

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

GULF SEDAR COMMITTEE

Battle House Renaissance Mobile Mobile, Alabama

October 20, 2014

VOTING MEMBERS

- Pamela Dana Florida
- Kevin Anson (designee for Chris Blankenship) Alabama
- Martha Bademan (designee for Nick Wiley) Florida
- Myron Fischer (designee for Randy Pausina) Louisiana
- Corky Perret Mississippi
- Robin Riechers Texas
- John Sanchez Florida
- Phil Steele (designee for Roy Crabtree) NMFS
- Roy Williams Florida

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- Leann Bosarge Mississippi
- Doug Boyd Texas
- Jason Brand USCG
- Dale Diaz (designee for Jamie Miller) Mississippi
- Dave Donaldson GSMFC
- John Greene Alabama
- Campo Matens Louisiana
- Harlon Pearce Louisiana
- Greg Stunz Texas
- David Walker Alabama

STAFF

- Stephen Atran Population Dynamics Statistician
- John Froeschke Fishery Biologist
- Doug Gregory Executive Director
- Beth Hager Financial Assistant/IT Coordinator
- Mara Levy NOAA General Counsel
- Charlene Ponce Public Information Officer
- Ryan Rindone Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
- Charlotte Schiaffo Research & Human Resource Librarian
- Carrie Simmons Deputy Executive Director

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- Randy Boggs Orange Beach, AL
- Steve Branstetter NMFS
- Gregg Bray GSMFC
- Gib Brogan Oceana

1 JP Brooker Ocean Conservancy
2 Michael Drexler Ocean Conservancy
3 Cynthia Fenyk NOAA
4 Benny Gallaway LGL Ecological, TX
5 Sue Gerhart NMFS
6 Chad Hanson PEW
7 Ben Hartig SAFMC
8 Margaret Henderson Gulf Seafood Institute
9 Mike Jennings Freeport, TX
10 Robert Jones EDF
11 Kristen McConnell EDF
12 Herb Murphy
13 Laurie Picariello Audubon Nature Institute
14 Katie Semon LDWF

15
16 - - -
17

18 The Mackerel Management Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
19 Management Council convened at the Battle House Renaissance
20 Mobile, Mobile, Alabama, Monday afternoon, October 20, 2014, and
21 was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Pamela Dana.
22

23 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
24 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
25 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
26

27 **CHAIRMAN PAMELA DANA:** I would like to call to order the
28 Mackerel Management Committee and first I would like -- The
29 members of this committee are Roy Williams, Kevin Anson, Dr.
30 Crabtree, Myron Fischer, Corky Perret, Robin Riechers, John
31 Sanchez, and Martha Bademan and myself as Chair and we have a
32 quorum. I would like to call for an adoption of the agenda.
33

34 **MS. MARTHA BADEMAN:** So moved.
35

36 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** We have a second and going to Tab C, Number 2,
37 has everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes? Do I
38 hear a motion to approve the minutes?
39

40 **MR. ROY WILLIAMS:** Motion to approve.
41

42 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Second?
43

44 **MS. BADEMAN:** Second.
45

46 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Any opposition? The agenda and the minutes are
47 approved and we have two items that we need to address today and
48 that can be found under Tab C, Number 3. That's the Framework

1 Amendment 2 Codified Text and we need to address some committee
2 recommendations and then we have Other Business with the gillnet
3 fishery, concerns that we'll discuss as a committee. I am going
4 to turn to Ryan to review the Framework Amendment 2 to the
5 Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP, Tab C-4(a).

6
7 **FINAL APPROVAL: FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 2 TO THE COASTAL MIGRATORY**
8 **PELAGICS FMP**
9

10 **MR. RYAN RINDONE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Framework Amendment
11 2 to the CMP fishery addresses commercial trip limits for the
12 Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel in the southern zone
13 and this is all in the South Atlantic's jurisdiction and the
14 purpose of this action is to ensure the system of trip limits
15 for the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel in the
16 proposed southern zone is aligned with current conditions of the
17 fishery through proposed modifications to the current system of
18 trip limits in place.

19
20 The need for this action is to respond to new regulations and
21 changing fishery characteristics for Atlantic Spanish in the
22 proposed southern zone, while increasing social and economic
23 benefits of the CMP fishery through sustainable and profitable
24 harvest of Atlantic Spanish in accordance with provisions set
25 forth in Magnuson.

26
27 There is one action in this framework amendment and that is
28 under Chapter 2 and it's page 16. The action is to modify the
29 system of quota and trip limit adjustments for Atlantic Spanish
30 mackerel in the southern zone and the South Atlantic Council's
31 preferred alternative is Alternative 4, which would establish a
32 trip limit of 3,500 pounds for the southern zone.

33
34 When 75 percent of the adjusted southern zone quote is met or
35 projected to be met, the trip limit would be reduced to 1,500
36 pounds. When 100 percent of the adjusted southern zone quota is
37 met or projected to be met, the trip limit is reduced to 500
38 pounds until the end of the fishing year or until the southern
39 zone commercial quota is met or projected to be met, at which
40 time the commercial sector in the southern zone would be closed
41 to harvest.

42
43 75 percent of the current adjusted southern zone quota would be
44 1.69 million pounds and 100 percent would be 2.25 million pounds
45 and I believe Chairman Hartig is here and might be able to
46 provide any additional commentary.

47
48 **MR. BEN HARTIG:** Ryan, you did an excellent job of explaining

1 it. It's pretty straightforward.
2
3 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Thank you, Ryan. We do have a proposed action
4 and alternative on the table and does the committee have -- Is
5 there a motion for a preferred alternative or any discussion on
6 Ryan's presentation?
7
8 **MS. BADEMAN:** I will make the motion to choose Alternative 4 as
9 the preferred alternative.
10
11 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Second.
12
13 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** We have a second. Any discussion?
14
15 **MS. MARA LEVY:** I just want to note, for the record, that this
16 entire document and action is premised on the actions that you
17 all took in Amendment 20B being implemented, because 20B created
18 these different zones in the South Atlantic and so just so that
19 everything is clear that this is dealing with a southern zone
20 that is not yet implemented, but was submitted to be implemented
21 by NMFS and so this will follow that and I just wanted to make
22 that clear. You can take action on it. It will just have to
23 follow 20B's final implementation before this actually were to
24 get implemented.
25
26 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Thank you, Mara. Ryan, what would be -- How
27 does this impact the Gulf if we have this as our preferred
28 alternative?
29
30 **MR. RINDONE:** To the best of my knowledge, it doesn't really.
31
32 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** It does not?
33
34 **MR. HARTIG:** No, it does not. The demarcation line between the
35 Gulf and Atlantic Spanish used to be the Dade/Monroe County line
36 and that's what we still use for management, but in the last
37 assessment, they did move it to the council's jurisdiction and
38 so you manage your Spanish and we manage ours, based on the
39 council jurisdictions currently.
40
41 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Thank you, Chairman Hartig and so if we were to
42 go with Preferred Alternative 4, in essence it would be a
43 goodwill gesture by this council to support the South Atlantic
44 Council?
45
46 **MR. HARTIG:** Yes, it would.
47
48 **MR. CORKY PERRET:** Please make sure you let your council know

1 that we're going along with that.

2
3 **MR. HARTIG:** I knew that wasn't going to get through without a
4 few remarks and I certainly understand and I will let our
5 council know.

6
7 **MR. PERRET:** I'm sure you will.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Is there additional discussion? We have a
10 preferred alternative on the board, which is Alternative 4, to
11 establish a trip limit of 3,500 pounds for the southern zone.
12 When 75 percent of the adjusted southern zone quota is met or
13 projected to be met, the trip limit would be reduced to 1,500
14 pounds. When 100 percent of the adjusted southern zone quota is
15 met or projected to be met, the trip limit is reduced to 500
16 pounds until the end of the fishing year or until the southern
17 zone commercial quota is met or projected to be met, at which
18 time the commercial sector in the southern zone would be closed
19 to harvest of Spanish mackerel. **All those in favor say aye; any**
20 **opposed. The motion carries.** Ryan, our next step is to go
21 final, I assume, with this Amendment 2?

22
23 **MR. RINDONE:** That's correct. This is Framework Amendment 2 and
24 the council will be encouraged by the South Atlantic to take
25 final action on Framework Amendment 2 and Charlotte emailed you
26 a proposed motion to put up for that and Pam can read it, if
27 somebody wants to make such a motion.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** I am going to ask for a motion to recommend to
30 the council that Framework Amendment 2 be submitted to the
31 Secretary of Commerce for implementation and that the
32 regulations be deemed as necessary and appropriate and that
33 staff be given editorial license to make the necessary changes
34 in the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to
35 deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and
36 appropriate. If I can get a motion to --

37
38 **MR. PERRET:** So moved.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Can I have a second?

41
42 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Second.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Any discussion on the motion? **Hearing none,**
45 **let's call for a vote and all in favor say aye; opposed. The**
46 **motion carries.** Now we need to move into Other Business and
47 that will be on the king mackerel gillnet fishery concerns under
48 Tab C, Number 5. I'm going to ask Ryan to review the issue and

1 then open for discussion.
2

3 **OTHER BUSINESS**
4 **KING MACKEREL GILLNET FISHERY CONCERNS**
5

6 **MR. RINDONE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. We have had some requests
7 from gillnet fishermen to look at a possible increase in the
8 trip limit for commercial king mackerel gill netters in the
9 southern zone and runaround gillnets are allowed for harvesting
10 of king mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico, but only in the southern
11 Florida west coast zone, or the southern subzone. This is off
12 of Collier County mostly where this fishery is prosecuted and
13 Monroe County.
14

15 There are twenty-three vessels that have valid or renewable
16 gillnet endorsements and of these -- Currently, the trip limit
17 is 25,000 pounds per vessel per day and many of the vessels
18 which -- I don't have my sheet in front of me and do you have
19 that sheet up?
20

21 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Yes.
22

23 **MR. RINDONE:** Okay. Many of the vessels that participate in the
24 fishery have the capacity to carry substantially more than
25 25,000 pounds and they have various reasons for either
26 supporting or not supporting such an increase.
27

28 In most years, the fishing season has lasted for two weeks or
29 less and assuming each vessel could harvest its capacity, the
30 season could be even shorter with a higher trip limit. To
31 address this in terms of accountability measures, the fishermen
32 have proposed that -- Let's say there's a 100,000-pound ACL and
33 the trip limit is 10,000 pounds.
34

35 If a boat brings in 15,000 pounds, then that year's ACL would be
36 reduced by the 5,000-pound overage and so would the following
37 year's and so the current year's ACL would be reduced to 95,000
38 pounds and the following year's ACL would be 95,000 pounds, as
39 opposed to 100,000, to account for that overage.
40

41 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Let me make sure I understand it. If I as a
42 gillnet fisherman -- There's a 500,000-pound quota, right? If I
43 bring in 50,000 pounds by accident, what you do would be to
44 reduce this year to 475,000 and next year you would reduce to
45 475,000 and is that what you're doing?
46

47 **MR. RINDONE:** Yes, if there was a 25,000-pound trip limit.
48 That's what they're proposing for accountability measures, but

1 in lieu of asking for this increase to 45,000 pounds, they are
2 also proposing these accountability measures to protect from
3 causing any overfishing concerns.

4
5 **MR. WILLIAMS:** This jumped out at me, but this is the classic
6 tragedy of the commons. All of the benefits of the overage
7 accrue to me and all the losses are shared with everybody else.

8
9 **MR. RINDONE:** In this instance, the profit from the overage
10 would not go to the fisherman and I guess it would be up to NOAA
11 to determine where the money from the sale of those fish would
12 end up or if they would be sold or what would happen, but yes,
13 you are not wrong about the tragedy of the commons.

14
15 Those for removing the trip limit believe that it will help
16 protect the stock while improving the efficiency of the fleet.
17 If a vessel catches more than the trip limit in a net, they have
18 two options to keep from landing over the trip limit currently.

19
20 The first is they can release the excess fish. However, because
21 of the nature of gillnet fishing, there is incredibly high
22 discard mortality and most of the fish wouldn't survive. The
23 second thing that they can do is they can cut the net and leave
24 the section with the excess fish in the water.

25
26 Sometimes another vessel can get there to retrieve the partial
27 net, if it hasn't already met its trip limit, and sometimes they
28 can't. This second choice is better for the resource, as it
29 eliminates waste, but it damages gear and takes up time and
30 resources to repair gear and if another vessel is not in the
31 area to retrieve the net, then you have a cut and abandoned net
32 full of fish that just sinks and that's that and continues to
33 catch fish.

34
35 The weight is difficult to gauge in the gillnet fishery, more so
36 than other types of gear, and the large amount of fish which
37 it's possible to catch at one time makes judging the weight
38 difficult and so, for this reason, having a precise value on the
39 fish that a vessel could have on deck -- It can be a difficult
40 thing to estimate and so having a larger trip limit they argue
41 would help them with that.

42
43 **MR. PERRET:** We've got a fishery that only eighteen boats have
44 been participating in and they're catching a quota in less than
45 two weeks with runaround gillnet. You have mentioned some
46 possible options.

47
48 What's the length of these nets and if there is a problem with

1 overage, is it not realistic to reduce the length of the net? I
2 mean, believe me, I went through the gillnet wars and that was
3 some of the things we did. We increased mesh size and we
4 reduced the length of the net and what size net are we talking
5 about?
6

7 **DR. STEVE BRANSTETTER:** Runaround gillnets have to be less than
8 800 yards.
9

10 **MR. PERRET:** What happens if we went to 600 yards? Naturally it
11 will be less effective, but I assume a 600-yard net would catch
12 king mackerel. I mean that's just another option that we're not
13 being presented with.
14

15 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Corky, to follow up on that, I had a fisherman
16 call me and talk to me about length about this, somebody I
17 hadn't talked to in fifteen years, probably.
18

19 That actually is one of the things he said. He said that some
20 of those nets were built by Glenn Black, who was an east coast
21 fisherman out of Fort Pierce who had a boat that seemed like it
22 was about as wide as from one table to the other, and he said
23 some of those nets are huge and they could be reduced in size
24 and you would gain some lower capacity per vessel if you did
25 something like that. I think there's an awful lot we don't know
26 about this.
27

28 **MR. JOHN SANCHEZ:** As we recall, going back to why this was
29 brought up in the first place, is there were some folks that
30 were incurring fines for fishing in a forthright, honest manner
31 and reporting all of their landings at the fish house and they
32 could have gotten cute and creative and they elected not to and
33 they disclosed that, look, this is what I caught and I'm over by
34 X and then now, as they filter through the process, they are
35 getting fines to the tune of tens of thousands of dollars coming
36 and these are going back to probably calendar year, if my memory
37 is serving me, 2011.
38

39 There was probably some of this practice going on in 2012,
40 before these fines came to fruition this year and some of these
41 fishermen that were trying to abide by the rules and doing the
42 right thing with full disclosure, they are looking at fines that
43 -- If you add them all up and they did incur them in each year,
44 they might be looking at \$40,000 or \$50,000 worth of fines
45 coming at them and so they're trying to create and address this
46 the way that they see it.
47

48 Of these boats that have this permit, there is a smaller sub-

1 portion that really fishes this every year and does what they do
2 in this fishery and have done so historically and those are the
3 ones that have come and in fact, Bill Kelly, who was to be here
4 and could not, because his wife has had some complications from
5 the surgery she had, he took a polling of these people that do
6 fish that in his neck of the woods and albeit, there are some
7 others elsewhere which he probably didn't question, and of those
8 about fifteen boats, ten of those said yes, they would support
9 and would like to see an increase. Four were against it and one
10 he could not successfully get ahold of to get any kind of an
11 answer either way.

12
13 That said, they have also offered these accountability measures
14 to address overages and such in this and could we look at things
15 like net sizes and this and that? Absolutely. We can look at
16 everything under the sun, but this is a request coming from the
17 industry and I don't know of any other industry, outside of
18 fisheries, where we always penalize efficiency.

19
20 These people want to catch these fish. They want to catch them
21 quickly, because it's right in the middle of their stone crab
22 and their lobster season, and they want to go in and do what
23 they have to do and get out. That's the way it's always been in
24 this fishery for that gear type and now we're penalizing them
25 for trying to be efficient and trying to address a problem
26 that's come up, an enforcement problem, resulting in costly
27 fines.

28
29 I tried to tell them that, look, I think the answer to your
30 problem, and I am not and never have been a vocal supporter of
31 IFQs, but this might be a fishery where you have a small enough
32 number of people where that might solve a lot of these problems.

33
34 For some reason, unbeknown to me, they don't want to pursue that
35 realm as a solution to this and so I'm not going to champion
36 something that they don't want, but this is something they
37 clearly do want and I would hope I could get some support from
38 my colleagues on this council to try to address this.

39
40 **MR. PERRET:** I, for one, am not, at this stage, where I would
41 want to make a recommendation one way or the other, other than
42 to point out we've got a fishery that's gone over by 68.9
43 percent, a fishery that lasted five days, and just a couple or
44 three years later, they were under by 25.2 percent.

