ~~acceptable biological catch, total 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 Retain the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel as implemented in 2017 by Amendment 26 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Regions. is set equal to the current acceptable biological catch level (12,700,000 pounds). The current acceptable biological catch levels are is inclusive of~~

recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Coastal Household Telephone Survey.

Alternative 2. Revise the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, based on the acceptable biological catch recommendation from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield are is equal to the updated recommended acceptable biological catch level. The updated recommended acceptable biological catch level is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

Fishing Year	Alternative 2 (ACL=ABC) (lbs)
2022/2023	32,800,000
2023/2024	28,400,000
2024/2025	25,400,000
2025/2026	23,300,000
2026/2027+	21,800,000

South Atlantic and Gulf Council Preferred Alternative 3. Revise the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, based on the acceptable biological catch recommendation from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield are is equal to 95% of the updated recommended acceptable biological catch level. The updated recommended acceptable biological catch level is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

Fishing Year	Alternative 3 (ACL=95%ABC) (lbs)
2022/2023	31,635,000
2023/2024	27,075,000
2024/2025	24,130,000
2025/2026	22,135,000
2026/2027+	20,710,000

Alternative 4. Revise the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, based on the acceptable biological catch recommendation from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield are is equal to 90% of the updated recommended acceptable biological catch level. The updated recommended acceptable biological catch level is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

Fishing Year	Alternative 4 (ACL=90%ABC) (lbs)
2022/2023	29,970,000
2023/2024	25,650,000
2024/2025	22,860,000
2025/2026	20,970,000
2026/2027+	19,620,000

Alternative 5. ~~Revise the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, based on the acceptable biological catch recommendation from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield is are equal to the updated, constant acceptable biological-catch level of 21,800,000 pounds. The updated recommended acceptable biological catch level is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey. This is a constant catch value for 2022/2023 and subsequent fishing years or until changed by a future management action.~~

Fishing Year	Alternative 5 (lbs)
2022/2023	21,800,000
2023/2024	21,800,000
2024/2025	21,800,000
2025/2026	21,800,000
2026/2027+	21,800,000

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
 APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 3: APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES FOR ACTION 3

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

~~**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Retain the current recreational annual catch target for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel [ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater] based on the previous acceptable biological catch (ACT = 7,400,000 pounds).~~

Alternative 1 (No Action). Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch recreational annual catch limit level. The recreational annual catch target equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

~~**South Atlantic and Gulf Council 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].~~

Alternative 2. Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated **acceptable biological catch-recreational annual catch limit**. The recreational annual catch target equals 90% sector ACL.

Alternative 3. Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated **acceptable biological catch-recreational annual catch limit**. The recreational annual catch target equals 85% sector ACL.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 4: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 3 IN CMP AMENDMENT 34.

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

Alternative 1 (No Action). Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated recreational annual catch limit level. The recreational annual catch target equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL (1 OBJECTION)

MOTION 5: CHANGE THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION)

Action 5. Reduce the minimum size limit for recreational harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The minimum size limit for recreational harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is 24-inches fork length.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 6: CHANGE THE PREFERRED TO ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION).

Action 5. Reduce the minimum size limit for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The minimum size limit for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is 24-inches fork length. Commercial fishermen may possess undersized king mackerel in quantities not exceeding 5 percent, by weight, of the king mackerel on board.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 7: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2, SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2A AND 2B AS PREFERRED

Action 7. Modify the recreational requirement for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel and Spanish mackerel to be landed with heads and fins in intact.

Alternative 2. Cut-off (damaged) fish caught under the recreational bag limit, that comply with the minimum size limits, may be possessed, and offloaded ashore.

Sub-alternative 2a. Atlantic migratory group king mackerel

Sub-alternative 2b. Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE (12-1-1)
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION 8: SEND ACTIONS 5 AND 6 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED
APPENDIX
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. Public hearings for this amendment were held in-person the week of October 18th. The Gulf Council reviewed this amendment at their October meeting and approved the document for formal review. Council staff reviewed public comment, a decision document, and draft document for CMP Amendment 32 as well as discussions had by the Gulf Council at their August 2021 meeting.

The following motions were approved:

MOTION 9: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AMENDMENT 32 FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

CMP Amendment 33 – Updates to Gulf king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020

Ryan Rindone, Gulf Council staff, presented draft options to be considered in Amendment 33, which proposes modifications to catch limits and sector allocations for Gulf king mackerel based on the results of the SEDAR 38 Update stock assessment. The stock assessment found that Gulf king mackerel was not overfished or undergoing overfishing. However, recruitment has been low over the last 10 years, and the spawning stock biomass (SSB) is below the SSB at maximum sustainable yield. The Committee reviewed the proposed actions and alternatives.

The following motions were approved:

MOTION 10: MOVE ALTERNATIVE 3 IN ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

Action 2 – Modify the Sector Allocation and Commercial Zone Quotas for Gulf King Mackerel.

Alternative 3: Modify the sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel by reallocating to the commercial sector a percentage of the average difference between the total landings from

the 2010/2011 through 2019/2020 fishing years using MRIP-FES data and the total projected ACL for 2023/2024 from Action 1.

Option 2a: 25% of the average difference

Option 2b: 50% of the average difference

Option 2c: 75% of the average difference

Option 2d: 100% of the average difference

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Other Business

At the SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting in October 2021, Clay Porch noted that the SEDAR 78: Atlantic Spanish Mackerel assessment will be delayed one month (now available by May 8, 2022). Due to the delay, the stock assessment will not be reviewed by the Council's SSC at their upcoming April 2022 meeting. The Committee noted the importance of this assessment to the management of Atlantic Spanish mackerel at both the federal and state level. To that effect, the Committee expressed their desire to have the assessment completed on time per the previously agreed upon schedule. If unable to be completed on time, the Committee expressed interest in convening a special session of the SSC to review the assessment.

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 11: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

1. Bring Action 7 (cut/damaged fish) in Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 34 to the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel for discussion at their upcoming meeting.
2. Prepare Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 34 for consideration of final action at the March 2022 Council meeting.
3. Work with Gulf Council staff to prepare Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 32 for transmittal to the Secretary of Commerce.
4. Work with Gulf Council staff, as needed, to continue work on Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 33.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL