

Discussion Document

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Joint Amendment 26

(Changes in Allocations, Stock Boundaries and Sale
Provisions for Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Migratory
Groups of King Mackerel)

South Atlantic Mackerel Committee
June 2015



June 4, 2015

ACTIONS FOR AMENDMENT 26

- Modify the Management/Stock Boundary for Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups of King Mackerel
- Update the biological reference points and revise the ABC, OY, ACLs and Recreational ACT for Atlantic group king mackerel
- Incidental catch allowance of Atlantic group king mackerel caught in the shark gillnet fishery
- Establish a [new] Florida East Coast subzone for Atlantic group king mackerel
 - Boundary
 - Sub-quota of the Southern Zone commercial quota
 - Management Measures
- Update the biological reference points and revise the ACL for Gulf group king mackerel
- Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf group king mackerel
- Revise the recreational and commercial allocation of Gulf group king mackerel
- Modify the recreational bag limit for Gulf group king mackerel

TENTATIVE TIMELINE FOR AMENDMENT 26

- ✓ December 2014- South Atlantic approves for scoping
- ✓ January 2015- South Atlantic scoping
- ✓ January 2015- Gulf AP reviews potential actions and alternatives
- ✓ January 2015- Gulf Council approves for scoping
- ✓ April 2015- South Atlantic Mackerel AP reviews actions and alternatives
- ✓ April 2015- Gulf scoping
- June 2015- Joint Gulf and South Atlantic meeting in Key West- review public input, provide direction on actions and alternatives
- August 2015- Gulf Council reviews document, selects preferred alternatives and provides direction to staff
- September 2015- South Atlantic Council reviews document, selects preferred alternatives, and approves for public hearings
- October 2015- Gulf Council reviews document, selects preferred alternatives, and approves for public hearings
- November 2015- South Atlantic/Gulf public hearings
- December 2015- South Atlantic Council Final Action
- January 2016- Gulf Council Final Action
- April/May 2016- Implementation

Background

SEDAR 38 (SEDAR 2014) was completed in August 2014 and included assessments for Gulf and Atlantic king mackerel. SEDAR 38 used a different approach than the current management stock boundary to designate the Gulf and Atlantic stocks, and the mixing zone. In December 2014, the South Atlantic SSC provided recommendations to the South Atlantic Council for new ABCs for Atlantic king mackerel. The Gulf SSC provided their recommendations for Gulf king mackerel to the Gulf Council in January 2015. The catch limits for both stocks (and zone/subzone quotas) will need to be updated based on SEDAR 38 in addition to changes due to the modified stock boundary. The South Atlantic will establish a new Florida East Coast subzone and associated quotas and management measures. The Gulf Council is also considering revising sector allocations for Gulf king mackerel and modifying the recreational bag limit for Gulf king mackerel.

In addition, the South Atlantic Council is considering a provision to allow fishermen who participate in the shark fishery using gillnets to retain and sell incidental catch of Atlantic king mackerel. Prior to Amendment 20A, fishermen with federal commercial shark permits and federal commercial king mackerel permits would sell small numbers of king mackerel caught on shark gillnet trips. However, because gillnet is not an authorized gear for king mackerel, the king mackerel cannot be sold under the federal king mackerel permit. Currently under the prohibition on bag limit sales, the king mackerel are discarded.

Draft Purpose and Need (to be added for the joint meeting, following Committee meetings)

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

Alternative 1 (No action). Maintain the current mixing zone designation and management boundaries for Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel (**Figure 1**).

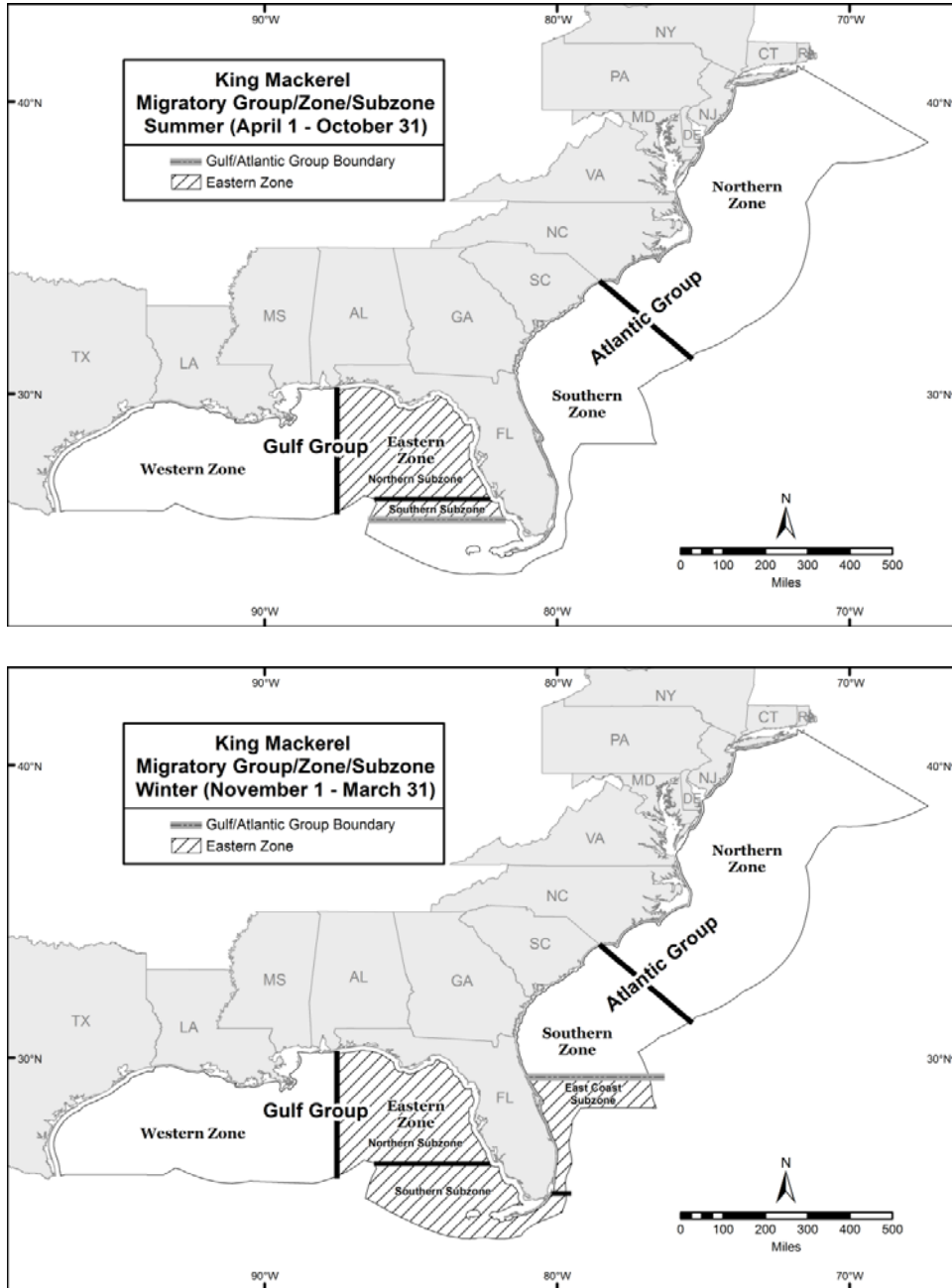


Figure 1. Current king mackerel seasonal boundaries.

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.

IPT Recommendations for Alternative 2:

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.~~

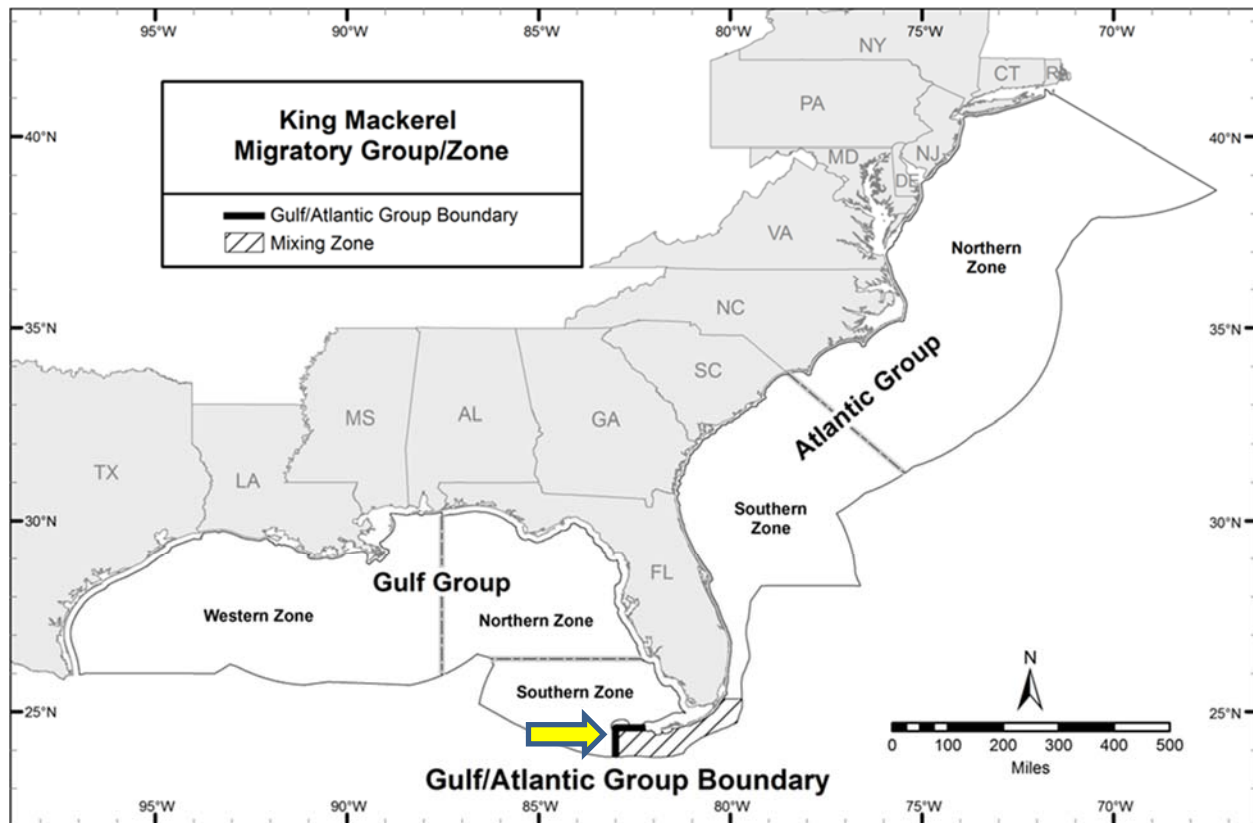


Figure 2. Alternative 2 proposed management boundary for Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel.

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.

The IPT Leads are recommending a revised Alternative 3:

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.~~ **Gulf and South Atlantic AP Preferred**

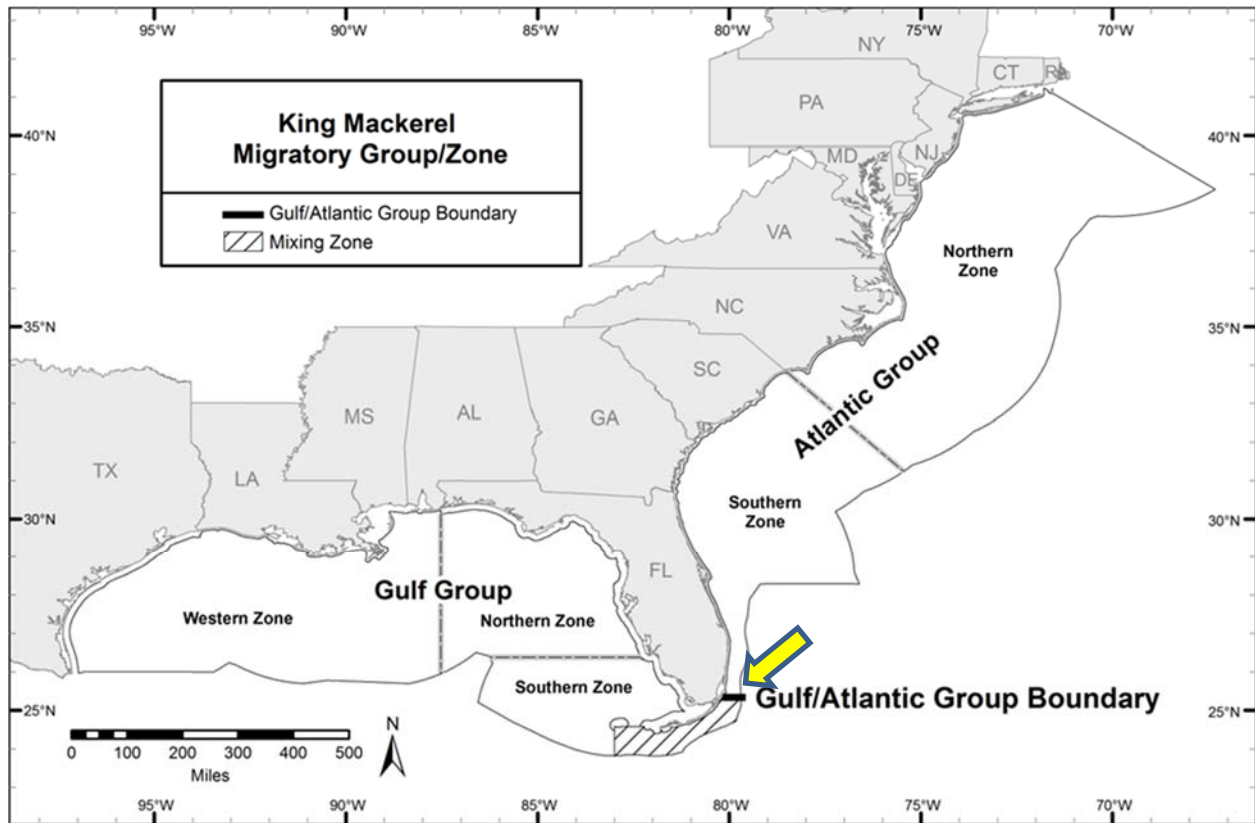


Figure 3. Alternative 3 proposed management boundary for Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel, with the Northern and Southern Zones in the Atlantic Group.

Discussion

This action would modify the management boundary so that it is consistent with the stock boundary used in SEDAR 38. The Assessment Report states:

...that the best approach is to establish the management mixing zone in 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' N. lat, then south at 83° W 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 (**Figure 4**). King mackerel captured in this zone from November 1 to March 31 should be assigned 50:50 to Gulf and Atlantic stocks. (SEDAR 38 Atlantic King Mackerel Stock Assessment Report, pp. 16-17)

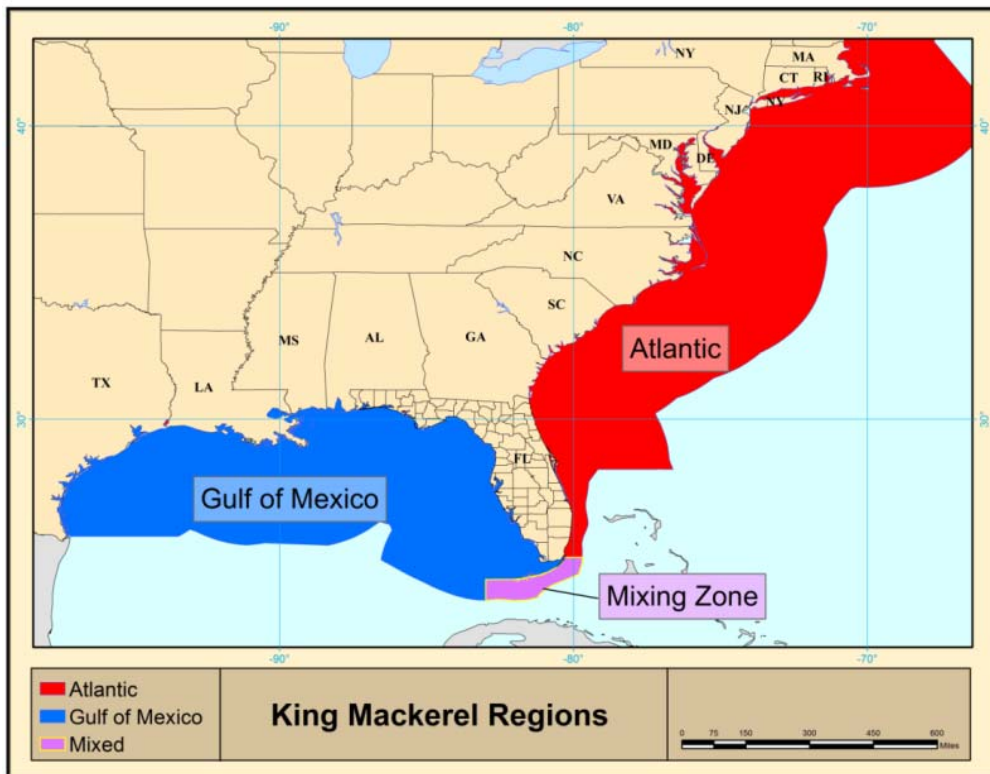


Figure 4. Regions used to aggregate landings for stock assessment of king mackerel in the GMFMC and SAFMC management areas (*Figure 4.2 from the SEDAR 38 Stock Assessment Report*).

Alternative 2 would set a year-round boundary in which each Council manages within its jurisdiction (which could result in separate management on each side of the Florida Keys). **Alternative 3** would set a year-round boundary so that the Gulf Council would manage all of the Florida Keys.

AP RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPING COMMENTS

South Atlantic AP Recommendation (April 2015):

The South Atlantic AP supported Alternative 3 (as revised by IPT), but with some concern that South Atlantic fishermen may be excluded from the Keys if the Gulf Council manages the whole Keys area.

The South Atlantic AP also recommended Sub-Alternative 3a, which was a potential suggestion by the IPT to allocate a portion of the South Atlantic ACL to the Gulf to balance landings that would count towards the Gulf ACL. However, the IPT later decided to omit recommendations to consider the sub-alternatives because the relative landings level was so small that it would not affect either Council's ACLs.

Gulf AP Recommendation (March 2015):

The AP discussed which Council should be responsible for managing the mixing zone. AP members thought that it was more likely that the king mackerel in the mixing zone would be from the Gulf migratory group, and that having homogenous regulations throughout the Keys would benefit fishermen. Staff noted that the current eastern Council boundary for Spanish mackerel was the Dade/Monroe County line, and the Florida/Georgia state line for cobia. Also, members of the commercial king mackerel gillnet fishery have expressed an interest in being managed by the Gulf Council, as opposed to the South Atlantic Council.

The Gulf AP approved the following motion: The CMP AP recommends that the Gulf Council manage the king mackerel fishery from the Dade/Monroe county line in the east to the Texas/Mexico border in the west (Alternative 3).

South Atlantic Scoping Comments (January 2015):

Support for updating the stock boundary and mixing zone. At the time, the IPT had not developed potential alternatives and the South Atlantic scoping document did not include details about jurisdiction over the Florida Keys.

Gulf Scoping Comments (April 2015):

Commenters supported adjusting the boundary and did not feel a change in the boundary would affect the fishery.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

1) Edit/approve the IPT suggested language for Alternatives 2 and 3.

IPT Recommendations for Alternative 2:

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.~~

IPT Recommendations for Alternative 3:

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.~~ **Gulf and South Atlantic AP Preferred**

- 2) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives?
- 3) Do you want to select a Preferred Alternative?

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.

Table 1. Recommendations from the October 2014 SSC meeting for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Criteria	Deterministic
Overfished evaluation	No, SSB/SSB30%SPR= 1.86
Overfishing evaluation	No, F/F30%SPR = 0.17
MFMT	F30%SPR = 0.157
SSB30%SPR (unit)	2,372 million eggs
MSST (unit)	1,991 million eggs
MSY (1000 lb)	30% SPR = 12,702,486 lbs
Y at 75% F30%SPR (1000 lb)	Not recommended
ABC Control Rule Adjustment	17.5%
P-Star	32.5%
OFL (1000 lb)	See Table 2.2.2

The SSC provided the following OFLs at their October 2014 meeting (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Recommendation for OFL from the October 2014 SSC meeting for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Fishing year	OFL (million pounds whole weight)
2016/17	19.8
2017/18	18.3
2018/19	16.7
2019/20	15.2
2020	14.3

IPT Suggestion for SA: Revise to only specify OFLs through 2019 and round to 1 decimal place.

COMMITTEE ACTION

- 1) Approve the language for the Biological Parameters.

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 2020/21 based on the ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a high recruitment scenario. **South Atlantic AP Preferred**

Alternative 3. Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016/17 through 2019/20 2020/21 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 2020/21 based on the ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a low recruitment scenario (**Table 3**).

IPT Suggestion to SA: Only set ABCs for 2016/17 through 2019/20; move Alternatives 5-6 to the considered but rejected appendix because these will go in Action 2-2. The SSC recommended values for 5 years beginning with 2015/16 but management will not be effective until 2016/17 fishing year. The ABC/ACL for 2019/20 will remain until modified.

Table 3. ABC recommendations from the October 2014 SSC meeting for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

P star= 0.325	ABC HIGH Recruitment Scenario	ABC MED Recruitment Scenario	ABC LOW Recruitment Scenario	Buffer between ABC and OFL		
				HI	MED	LO
Fishing year	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4			
2016/17	17.4 mp	16.5 mp	15.4 mp	12%	16%	22%
2017/18	15.8 mp	14.3 mp	12.9 mp	14%	22%	29%
2018/19	14.1 mp	12.9 mp	11.9 mp	15%	23%	28%
2019/20	12.7 mp	12.1 mp	11.6 mp	17%	21%	24%
2020/21	11.5 mp	11.3 mp	11.0 mp	19%	21%	23%

AP RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPING COMMENTS

South Atlantic AP Recommendation (April 2015):

The South Atlantic AP approved a motion to recommend the ABC under the high recruitment scenario (Alternative 2), with a review after two years to evaluate if it is the appropriate ABC level.

Most of the AP members supported recommending the high recruitment scenario as the preferred alternative because the high recruitment model was an average for projected landings. AP members not supportive of the high recruitment ABC voiced concern about the decrease in recreational landings. All AP members supported a review of the recruitment model within two years to evaluate if the high recruitment ABC is still appropriate for the fishery.

South Atlantic Scoping Comments (January 2015):

Several commenters that the Council set the ACL at the highest level possible (high recruitment ABC) because of the abundance of small fish and high recruitment in recent years; also some commenters supported the medium recruitment ABC.

Gulf Scoping Comments (April 2015):

Most commenters supported increasing the ABC/ACLs, as long as overfishing did not occur. Some commenters felt the Councils should evaluate the ABCs each year.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

1) Edit and approve the language in Alternatives 2-4.

Alternative 2. Revise the ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel for 2016/17 through 2019/2020/21 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 2019/2020/21 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 2019/2020/21., based on the ABC levels recommended by the SSC for ABC under a low recruitment scenario (**Table 3**).

2) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives?

3) Do you want to select a Preferred Alternative?

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

Please see Appendix A for details of how the Northern and Southern Zone quotas will work with the new stock boundary.

Alternative 1 (No action). Retain the ACL and Recreational ACT for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel.

Atlantic King Mackerel ACL	10.46 mp
Commercial ACL	3.88 mp
Northern Zone Quota	1,292,040 lbs
Southern Zone Quota	2,587,012 lbs
Recreational ACL	6.58 mp
Recreational ACT	6.11 mp

Alternative 2. Establish ACL = OY = ABC based on the ABC levels selected under Action 2-1 (**Table 4**).

Table 4. Possible outcomes under **Alternative 2** based on alternatives in Action 2-1. The recreational allocation is 62.9% and the commercial allocation is 37.1%. The Northern Zone quota will be 23.04% and the Southern Zone quota allocation is 79.96% (see **Appendix A** for details on how the Northern and Southern Zone quota allocations were recalculated using the SEDAR 38 boundary). ACT values are calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

ACL = ABC HIGH Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 2						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	17.4 mp	6.5 mp	1,497,600	5,197,400	10.9 mp	10.1 mp
2017/18	15.8 mp	5.9 mp	1,359,360	4,717,640	9.9 mp	9.2 mp
2018/19	14.1 mp	5.2 mp	1,198,080	4,157,920	8.9 mp	8.3 mp
2019/20	12.7 mp	4.7 mp	1,082,880	3,758,120	8.0 mp	7.4 mp
2020/21	11.5 mp	4.3 mp	990,720	3,438,280	7.2 mp	6.7 mp

Table 4 continues on next page

Table 4 continued

ACL = ABC MEDIUM Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 3						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	16.5 mp	6.1 mp	1,405,440	4,877,560	10.4 mp	9.7 mp
2017/18	14.3 mp	5.3 mp	1,221,120	4,237,880	9.0 mp	8.4 mp
2018/19	12.9 mp	4.8 mp	1,105,920	3,838,080	8.1 mp	7.5 mp
2019/20	12.1 mp	4.5 mp	1,036,800	3,598,200	7.6 mp	7.1 mp
2020/21	11.3 mp	4.2 mp	967,680	3,358,320	7.1 mp	6.6 mp
ACL = ABC LOW Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 4						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	15.4 mp	5.7 mp	1,313,280	4,557,720	9.7 mp	9.0 mp
2017/18	12.9 mp	4.8 mp	1,105,920	3,838,080	8.1 mp	7.5 mp
2018/19	11.9 mp	4.4 mp	1,013,760	3,518,240	7.5 mp	7.0 mp
2019/20	11.6 mp	4.3 mp	990,720	3,438,280	7.3 mp	6.8 mp
2020/21	11.0 mp	4.1 mp	944,640	3,278,360	6.9 mp	6.4 mp

IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21.

Alternative 3. Establish ACL = OY = Deterministic equilibrium yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 12.7$ mp for fishing years 2016/17 through 2019/20. ~~2020/21~~ IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21
 Note: This was recommended by the SSC but is not binding on the Council since the Council sets ACL. The proxy for MSY is 30% SPR.

Alternative 3	
Atlantic King Mackerel ACL	12.7 mp
Commercial ACL	4.7 mp
Northern Zone Quota	1,082,880 lbs
Southern Zone Quota	3,758,120 lbs
Recreational ACL	8.0 mp
Recreational ACT*	7.4 mp

*ACT value calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

Alternative 4. Establish ACL = OY = Deterministic equilibrium yield at 75% $F_{30\%SPR} = 11.6$ mp for fishing years 2016/17 through 2019/20. ~~2020/21~~ IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21.
 Note: 75% of F_{MSY} (which is the same as 75% $F_{30\%SPR}$ because 30% SPR is the proxy for MSY) is usually in the TORs of all the assessments. 75% F_{MSY} was the old OY, as yield at the long term F_{MSY} (MSY) was the old OFL. It is still part of the TORs in case the Council wants to choose that strategy to have stable catches rather than following the P^* and have changing catch levels each year.

Alternative 4	
Atlantic King Mackerel ACL	11.6 mp
Commercial ACL	4.3 mp
Northern Zone Quota	990,720 lbs
Southern Zone Quota	3,438,280 lbs
Recreational ACL	7.3 mp
Recreational ACT*	6.8 mp

*ACT value calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

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

Table 5. Possible outcomes under **Alternative 5** based on alternatives in Action 2-1. The recreational allocation is 62.9% and the commercial allocation is 37.1%. The Northern Zone quota will be 23.04% and the Southern Zone quota allocation is 79.96% (see Appendix A for details on how the Northern and Southern Zone quota allocations were recalculated using the SEDAR 38 boundary). ACT values are calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

ACL = 90% ABC HIGH Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 2						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	15.7 mp	5.8 mp	1,336,320	4,637,680	9.9 mp	9.2 mp
2017/18	14.2 mp	5.3 mp	1,221,120	4,237,880	8.9 mp	8.3 mp
2018/19	12.7 mp	4.7 mp	1,082,880	3,758,120	8.0 mp	7.4 mp
2019/20	11.4 mp	4.2 mp	967,680	3,358,320	7.2 mp	6.7 mp
2020/21	10.4 mp	3.9 mp	898,560	3,118,440	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
ACL = 90% ABC MEDIUM Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 3						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	14.9 mp	5.5 mp	1,267,200	4,397,800	9.4 mp	8.7 mp
2017/18	12.9 mp	4.8 mp	1,105,920	3,838,080	8.1 mp	7.5 mp
2018/19	11.6 mp	4.3 mp	990,720	3,438,280	7.3 mp	6.8 mp
2019/20	10.9 mp	4.0 mp	921,600	3,198,400	6.9 mp	6.4 mp
2020/21	10.2 mp	3.8 mp	875,520	3,038,480	6.4 mp	5.9 mp

Table 5 continues on next page

Table 5 continued

ACL = 90% ABC
 LOW Recruitment Scenario
Action 2-1, Alt 4

Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	13.9 mp	5.2 mp	1,198,080	4,157,920	8.7 mp	8.1 mp
2017/18	11.6 mp	4.3 mp	990,720	3,438,280	7.3 mp	6.8 mp
2018/19	10.7 mp	4 mp	921,600	3,198,400	6.7 mp	6.2 mp
2019/20	10.4 mp	3.9 mp	898,560	3,118,440	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
2020/21	10 mp	3.7 mp	852,480	2,958,520	6.3 mp	5.9 mp

IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21.

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

Table 6. Possible outcomes under **Alternative 6** based on alternatives in Action 2-1. The recreational allocation is 62.9% and the commercial allocation is 37.1%. The Northern Zone quota will be 23.04% and the Southern Zone quota allocation is 79.96% (see Appendix A for details on how the Northern and Southern Zone quota allocations were recalculated using the SEDAR 38 boundary). ACT values are calculated based on formula from CMP Amendment 18 using the average PSE from 2005-2009.

ACL = 80% ABC HIGH Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 2						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	13.9 mp	5.2 mp	1,198,080	4,157,920	8.7 mp	8.1 mp
2017/18	12.6 mp	4.7 mp	1,082,880	3,758,120	7.9 mp	7.3 mp
2018/19	11.3 mp	4.2 mp	967,680	3,358,320	7.1 mp	6.6 mp
2019/20	10.3 mp	3.8 mp	875,520	3,038,480	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
2020/21	9.2 mp	3.4 mp	783,360	2,718,640	5.8 mp	5.4 mp
ACL = 80% ABC MEDIUM Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 3						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	13.2 mp	4.9 mp	1,128,960	3,918,040	8.3 mp	7.7 mp
2017/18	11.4 mp	4.2 mp	967,680	3,358,320	7.2 mp	6.7 mp
2018/19	10.3 mp	3.8 mp	875,520	3,038,480	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
2019/20	9.7 mp	3.6 mp	829,440	2,878,560	6.1 mp	5.7 mp
2020/21	9 mp	3.3 mp	760,320	2,638,680	5.7 mp	5.3 mp

Table 6 continues on next page

Table 6 continued

ACL = 80% ABC LOW Recruitment Scenario Action 2-1, Alt 4						
Fishing year	Total Atl KM ACL	Commercial			Recreational	
		Comm ACL	Northern Zone Quota (lbs)	Southern Zone Quota (lbs)	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2016/17	12.3 mp	4.6 mp	1,059,840	3,678,160	7.7 mp	7.2 mp
2017/18	10.3 mp	3.8 mp	875,520	3,038,480	6.5 mp	6.0 mp
2018/19	9.5 mp	3.5 mp	806,400	2,798,600	6.0 mp	5.6 mp
2019/20	9.3 mp	3.5 mp	806,400	2,798,600	5.8 mp	5.4 mp
2020/21	8.8 mp	3.3 mp	760,320	2,638,680	5.5 mp	5.1 mp

IPT recommendation to take out 2020/21.

AP RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPING COMMENTS

South Atlantic AP Recommendation (April 2015):

The South Atlantic AP approved a motion to set the ACL = High Recruitment ABC (Alternative 2).

Most AP members supported setting the ACL equal to the high recruitment ABC. Some members had concerns about risk of negative effects on the stock if the high recruitment ABC was not appropriate, so the motion was amended to add the recommendation for an updated recruitment study. Additionally, some AP members expressed concern about how long a framework amendment could take to be developed and implemented, if it was necessary to change the ACL.

South Atlantic Scoping Comments (January 2015):

Several commenters that the Council set the ACL at the highest level possible (high recruitment ABC) because of the abundance of small fish and high recruitment in recent years; also some commenters supported the medium recruitment ABC.

Gulf Scoping Comments (April 2015):

Most commenters supported increasing the ACLs.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

1) Edit and approve the language in Alternatives 2-6.

Alternative 2. Establish $ACL = OY = ABC$ 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.

Alternative 6. Establish $ACL = OY = 80\%$ ABC.

2) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives?

3) Do you want to select a Preferred Alternative?

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

Previously Approved Alternatives by South Atlantic Council:

Alternative 1: No action - Sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the Drift Gillnet Small Coastal Shark Fishery is prohibited.

Alternative 2: Allow sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with drift gillnet as incidental catch in the Drift Gillnet portion of the commercial sector of the Small Coastal Shark Fishery for any vessel with a valid Shark Directed or Shark Incidental commercial permit AND valid federal king mackerel commercial permit. For shark vessels fishing in the Florida EEZ, no more than 2 king mackerel per crew member can be sold on each trip. For shark vessels in the EEZ north of the GA/FL line, no more than 3 king mackerel per crew member can be sold on each trip. The king mackerel must be sold to a dealer with the Southeast federal dealer permit.

IPT Suggested Alternatives:

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. [Same as Alternative 2 above]

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.

Alternative 3: Allow retention and sale of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel caught with gillnet as incidental catch in the drift 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 3a: For shark gillnet trips in the South Atlantic, no more than 100 lbs of king mackerel can be on board, and no more than 100 lbs of king mackerel can be sold from the trip. **(South Atlantic CMP AP Preferred)**

Option 3b: For shark gillnet trips in the South Atlantic, no more than 100 lbs of king mackerel can be on board, and no more than 100 lbs of king mackerel can be sold from the trip.

AP RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPING COMMENTS

South Atlantic AP Recommendation (April 2015):

The South Atlantic AP approved a motion to recommend [IPT-suggested] Alternative 3, Option 3a.

The South Atlantic AP was supportive of allowing shark gillnet fishermen to retain and sell king mackerel caught on shark gillnet trips. Alternative 3 would reduce dead discards, but the trip limit in Sub-Alternative 1 is low enough to not encourage fishermen to target king mackerel. One AP member noted that the allowance was inconsistent with Amendment 20A (prohibition on bag limit sales). For the trip limit, one AP member preferred 50 lbs and another member preferred number of fish instead of pounds because weight per fish varies. Although this practice is currently only occurring in Florida, Alternative 3 would allow retention and sale of king mackerel in the rest of the region as well, and one AP member pointed out that shark gillnet fishermen working north of Hatteras could switch to trawling to target king mackerel. Additionally, the AP requested that staff compile data on the number of pounds of king mackerel per shark gillnet trip.

Gulf AP Recommendation (March 2015):

The Gulf AP recommended that the small coastal shark gillnet fishery in the South Atlantic be allowed to harvest and sell the recreational bag limit so long as the vessel has a federal commercial king mackerel permit and the commercial king mackerel season is open.

South Atlantic Scoping Comments (January 2015):

Several commenters supported allowing shark gillnet fishermen to sell a small amount of king mackerel bycatch.

Gulf Scoping Comments (April 2015):

Some commenters supported allowing shark gillnet fishermen to sell the bag limit of king mackerel in order to reduce discards. Opposition to the proposed allowance stated that gillnets are prohibited for king mackerel and should not be allowed to be used as a gear type at all.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

1) Edit and approve the language in the alternatives. Edit and approve the language in the alternatives. Consider adding Option b for Alternative 2, and Options a & b for Alternative 3.

Apply to South Atlantic? Florida only? South and Mid-Atlantic?

2) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives?

3) Do you want to select a Preferred Alternative/Option?

ACTION 4. Florida East Coast Subzone for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

Currently the Florida East Coast (FLEC) Subzone is part of the Gulf king mackerel management zones. Because of the new stock and management boundaries following the stock assessment results, the South Atlantic Council is considering establishing a Florida East Coast (FLEC) subzone for Atlantic king mackerel. The Atlantic FLEC Subzone could be based on the same boundaries, quota, management measures, etc., as the Gulf FLEC Subzone, or could be designed differently with new features.

The Gulf FLEC Subzone (**Figure 5**) is the area from the Flagler/Volusia county line to the Dade/Monroe county line; exists November 1- March 31; and has a commercial sub-quota of the Gulf Commercial ACL (1,102,896 lbs) and specific trip limits.

From April 1- October 31, harvest is counted as Atlantic king mackerel with trip limits of 3,500 lbs for Volusia county, 75 fish from Volusia/Brevard county line to Dade/Monroe, and 1,250 lbs from the Dade/Monroe line to the Council boundary. Commercial harvest during this time is counted under the Southern Zone king mackerel quota.

North of the Flagler/Volusia county line, commercial harvest is counted towards the Southern Zone quota and the trip limit is 3,500 lbs year-round.

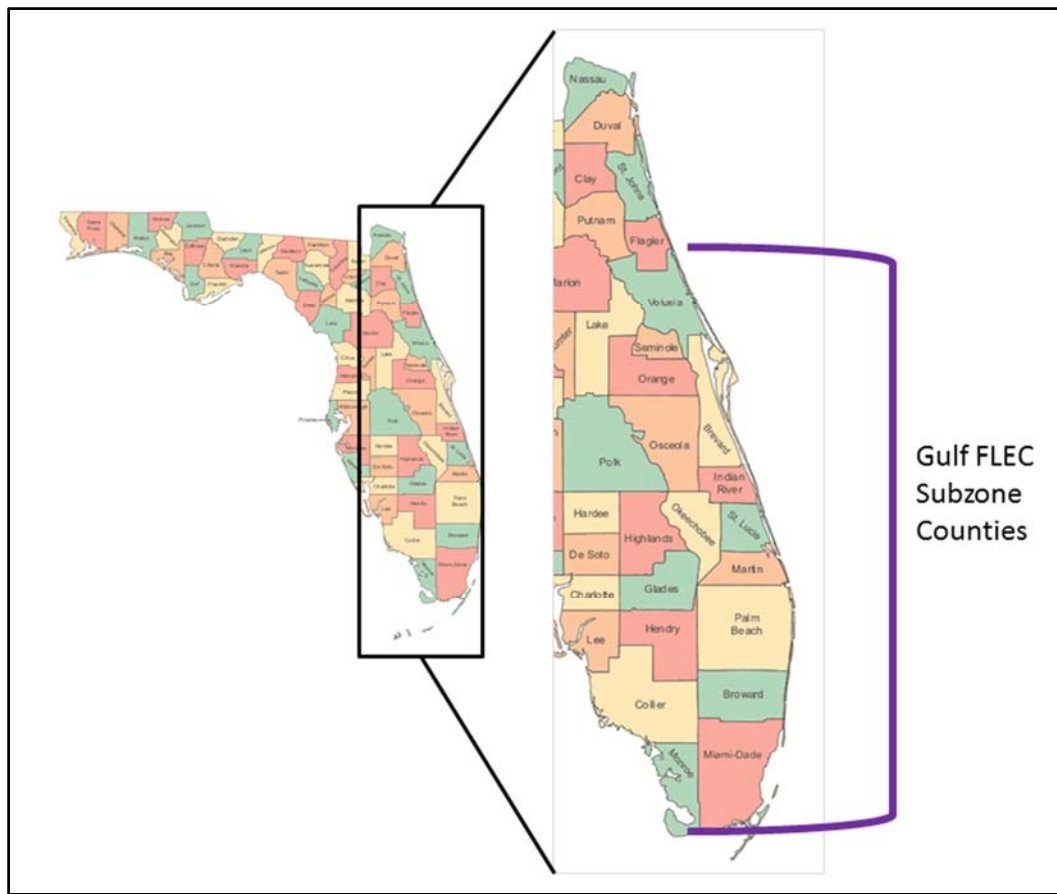


Figure 5. The current Gulf FLEC Subzone.

Table 7. Winter (Nov 1- Mar 31) landings by county in the Florida East Coast subzone for 1998-99 through 2012-13.

Fishing Year	Volusia	Brevard	Indian Riv/ St Lucie*	Martin	Palm Beach	Broward	Miami-Dade	TOTAL
1998-99	25,756	176,876	751,819	28,320	61,049	38,752	31,506	1,114,078
1999-00	27,428	20,471	457,026	20,406	61,374	20,685	36,776	644,166
2000-01	23,351	64,587	577,767	23,428	146,871	18,594	44,603	899,201
2001-02	29,335	106,595	495,124	21,577	58,424	21,883	32,373	765,311
2002-03	37,786	169,896	287,363	45,278	158,863	25,921	60,339	785,446
2003-04	95,534	203,701	365,609	26,300	228,168	24,218	56,280	999,810
2004-05	12,381	118,406	105,215	63,379	234,610	23,792	43,425	601,208
2005-06	28,558	75,424	312,976	65,072	319,309	21,708	53,797	876,844
2006-07	3,795	211,337	530,205	35,984	165,144	25,765	35,019	1,007,249
2007-08	31,043	755,759	357,887	20,240	35,453	18,419	31,496	1,250,297
2008-09	29,021	525,169	372,593	68,076	68,121	13,808	31,108	1,107,896
2009-10	140,813	349,732	425,713	65,386	48,408	10,015	50,663	1,090,730
2010-11	27,641	271,410	425,763	228,385	264,871	10,775	46,677	1,275,522
2011-12	33,204	588,584	256,550	34,549	64,766	7,991	26,156	1,011,800
2012-13	108,644	495,033	258,834	2,024	20,243	5,135	13,697	903,610

*Indian River County and St Lucie County were combined to maintain confidentiality
Data source: SEFSC/SEDAR 38

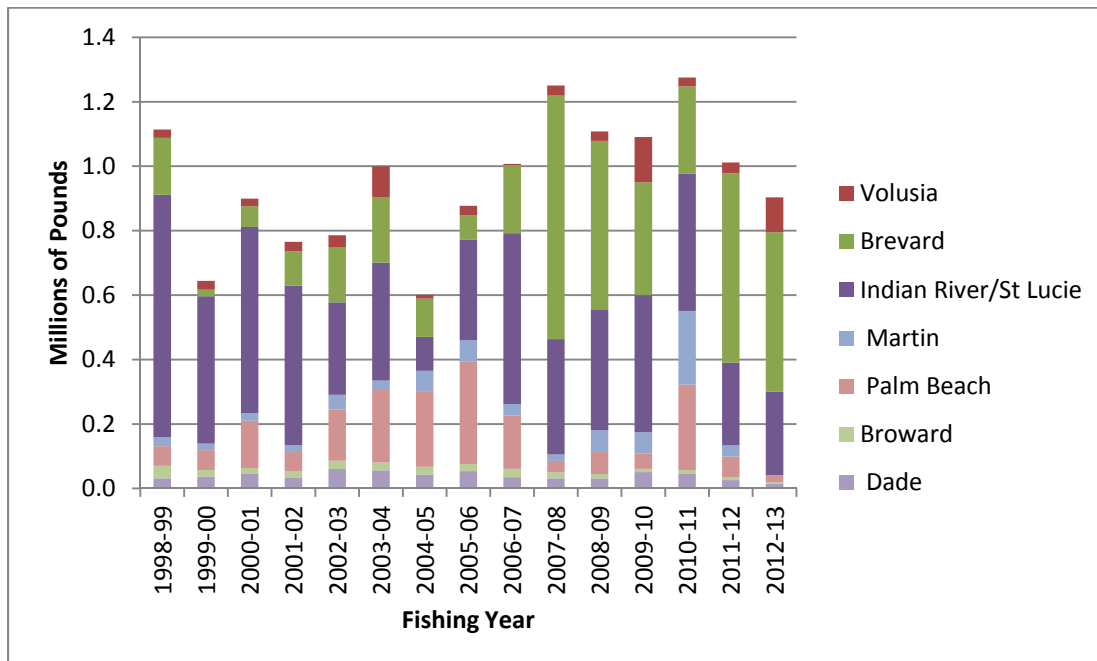


Figure 6. Winter (Nov 1- Mar 31) landings by county in the Florida East Coast subzone for 1998-99 through 2012-13.

SOUTH ATLANTIC AP RECOMMENDATIONS:

In April 2015, the AP recommended the following for Florida east coast management, from which the IPT drafted potential actions and alternatives:

The Southern Zone quota would have seasonal allocations. The first season would be March 1 – September 30 and would be allocated 60% of the Southern Zone quota. The second season would be October 1- February 28 and would be allocated 40% of the Southern Zone quota plus any unused quota from the first season. There would be no sub-quota for the FLEC subzone. Quota transfers between the Northern Zone and Southern Zone would still be allowed.

March 1 through September 30

- The FLEC subzone would be from the Volusia/Brevard county line to the Dade/Monroe county line.
- The commercial trip limit in the FLEC subzone would be 75 fish with a possible step-down to 50 fish on May 1. The step-down could apply for only the month of May or through the summer.
- The commercial trip limit north of the Volusia/Brevard county line could be 3,500 lbs.

October 1 through February 28/29

- The FLEC subzone would be from the Flagler/Volusia county line to the Dade/Monroe county line.
- The commercial trip limit in the FLEC subzone would be 50 fish with a possible increase to 75% if X% of the quota has not been met by [date].
- The commercial trip limit north of the Flagler/Volusia county line could be 3,500 lbs.

The AP also suggested exploring the trip limit for the FLEC subzone in pounds, as well as in numbers of fish. There could also be an alternative that was a combination of both. The AP requested that staff provide the expected quotas for the suggested first and second seasons.

South Atlantic Scoping Comments (January 2015):

- Set a sub-quota for the Florida East Coast subzone.
- Move the Florida East Coast subzone boundary south of the Flagler/Volusia line.
- Wait until the new ACLs are in place before addressing management in the FLEC subzone.
- Change the fishing year for the Florida East Coast subzone to March 1.

Gulf Scoping Comments (April 2015):

- Opposition to an endorsement to harvest king mackerel in the FLEC because this would exclude some fishermen working in the area.
- Some commenters were not supportive of a sub-quota because this could negatively affect the market, and the system is already complex.

Action 4 - Establish a Florida East Coast Subzone and Commercial Quota

NOTE: Potential Actions and Alternatives- THESE ARE IPT RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON SOUTH ATLANTIC AP RECOMMENDATIONS
The Councils will review recommendations, edit and approve language in alternatives in June 2015.

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 November 1 through March 31 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 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).

There was a typo in Options 3c and 4c (“*and Martin/Palm Beach county line*”) that was removed.

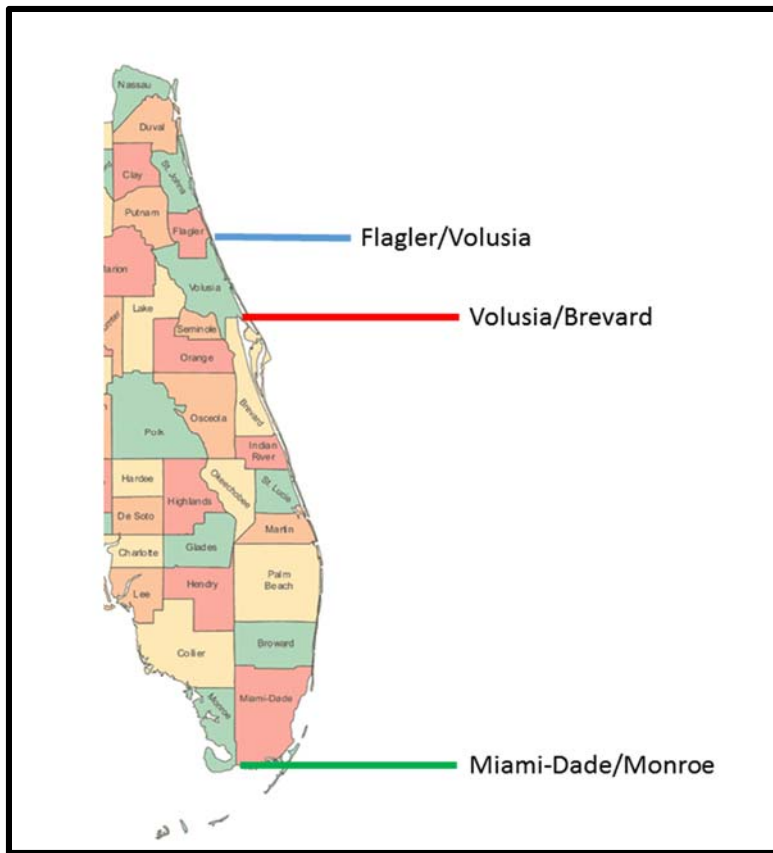


Figure 7. County lines that would be boundaries for the FLEC Subzone under the options in Alternatives 2-4.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

- 1) Do you want to add this action and alternatives?
- 2) Do you want to any additional alternatives?
- 3) Do you want to select a Preferred Alternative/Option?

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 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.

Table 8. Expected calculations of the FLEC Proportion of Total SZ Landings under Alternative 2.

Year	SZ Landings (lbs)	FLEC Landings (lbs)	Proportion FLEC Landings of Total SZ Landings
2004-05	2,622,305	2,182,780	83.2%
2005-06	2,021,140	1,817,520	89.9%
2006-07	2,825,673	2,662,816	94.2%
2007-08	2,709,845	2,644,651	97.6%
2008-09	3,359,877	3,120,354	92.9%
2009-10	4,087,983	3,718,020	90.9%
2010-11	4,255,278	4,040,925	95.0%
2011-12	2,817,705	2,585,849	91.8%
2012-13	2,029,643	1,899,614	93.6%
2013-14	1,489,016	1,394,322	93.6%
			Average FLEC Proportion Last 5 Years = 93.0%
			Average FLEC Proportion Last 10 Years = 92.3%

Table 9. Examples of possible FLEC Sub-quotas (in lbs) under Alternative 2.

Year	ACL=ABC ¹ High Recruitment ²		ACL=ABC ¹ Medium Recruitment ³		ACL=Deterministic Equilibrium Yield at F _{30%SPR} ⁴	
	Sub-alt 2a	Sub-alt 2b	Sub-alt 2a	Sub-alt 2b	Sub-alt 2a	Sub-alt 2b
2016/17	4,833,582	4,797,200	4,536,131	4,501,988	3,495,052	3,468,745
2017/18	4,387,405	4,354,382	3,941,228	3,911,563		
2018/19	3,866,866	3,837,760	3,569,414	3,542,548		
2019/20	3,495,052	3,468,745	3,346,326	3,321,139		
2010/21	3,197,600	3,173,532	3,123,238	3,099,729		

¹ Alternative 2 under Action 2-2

² Alternative 2 under Action 2-1, ABC under High Recruitment Scenario

³ Alternative 3 under Action 2-1, ABC under Medium Recruitment Scenario

⁴ Alternative 3 under Acton 2-2

Table 10. Examples of possible split season quotas for the Southern Zone (in lbs) under Alternative 3.

	ACL=ABC ¹ High Recruitment ²		ACL=ABC ¹ Medium Recruitment ³		ACL=Deterministic Equilibrium Yield at F _{30%SPR} ⁴	
	Mar-Sept (60%)	Oct-Feb (40%)	Mar-Sept (60%)	Oct-Feb (40%)	Mar-Sept (60%)	Oct-Feb (40%)
2016/17	3,118,440	2,078,960	2,926,536	1,951,024	2,254,872	1,503,248
2017/18	2,830,584	1,887,056	2,542,728	1,695,152		
2018/19	2,494,752	1,663,168	2,302,848	3,542,548		
2019/20	2,254,872	1,503,248	2,158,920	1,439,280		
2010/21	2,062,968	1,375,312	2,014,992	1,343,328		

¹ Alternative 2 under Action 2-2

² Alternative 2 under Action 2-1, ABC under High Recruitment Scenario

³ Alternative 3 under Action 2-1, ABC under Medium Recruitment Scenario

⁴ Alternative 3 under Acton 2-2

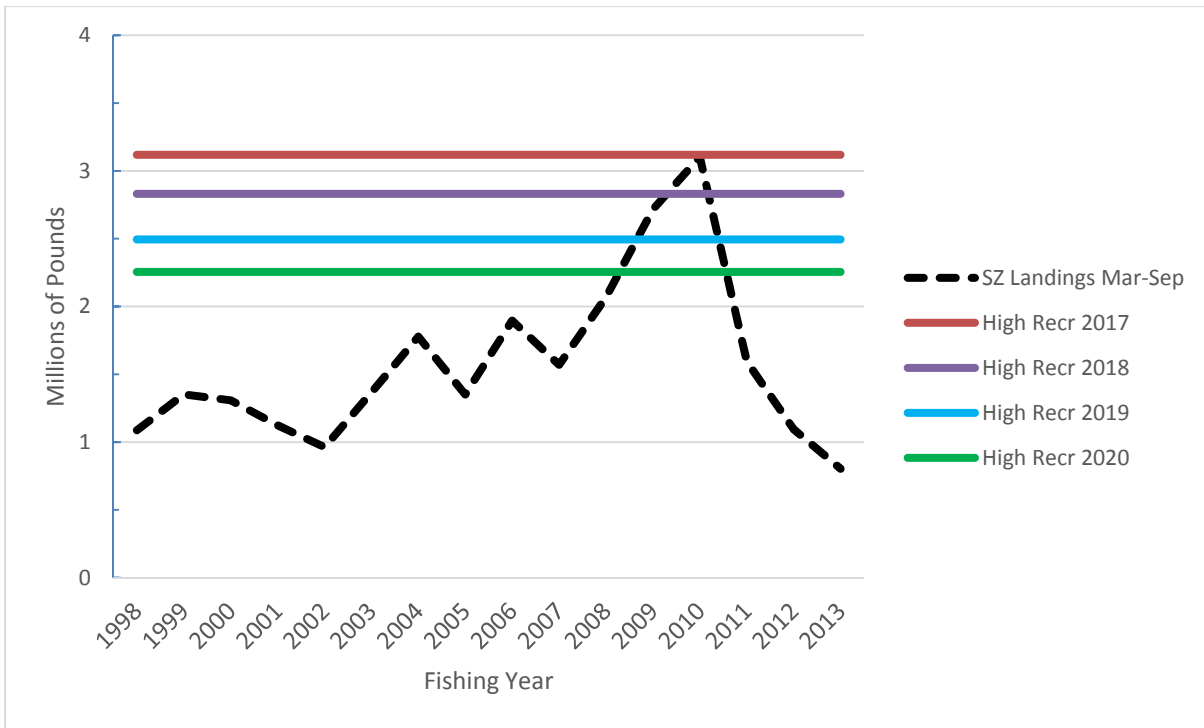


Figure 8. Comparison of Southern Zone landings in March through September in 1998-2013 fishing years with possible first season (Mar-Sept- 60%) quota under Alternative 3. In this example, ACL = ABC High Recruitment (Alternative 2 in Action 2-1, and Alternative 2 in Action 2-2).

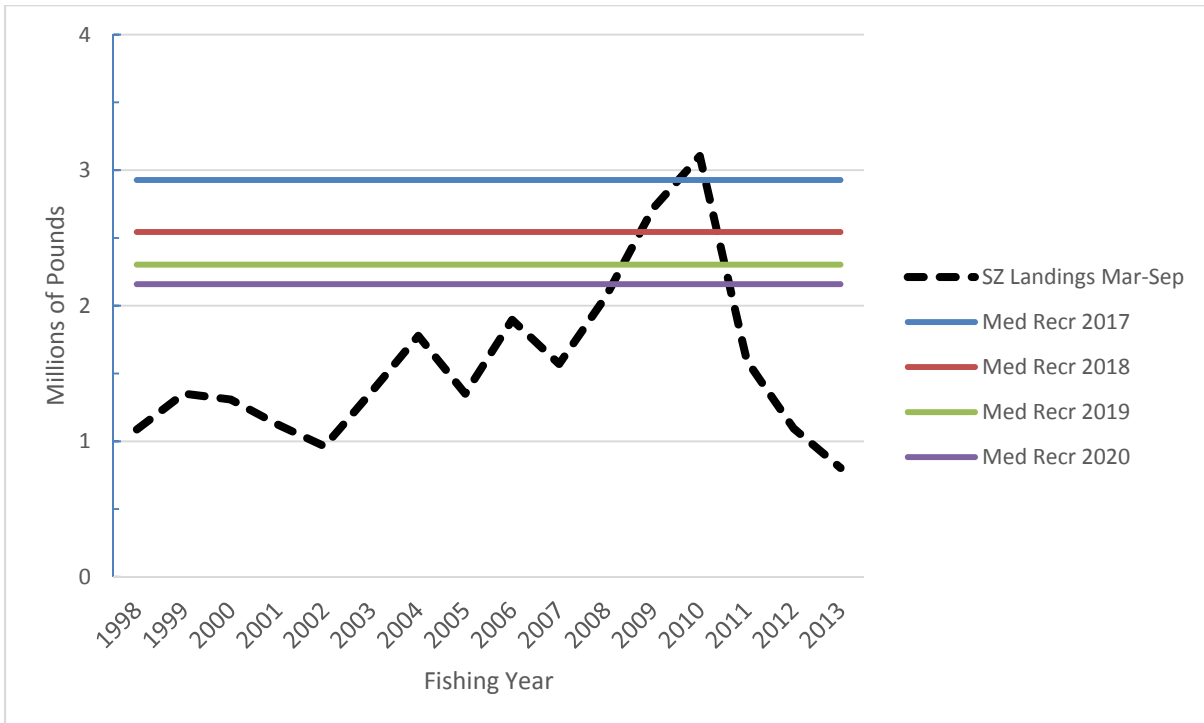


Figure 9. Comparison of Southern Zone landings in March through September in 1998-2013 fishing years with possible first season (Mar-Sept- 60%) quota under Alternative 3. In this example, ACL = ABC Medium Recruitment (Alternative 3 in Action 2-1, and Alternative 2 in Action 2-2).

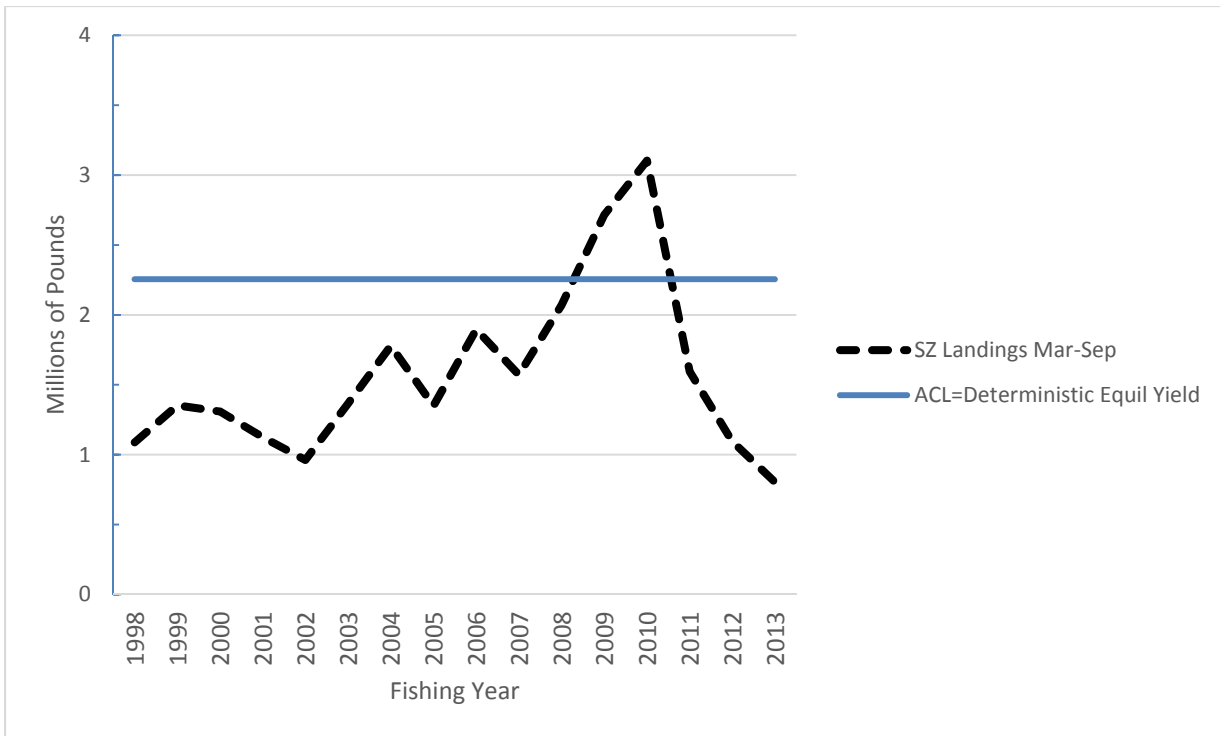


Figure 10. Comparison of Southern Zone landings in March through September in 1998-2013 fishing years with possible first season (Mar-Sept- 60%) quota under Alternative 3. In this example, ACL Deterministic equilibrium yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 12.7$ mp (Alternative 3 in Action 2-2).

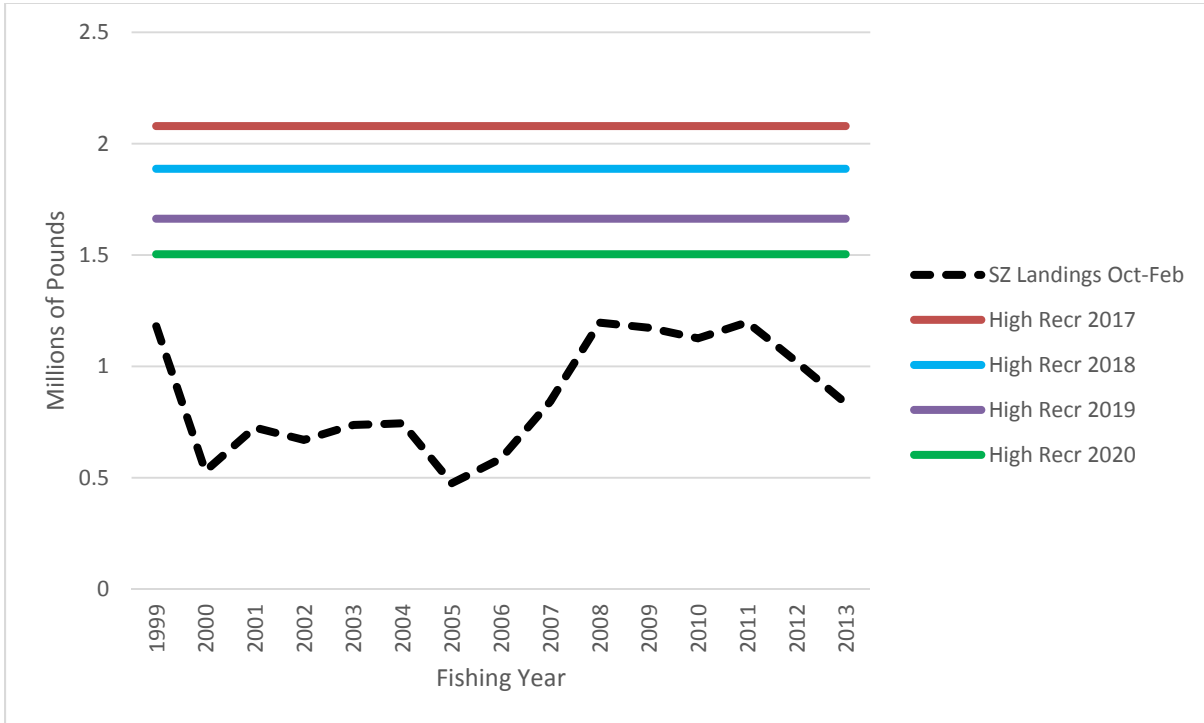


Figure 11. Comparison of Southern Zone landings in October through February in 1999-2013 fishing years with possible second season (Oct-Feb - 40%) quota under Alternative 3. In this example, ACL = ABC High Recruitment (Alternative 2 in Action 2-1, and Alternative 2 in Action 2-2).

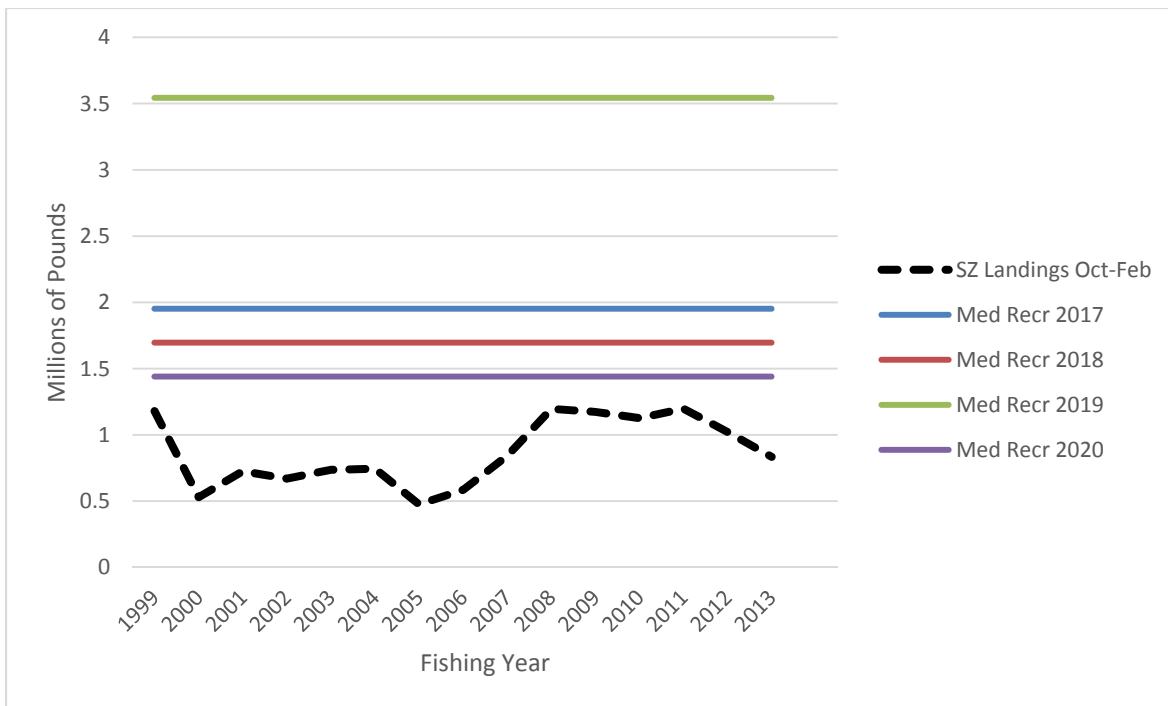


Figure 12. Comparison of Southern Zone landings in October through February in 1999-2013 fishing years with possible second season (Oct-Feb - 40%) quota under Alternative 3. In this example, ACL = ABC Medium Recruitment (Alternative 3 in Action 2-1, and Alternative 2 in Action 2-2).

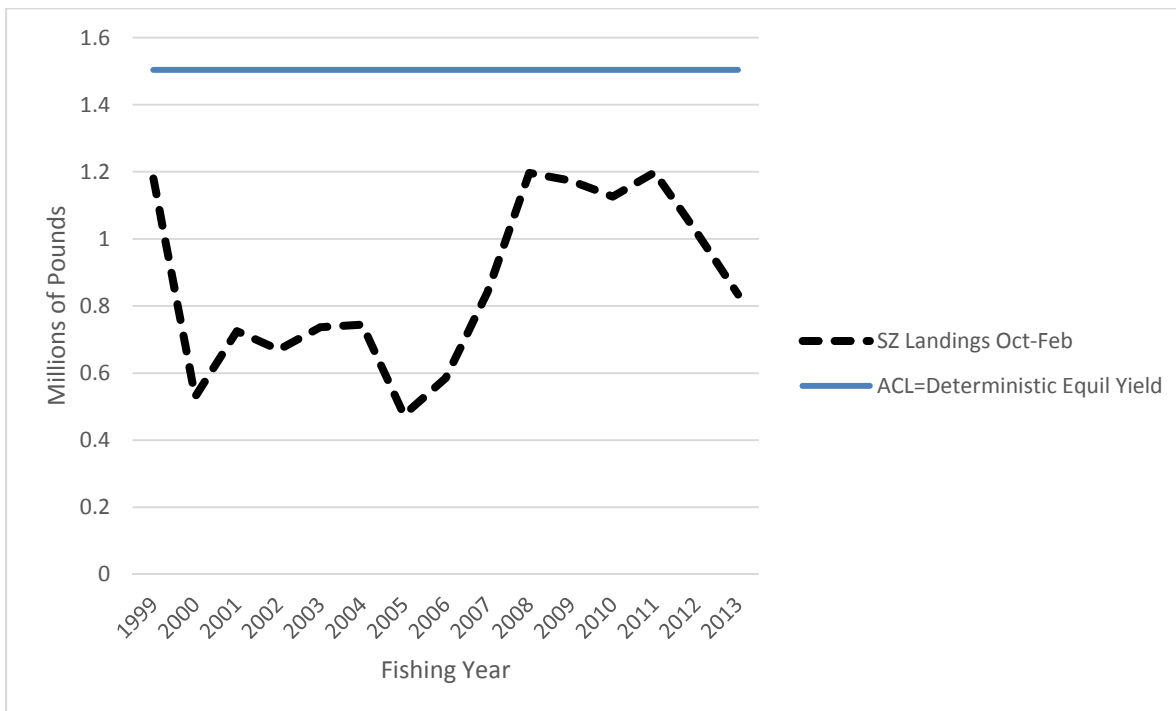


Figure 13. Comparison of Southern Zone landings in October through February in 1999-2013 fishing years with possible second season (Oct-Feb - 40%) quota under Alternative 3. In this example, ACL Deterministic equilibrium yield at $F_{30\%SPR} = 12.7$ mp (Alternative 3 in Action 2-2).

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

- 1) Do you want to add this action and alternatives?
- 2) Do you want to any additional alternatives?
- 3) Do you want to select a Preferred Alternative/Option?

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 on May 1. 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.

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.

Current trip limits in the FLEC Subzone area:

Atlantic King Mackerel	Apr 1 – Oct 31	Nov 1 – Mar 31
- North of Flagler/Volusia (through Mid-Atlantic)	-- 3,500 lbs --	
- Flagler/Volusia to Volusia/Brevard	3,500 lbs	See FLEC limits
- Volusia/Brevard to Dade/Monroe	75 fish	See FLEC limits
- Dade/Monroe to SAFMC line	1,250 lbs	1,250 lbs (Gulf Southern Subzone)
Gulf King Mackerel	Apr 1 – Oct 31	Nov 1 – Mar 31
- Florida East Coast (FLEC) subzone (Flagler/Volusia to Dade/Monroe)	--	Nov 1- Feb 28: 50 fish Mar 1- Mar 31: - If 70% or more of the FLEC quota has been met, the trip limit is 50 fish. - If less than 70% of the FLEC quota is met, the trip limit is 75 fish till Mar 31.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

- 1) Do you want to add this action and alternatives?
- 2) Do you want to any additional alternatives?
- 3) Do you want to select a Preferred Alternative/Option?

POTENTIAL ACTION 5: Modify the ACL for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

The Gulf Mackerel Committee will review this potential action in June 2015.

Alternative 1: No action - Retain the current Gulf migratory group king mackerel ACL as designated in Amendment 18 (GMFMC/SAFMC 2011) of 10.8 million pounds.

Alternative 2: Set the Gulf migratory group king mackerel ACL equal to the ABC recommended by the Gulf Scientific and Statistical Committee for 2015-2019:

Year	ABC
2015	9.62
2016	9.21
2017	8.88
2018	8.71
2019	8.55

Alternative 3: Establish a constant catch scenario for the Gulf migratory group king mackerel ACL for one of the following time periods. The ACL during the selected time period may not exceed the ABC recommended by the Gulf SSC for any year during the selected time period.

Option 3a: A three year period (2015-2017)

Option 3b: A five year period (2015-2019)

The current Gulf king mackerel ACLs were designated in Amendment 18 (GMFMC/SAFMC 2011):

Total Gulf king mackerel ACL: 10,800,000 lbs ww

Commercial ACL: 3,456,000 lbs ww

Recreational ACL: 7,344,000 lbs ww

It is important to remember that the area attributed to the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel is thought to be smaller than previously described in past stock assessments (see **Action 1**). Even though the OFL and ABC projections are lower than the current ACL, the amount of area for which the *new* OFL and ABC recommendations applies is in fact smaller than the area for which the *old* ACL applies.

AP RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPING COMMENTS

Gulf AP Recommendation (March 2015):

The Gulf AP recommends that the Council set the ACL equal to the ABC for 2015 (9.62 million pounds), and that the SSC annually readdress the ABC every year thereafter.

South Atlantic AP Recommendation (April 2015):

The AP voiced concern about the projections from the SEDAR 38 model for Gulf king mackerel, because the recommended ABCs/ACLs for Gulf king mackerel decrease over time. The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

Gulf Scoping Comments (April 2015):

Most commenters supported increasing the ABC/ACLs, as long as overfishing did not occur. Some commenters felt the Councils should evaluate the ABCs each year. Some commenters recommended the Councils follow the Gulf AP recommendation and select a constant catch scenario.

POTENTIAL ACTION 6. Revise the Commercial Zone Quotas for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Staff recommends that the South Atlantic Council postpone any input for this action until after the Gulf Mackerel Committee meeting in June 2015.

Alternative 1: No action – Do not revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel (Western Zone: 31%; Northern Zone: 5.17%; Southern Zone Handline: 15.96%; Southern Zone Gillnet: 15.96%; Florida East Coast Zone: 31.91%).

Alternative 2: Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by dividing the Florida East Coast Zone’s quota into four equal parts, to be added to each of the remaining Gulf commercial zones.

Alternative 3: Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by dividing each individual zone’s quota percentage by the sum of the quota percentages for all Gulf commercial zones *except* the Florida East Coast Zone, with each resultant percentage becoming that respective zone’s new commercial quota.

Alternative 4: Revise the commercial zone quotas for Gulf migratory group king mackerel as follows: 40% for the Western Zone; 18% for the Northern Zone; 21% for the Southern Zone Handline component; and 21% for the Southern Zone Gillnet component. **Gulf CMP AP and South Atlantic Mackerel AP Preferred**

In keeping with the aforementioned changes in the stock boundaries accepted in SEDAR 38 (2014), the Gulf Council will need to reallocate the commercial ACL amongst the three remaining fishing zones in the Gulf (Western Zone, Northern Zone, and Southern Zone). The current allocations are shown in Table 11 below.

Table 11. Commercial fishing zone allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

**Gulf King Mackerel:
Commercial Zone Allocations**

Zone	Percent of Comm Allocation
Western	31%
Northern	5.17%
Southern: Handline	15.96%
Southern: Gillnet	15.96%
FL East Coast	31.91%

Because of the proposed change in the jurisdictional boundary (Action 1), the Florida East Coast Zone would be integrated into the Atlantic Southern Zone, created through Amendment 20B (effective March 1, 2015). This integration would result in an imbalance in the distribution of quota for the Gulf commercial fishery, and thus necessitates reallocation. Options for reallocation might include either an equal or proportional distribution of the 31.91% void, as demonstrated in **Tables 12-14**. **Table 15** shows a commercial zone reallocation option proposed by the Gulf CMP AP.

Table 12. Options for redistribution of commercial zone allocation for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Zone	Current Allocation	Equal Reallocation	Proportional Reallocation
Western	31%	38.98%	45.53%
Northern	5.17%	13.15%	7.60%
Southern: H/L	15.96%	23.93%	23.43%
Southern: Gillnet	15.96%	23.93%	23.43%
FL East Coast	31.91%		

Table 13. Pounds associated with an equal redistribution of commercial zone allocation for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Year	Possible Commercial ACL based on the ABCs from Table 2*	Western Zone ¹ (38.98%)	Eastern Zone		
			Northern Subzone ² (13.15%)	Southern Subzone H&L ³ (23.93%)	Southern Subzone Gillnet ³ (23.93%)
2015	3,078,400	1,199,960	404,810	736,661	736,661
2016	2,947,200	1,148,819	387,557	705,265	705,265
2017	2,841,600	1,107,656	373,670	679,995	679,995
2018	2,787,200	1,086,451	366,517	666,977	666,977
2019	2,736,000	1,066,493	359,784	654,725	654,725

* The Gulf Council may choose to set the ACL = ABC with 32% for the commercial ACL, but may consider other options.

¹ Current Western Zone quota is 1,107,360 lbs (31% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

² Current Eastern Zone/Northern Subzone quota is 178,848 lbs (5.17% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is Oct 1- Sept 30.

³ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for hook and line is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

⁴ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for gillnet is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30, but harvest is not allowed from July 1 till the first weekend after MLK, Jr Day in January.

Table 14. Pounds associated with a proportional redistribution of commercial zone allocation for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Year	Possible Commercial ACL based on the ABCs from Table 2*	Western Zone ¹ (45.53%)	Eastern Zone		
			Northern Subzone ² (7.6%)	Southern Subzone H&L ³ (23.43%)	Southern Subzone Gillnet ³ (23.43%)
2015	3,078,400	1,401,596	233,958	721,269	721,269
2016	2,947,200	1,341,860	223,987	690,529	690,529
2017	2,841,600	1,293,780	215,962	665,787	665,787
2018	2,787,200	1,269,012	211,827	653,041	653,041
2019	2,736,000	1,245,701	207,936	641,045	641,045

* The Gulf Council may choose to set the ACL = ABC with 32% for the commercial ACL, but may consider other options.

¹ Current Western Zone quota is 1,107,360 lbs (31% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

² Current Eastern Zone/Northern Subzone quota is 178,848 lbs (5.17% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is Oct 1- Sept 30.

³ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for hook and line is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

⁴ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for gillnet is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30, but harvest is not allowed from July 1 till the first weekend after MLK, Jr Day in January.

Table 15. Pounds associated with a redistribution of commercial zone allocation for Gulf migratory group king mackerel as proposed by the Gulf Council’s CMP Advisory Panel in March 2015.

Year	Possible Commercial ACL based on the ABCs from Table 2*	Western Zone ¹ 40.00%	Eastern Zone		
			Northern Subzone ² 18.00%	Southern Subzone H&L ³ (21%)	Southern Subzone Gillnet ³ (21%)
2015	3,078,400	1,231,360	554,112	646,464	646,464
2016	2,947,200	1,178,880	530,496	618,912	618,912
2017	2,841,600	1,136,640	511,488	596,736	596,736
2018	2,787,200	1,114,880	501,696	585,312	585,312
2019	2,736,000	1,094,400	492,480	574,560	574,560

* The Gulf Council may choose to set the ACL = ABC with 32% for the commercial ACL, but may consider other options.

¹ Current Western Zone quota is 1,107,360 lbs (31% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

² Current Eastern Zone/Northern Subzone quota is 178,848 lbs (5.17% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is Oct 1- Sept 30.

³ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for hook and line is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30.

⁴ Current Eastern Zone/Southern Subzone quota for gillnet is 551,448 lbs (15.96% of Gulf Comm ACL). The fishing year is July 1- June 30, but harvest is not allowed from July 1 till the first weekend after MLK, Jr Day in January.

AP RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPING COMMENTS

South Atlantic AP Recommendation (April 2015):

The South Atlantic AP approved a motion to endorse the Gulf AP's recommendation.

Gulf AP Recommendation (March 2015):

The Gulf AP approved the following motion: The CMP AP recommends that the Council adopt the following commercial zone allocations for the Gulf migratory group king mackerel fishery:

Western Zone 40%

Northern Zone 18%,

Southern Zone Handline 21%

Southern Zone Gillnet 21%

Gulf Scoping Comments (April 2015):

Several commenters supported the Gulf AP recommendation. Other recommendations included equal reallocation, more quota for the Northern Zone, and a new zone around the St Pete area.

POTENTIAL ACTION 7. Revise the Recreational and Commercial Allocations of Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Staff recommends that the South Atlantic Council postpone any input for this action until after the Gulf Mackerel Committee meeting in June 2015.

Alternative 1: No action – Do not revise the current recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel (68% recreational, 32% commercial). **(Gulf CMP AP Preferred)**

Alternative 2: Revise the recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by shifting a percentage of the recreational allocation to the commercial sector.

Option 2a: Shift 5% of the recreational allocation to the commercial sector.

Option 2b: Shift 10% of the recreational allocation to the commercial sector.

Option 2c: Shift 20% of the recreational allocation to the commercial sector.

Alternative 3: Revise the recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel by shifting a percentage of the recreational allocation to the commercial allocation annually until such a time that the recreational sector lands 80% of its allocation, after which no additional allocation will be shifted from the recreational allocation to the commercial allocation.

Option 3a: Shift 2% of the recreational allocation annually to the commercial allocation.

Option 3b: Shift 5% of the recreational allocation annually to the commercial allocation.

The Gulf Council is considering modifying the sector allocations for Gulf migratory group king mackerel. In multiple fishing seasons over the past ten years, the commercial sector has exceeded the commercial ACL while the recreational sector has landed decreasingly lower proportions of the recreational ACL. The Gulf Council has requested economic analyses to explore the effects of reallocating up to 10 percent of the Gulf recreational ACL to the commercial fishery. Recent landings of Gulf migratory group king mackerel are shown in Tables 16-18. The fishing year for the time series presented is July 1 – June 30. Resultant allocations are shown in Table 19.

Table 16. Gulf of Mexico commercial king mackerel landings by Zone and gear. Gillnet landings only include the Gulf Southern Zone. Note: these landings include those attributed to the Florida East Coast Zone.

Fishing Year	Gulf Western Zone	Florida East Coast Zone	Gulf Northern Zone	Gulf Southern Handline	Gulf Southern Gillnet	Grand Total	H&L TAC/ACL	Gill TAC/ACL	% HL	% Gill
2000 - 01	1042579	743967	214107	603663	451906	3056222	2739688	520312	95	87
2001 - 02	912809	722561	241727	696045	329490	2902632	2739688	520312	94	63
2002 - 03	1007483	906782	172821	707888	389504	3184478	2739688	520312	102	75
2003 - 04	1009462	795291	205899	609113	475908	3095673	2739688	520312	96	91
2004 - 05	1071603	740260	127653	595291	680869	3215676	2739688	520312	93	131
2005 - 06	942902	719330	124871	686900	510691	2984694	2739688	520312	90	98
2006 - 07	1054992	912140	172270	605566	486766	3231734	2739688	520312	100	94
2007 - 08	1002337	1075485	217879	553092	610271	3459064	2739688	520312	104	117
2008 - 09	923877	1110695	183645	736988	878821	3834026	2739688	520312	108	169
2009 - 10	1047792	1011694	361217	638886	613039	3672628	2739688	520312	112	118
2010 - 11	976113	1122391	228385	651079	543157	3521125	2739688	520312	109	104
2011 - 12	1016886	1063850	253326	639308	454521	3427891	2739688	520312	109	87
2012 - 13	1163731	840015	330989	703067	500426	3538228	3200386	607614	95	82
2013 - 14	934646	635747	255747	608053	620825	3055018	2904552	551448	84	113
Average	To be completed								99	102

Source: SEFSC/SERO/MRIP

Table 17. Landings and proportions landed by each sector for Gulf migratory group king mackerel, less those landings attributed to the Florida East Coast Zone (FLEC).