45
46 It seems to me that this should be an easy fishery to work with.
47 Eighteen participants, a handful of participants, and John just
48 gave some numbers that ten say yea and four nay and one -- Hey,

1 that's fish. We will never get all in agreement, but it seems
2 to me if this industry wants this council to work with them that
3 we should have a lot more input insofar as options to try and
4 work with.

5
6 My only suggestion would be to go back to industry and staff and
7 we've got an advisory panel. Get input from that King Mackerel
8 Advisory Panel and staff look into it and we can proceed from
9 there, but the one thing I do agree with, and I've said this
10 before, and I don't care what type of fishery it is, we need
11 accountability measures and if they go over by one fish, they
12 should be penalized the following year. I believe that's all
13 fisheries, all types.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Thank you, Corky. I'm going to ask Ryan to
16 respond and then I'm going to go with Chairman Anson and Dr.
17 Branstetter and Mr. Williams.

18
19 **MR. RINDONE:** Though we don't encourage votes, just to clarify
20 something that Mr. Sanchez said about the fishermen which
21 support versus don't support the increase, of those for, which
22 did not support it, three of them recommended a smaller
23 increase, from 25,000 to 35,000 pounds, as opposed to 45,000
24 pounds. That was all.

25
26 **MR. ANSON:** I am wondering, Dr. Branstetter, if you have any
27 sense of these participants and since it's such a short season,
28 they probably are engaged in other fisheries, as Mr. Sanchez had
29 pointed out.

30
31 I am just curious. For that region, we've had some other issues
32 with other gear types and fishermen using other gear types and
33 efficiencies and price and trip limits and such and so I am just
34 curious. What would do this do, potentially, to the price?

35
36 I mean it's one thing that you can go out fewer days and get
37 back to your other business, but would that really sink the
38 market as far as the price and the value of this fish and it
39 just goes to nothing or do you have any idea as to what would
40 happen?

41
42 **DR. BRANSTETTER:** The price drops low enough now that I'm not
43 sure you would get it any lower. The price drops in Louisiana
44 one-dollar the day this fishery opens, whether the king mackerel
45 gillnet fishery goes out or not.

46
47 At a 45,000-pound trip limit, and this is just for your
48 consideration, but at a 45,000-pound trip limit, twelve boats

1 will blow that quota in one day. At 35,000 pounds, the fifteen
2 boats will blow that quota in one day and we can't stop it. We
3 can't shut it down.

4
5 **MR. WILLIAMS:** John Sanchez mentioned individual quotas and the
6 fisherman I talked to that called me said he would support that
7 and if he had an individual quota, he would totally change the
8 way he fishes. He would cut his net way down and target 7,000
9 or 8,000 pounds and try to compete with the hook and line guys
10 for price, to try to emphasize quality and not bring them in so
11 fast and try to produce them when the market wanted them rather
12 than when the situation required that he go get them, that the
13 derby required that he go get them.

14
15 I am not going to aggressively push IFQs, but there was a time,
16 I'm told, that they supported IFQs down there and that somehow
17 it sort of fell by the wayside or it didn't fall by the wayside,
18 but there were some people who were new in the fishery that were
19 going to get inadequate quota and so whatever consensus they
20 had, it fell apart.

21
22 It seems to me that in this little fishery, this twenty-three-
23 boat fishery, it seems to me like an IFQ would be perfect for
24 it. A guy could go catch all his quota in one day if he wanted
25 or another guy could go catch 6,000 or 7,000 pounds in a day and
26 fish for a month, if that's what it amounted to.

27
28 I think we ought to hold some kind of workshop or hearing down
29 there and hear from the fishermen, rather than having it
30 filtered through Mr. Kelly or through me or through John.

31
32 Sometimes people tell us what they want to hear and I know that
33 and when I mentioned IFQ, he started talking in terms of the
34 things he thought interested me and so that may well be the
35 case, but I think we ought to go down there and hold some kind
36 of hearing or workshop and hear what these guys have to say.

37
38 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I find myself agreeing with Roy, which that's --
39 No, it's gotten more and more usual as time as progressed. I
40 appreciate that and he is correct that there was one fisherman
41 that's a friend of ours, and I would say that, both of ours, and
42 I spoke with him at length about this and he explained to me his
43 not agreeing with the other boats in terms of raising this.

44
45 You know there's always valid reasons and two sides to every
46 story, but when you're faced with such a problem, you try to go,
47 I guess, at least me, with the preponderance of people and what
48 they want. Now, that said, I think this would be a great,

1 fertile environment for a workshop down there and we can get all
2 of these people that should be here and we should have the
3 benefit of this input from these folks and utilize the fact that
4 it is such a small universe of people and to really hear from
5 them and then maybe come up with a suite of options that covers
6 all of the things that we can do to address their concerns, so
7 that they don't find themselves being penalized for doing things
8 that may or may not be avoidable and let's get to the bottom of
9 that.

10
11 That, to me, is the real motivation for having this, whether the
12 outcome pleases every single person involved or not, and then we
13 can broach the subject of a possible IFQ in this as a management
14 option, as we can reducing nets and as we can addressing
15 possible overruns. If there is no increase in trip limit, how
16 do we mitigate the penalties from these folks without allowing
17 retention of the fish? Just something meaningful, but to
18 address the concerns that are valid that are here before us
19 right now and let's have a workshop. That would be a fantastic
20 way to do that.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** While this is a small suite of fishermen, it
23 does -- There are impacts on the market, as Steve noted, and so
24 we need to keep all those things in mind, which then impact the
25 larger group of fishermen.

26
27 Doug, can you -- In your comments, Doug Gregory, can you mention
28 or touch upon the feasibility of pulling together the AP
29 committee, as Corky spoke of, and also the feasibility of doing
30 a workshop maybe in conjunction or dovetailing on such an AP?

31
32 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOUG GREGORY:** Yes and it's the King Mackerel
33 AP that led me to thinking about restructuring how people are
34 appointed. I don't think there's anybody from the Florida Keys
35 on your AP and there are no gillnet fishermen on your AP and so
36 I can tell you right now what your AP is going to tell you.

37
38 As a Sea Grant agent down there, I am very familiar with the
39 players. I have been out on the boats and I've seen the
40 fishery. Yes, fifteen boats potentially can fill the quota, but
41 all fifteen boats don't catch their quota every day. It's
42 variable, but the potential is there and I can understand the
43 concern of the regulators.

44
45 We had an IFQ workshop and at the time, your friend was opposed
46 to it in one way. You have got competing groups of fishermen.
47 You've got the Marathon group and the Key West group and the
48 interesting thing about the survey is the Carter brothers, who

1 voted for the 35,000 pounds, are a part of the Marathon fishing
2 group and are very supportive of that group normally and so it's
3 interesting to see that they're asking for something different,
4 but the guy who is complaining the most is part of a group of
5 fishermen who don't want to jump in and out of the fishery as
6 quickly as John described.

7
8 Most of these fishermen are lobster fishermen and stone crab
9 fishermen. The king mackerel fishery happens in the middle of
10 those fisheries and depending on the price of stone crab and
11 lobster and how well they're doing, half the fleet, let's say,
12 loves to go gillnet fishing. It's fun and it's an event and
13 they will do it no matter what.

14
15 The other half make a business decision that I'm not going to go
16 this year because lobster prices are good and so when we had the
17 IFQ meeting, the half that didn't jump in and out every year
18 said we want everybody to have equal shares. The people that
19 had the poundage said, no, it should be poundage and as the Sea
20 Grant guy there, I said, why don't we do it 50/50 and why
21 doesn't half the quota be distributed evenly and the other half
22 by poundage and they all jumped on me and threw me out at that
23 point.

24
25 There has been an attempt to discuss that and that was probably
26 ten years ago. A workshop would be interesting. I think that
27 would work. I think to hear from the gillnet fishery themselves
28 and then you can weigh that against the non-gillnet fishermen
29 and what they want, but -- We could probably do it in
30 conjunction with the South Florida meeting that we're having the
31 week of January 12, once we get with the South Atlantic Council
32 and decide exactly what days we're going to meet down there.

33
34 Right now, we've got the whole week scheduled and I think it's
35 for a Monday travel day and then Tuesday, Wednesday, and a half
36 day Thursday to do South Florida and so we could do Thursday
37 afternoon with a king mackerel workshop and that would be
38 Thursday and so that would be doable, because these same group
39 of people are preparing for the Key West Seafood Festival that's
40 coming up the following weekend. That's the weekend just before
41 the gillnet season opens and so it all kind of fits together.

42
43 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Madam Chairman, I would be prepared to offer a
44 motion, but if John wants to go ahead first, I would -- Okay. **I**
45 **would like to offer a motion then that we conduct a workshop in**
46 **coordination with the South Florida Committee meeting that will**
47 **occur in the third week of January, subject to the workshop**
48 **being this gillnet fishery.**

1
2 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I will second that.
3
4 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** We have a motion on the board with a second and
5 any discussion?
6
7 **MR. PERRET:** For this workshop, we want to invite all of these
8 gillnet fishermen. We want to extend it to all of them.
9
10 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Everybody with a permit.
11
12 **MR. WILLIAMS:** It's actually the week of January 12. The third
13 week is not correct.
14
15 **MR. RINDONE:** My understanding is that I should approach -- I'm
16 assuming it would be me that would be spearheading this workshop
17 and so my understanding is I should approach this like a scoping
18 workshop, where we have a problem that they've identified and we
19 have their proposed solutions and offer some more and try and
20 get some feedback and propose things like reduced net size,
21 IFQs, and get a better pulse and bring more options back to the
22 table before we proceed forward and that's kind of what we're
23 talking about? All right. Nodding heads. I will take that as
24 a yes.
25
26 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Doug, don't worry. I am sure they will throw you
27 out of this one, too.
28
29 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Would this workshop also include members of the
30 AP for King Mackerel?
31
32 **MR. PERRET:** I think for this one it should be these permit
33 holders, but I see the next step as having a full Mackerel
34 Advisory Panel meeting, to see why whatever these suggestions
35 come out of this workshop -- If our advisory panel says they're
36 great or they're horrible or whatever.
37
38 **MR. RINDONE:** We're going to have to convene the Mackerel AP at
39 some point early next year anyway to talk about the king
40 mackerel stock assessment and things like allocation and the
41 change in the mixing zone and the litany of king mackerel issues
42 that we have pending and so what's another agenda item?
43
44 **MR. PERRET:** Accountability measures for overage.
45
46 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Can I ask Chairman Hartig just to make comment
47 on this if he has any, since we're partners in the king mackerel
48 world?

1
2 **MR. HARTIG:** I think you guys have worked towards a really good
3 solution. I think this is a really good way to move forward.
4
5 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Any other discussion?
6
7 **MS. LEVY:** I just want to make sure that what we're talking
8 about is a workshop that's open to the public to discuss the
9 gillnet fishery, meaning you haven't established any official AP
10 or anything that's going to meet. The council is conducting a
11 workshop like a scoping meeting and is that right?
12
13 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** That is my understanding and is that the motion
14 maker's understanding?
15
16 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Yes, it is, Madam Chairman.
17
18 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Any other discussion?
19
20 **MR. RINDONE:** Maybe for motion, just to satisfy Mara, put
21 "conduct a public workshop". There we go.
22
23 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Is the motion maker okay with that change?
24 Okay. Any other discussion? We have a motion on the board to
25 recommend that the council conduct a public workshop for the
26 king mackerel gillnet fishery in coordination with the South
27 Florida Committee meeting during the week of January 12, 2015.
28 **All those in favor say aye; opposed. The motion passes.**
29
30 **MR. PERRET:** Since Dr. Branstetter seems to be the expert on
31 this fishery, can you just quickly tell us why in the year 2013
32 this fishery was so far under its quota? Was it economics?
33 Were they catching their stone crabs and lobster? Do you have
34 an explanation?
35
36 **DR. BRANSTETTER:** Well, sort of. I think that's the year that
37 the actual values that are landing there are the accumulated
38 landings system data. We are working under the quota monitoring
39 system data and these numbers are a lot higher than what they
40 were. The underage wasn't that big and I pulled the plug on the
41 fishery one day early. I think we were about 100,000 pounds
42 short when we did that.
43
44 **MR. SANCHEZ:** That may have been a really good year. Maybe a
45 lot of Chinese holidays and a lot of lobsters, live lobsters,
46 heading to China.
47
48 **CHAIRMAN DANA:** Is there any other business to be taken care of

1 by the Mackerel Committee? Hearing none, can I get a motion to
2 adjourn? A second? Mr. Chairman, the Mackerel Committee is
3 adjourned.

4

5 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m., October 20,
6 2014.)

7

8

- - -

9