Fishing Year	Total Gulf king mackerel Landings	Sector Landings (less FLEC)		% of Total Landings by each sector	
		Comm	Rec	Comm	Rec
2001-02	4,150,189	745,780	3,404,409	18.0%	82.0%
2002-03	4,583,200	1,990,053	2,593,147	43.4%	56.6%
2003-04	5,051,033	2,067,028	2,984,005	40.9%	59.1%
2004-05	4,492,842	2,115,184	2,377,659	47.1%	52.9%
2005-06	4,795,257	1,956,005	2,839,253	40.8%	59.2%
2006-07	5,412,306	2,204,924	3,207,382	40.7%	59.3%
2007-08	4,735,460	2,299,832	2,435,628	48.6%	51.4%
2008-09	4,808,181	2,638,490	2,169,691	54.9%	45.1%
2009-10	6,104,556	2,642,137	3,462,419	43.3%	56.7%
2010-11	4,319,497	2,218,858	2,100,639	51.4%	48.6%
2011-12	4,616,615	2,260,442	2,356,173	49.0%	51.0%
2012-13	5,923,021	2,145,257	3,777,764	36.2%	63.8%
2013-14	To be completed				

Source: SEFSC/SERO/MRIP

Table 18. Proportion of sector ACLs landed and proportion of total ACL landed for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Fishing Year	Total TAC/ACL	% of Sector ACL Landed		Total ACL Landed
		Comm ¹	Rec ²	
2001-02	10.2 MP	88.9%	52.9%	64.7%
2002-03	10.2 MP	97.6%	40.6%	59.3%
2003-04	10.2 MP	94.8%	46.3%	62.7%
2004-05	10.2 MP	98.5%	36.5%	56.4%
2005-06	10.2 MP	91.4%	43.2%	58.9%
2006-07	10.8 MP	93.5%	45.0%	60.5%
2007-08	10.8 MP	100.1%	35.8%	56.3%
2008-09	10.8 MP	110.9%	32.0%	57.6%
2009-10	10.8 MP	106.3%	48.0%	68.0%
2010-11	10.8 MP	101.9%	29.7%	53.0%
2011-12	10.8 MP	99.2%	33.2%	54.3%
2012-13	10.8 MP	102.4%	36.9%	57.9%
2013-14	10.8 MP	88.4%	39.7%	55.3%

¹Commercial allocation = 32% ²Recreational allocation = 68%

Source: SERO

Table 19. Resultant allocations based on options presented in Action 7. Alternative 3 would be dependent upon the landings reported in the year during which the recreational sector landed 80% of its allocation.

Option	Commercial Allocation	Recreational Allocation
Alternative 1	32%	68%
Alternative 2, Option 2a	37%	63%
Alternative 2, Option 2b	42%	58%
Alternative 2, Option 2c	52%	48%
Alternative 3		

AP RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPING COMMENTS

Gulf AP Recommendation (March 2015):

The Gulf AP approved the following motion: The CMP AP recommends that the Council abstain from reallocating any king mackerel from the recreational sector to the commercial sector until such a time that additional options for utilizing excess quota are explored for the recreational sector.

Gulf Scoping Comments (April 2015):

Most commenters supported moving some recreational quota to the commercial quota. Those opposed felt that the recreational sector should not be penalized for underharvest.

POTENTIAL ACTION 8. Modify the Recreational Bag Limit for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Staff recommends that the South Atlantic Council postpone any input for this action until after the Gulf Mackerel Committee meeting in June 2015.

Alternative 1: No action - Maintain the two fish per person per day recreational bag limit.

Alternative 2: Increase the bag limit to three fish per person per day.

Alternative 3: Increase the bag limit to four fish per person per day.

The Gulf Council may consider increasing the recreational bag limit for Gulf king mackerel in order to increase access to the recreational ACL. As explained in Action 7, in recent years, recreational landings have accounted for less than 50% of the recreational ACL. The current bag limit of Gulf king mackerel is 2 fish per person per day.

At the March 2015 Gulf Council CMP AP meeting, the Gulf AP recommended that the Gulf Council abstain from reallocating any king mackerel from the recreational sector to the commercial sector until after additional options for utilizing excess quota are explored for the recreational sector. Some Gulf AP members thought the initial decrease of the bag limit to two fish per person per day in the mid-1990s may have been partly to blame for the decrease in recreational effort. Additionally, recent short recreational seasons for popular reef fish species may result in more effort shifting to king mackerel in the near future. Decreased fuel prices and a general improvement in the economy may also encourage greater recreational effort for king mackerel. The Gulf AP recommended an increase to three fish per person per day for the recreational bag limit as a way to potentially increase utilization of the recreational ACL.

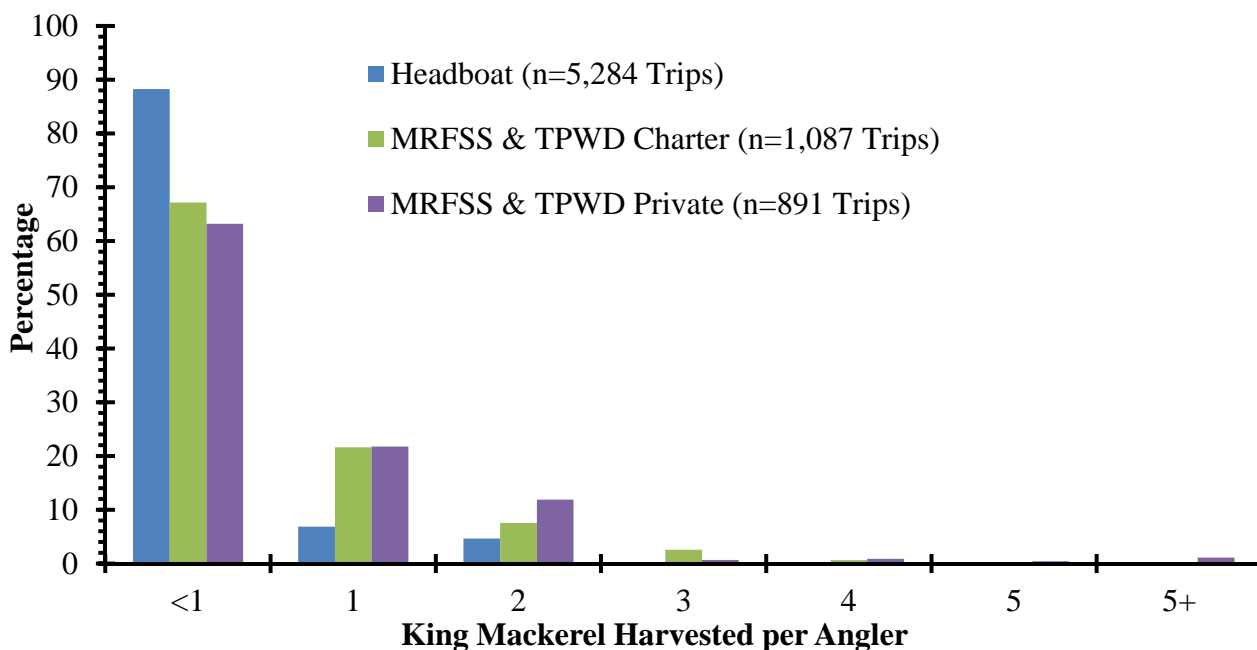


Figure 14. Distribution of Gulf of Mexico king mackerel harvested per angler by mode from 2011 through 2013. Source: NMFS SERO LAPP/DM Branch

AP RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPING COMMENTS

Gulf AP Recommendation (March 2015):

The Gulf AP approved the following motion: The CMP AP recommends that the Council increase the recreational bag limit for king mackerel from 2 fish/person/day to 3 fish/person/day.

Gulf Scoping Comments (April 2015):

Most commenters did not support increasing the bag limit, because they felt more analysis was needed or that charter sales may increase. Commenters supporting an increase recommended changing the bag limit before considering reallocation to the commercial sector.

APPENDIX A: EXPECTED NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ZONE ALLOCATIONS WITH THE SEDAR 38 STOCK BOUNDARY

Kari MacLauchlin, SAFMC Staff
April 2015

In CMP Amendment 20B, the South Atlantic Council established commercial king mackerel quotas for a Northern and Southern Zone. The boundary between the zones is the NC/SC boundary. The allocations of the commercial ACL that would go to each zone were based on a time period selected in CMP Amendment 20B. This document provides details of how the Northern and Southern zone quotas for Atlantic king mackerel will be set up under the SEDAR 38 stock boundary.

Following the approach used in SEDAR 38, landings in **Table A-1** and **Figure A-1** from the [new] mixing zone from November 1- March 31 are counted as 50% Atlantic and 50% Gulf; and landings from the [new] mixing zone from April 1- October 31 are counted as Atlantic. The fishing year for Atlantic king mackerel is March 1- February 28/29.

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL LANDINGS

Table A-1. Recreational landings estimates (blue) and total commercial landings (red) of Atlantic king mackerel from 2002-03 through 2013-14. Data sources: SEFSC/MRIP/SEDAR 38.

Fishing Year	Commercial Landings (lbs)			Recreational Landings (lbs)
	Northern Zone	Southern Zone	TOTAL Commercial	
2002-03	777,749	2,102,493	2,880,242	4,572,182
2003-04	594,870	2,181,464	2,776,334	5,484,156
2004-05	1,046,857	2,622,305	3,669,162	5,354,585
2005-06	1,156,465	2,021,140	3,177,605	3,962,532
2006-07	1,204,659	2,825,673	4,030,332	5,410,425
2007-08	1,112,270	2,709,845	3,822,115	7,134,876
2008-09	953,736	3,359,877	4,313,613	4,154,875
2009-10	786,060	4,087,983	4,874,043	4,212,935
2010-11	294,281	4,255,278	4,549,559	2,636,250
2011-12	433,295	2,817,705	3,251,000	1,835,817
2012-13	345,175	2,029,643	2,374,818	1,802,805
2013-14	Available at AP meeting			1,004,439 (Prelim)

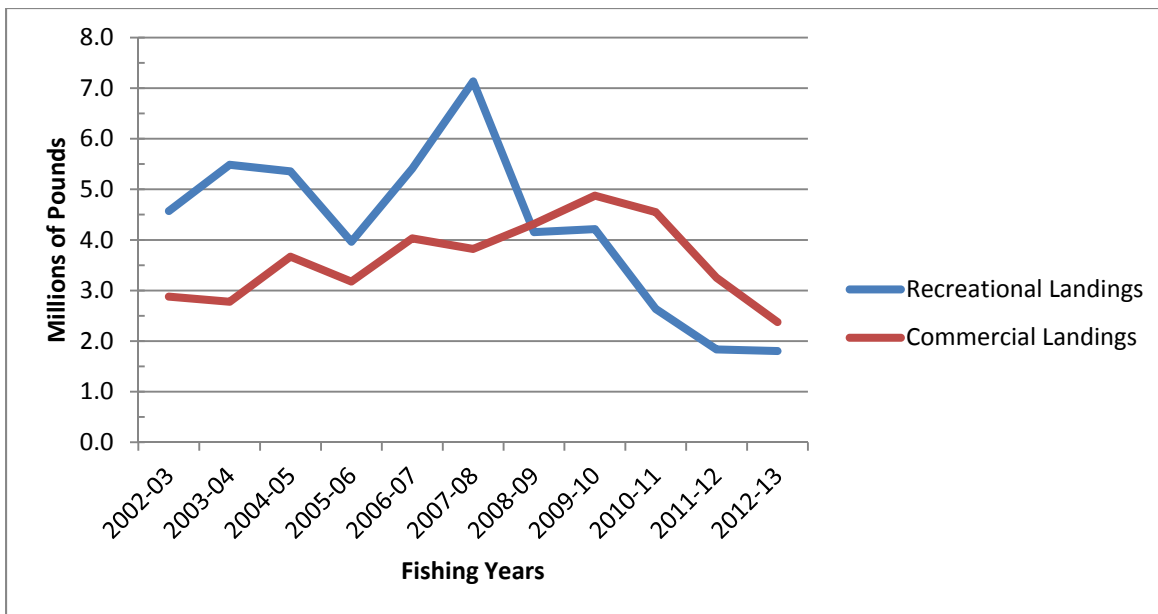


Figure A-1. Recreational landings estimates (blue) and total commercial landings (red) of Atlantic king mackerel from 2002-03 through 2013-14. Data sources: SEFSC/MRIP/SEDAR 38.

RECALCULATING NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ZONE QUOTAS

In Action 4.1 in Amendment 20B (Establish Regional Commercial Quotas for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel), the Councils selected the following alternative as the Preferred:

Preferred Alternative 3: Establish quotas for Northern and Southern Zones for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel based on **Options a-d** below. The Northern Zone would include the EEZ off states from North Carolina north to New York. The Southern Zone would include the EEZ off South Carolina, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida. NMFS would monitor landings in both zones and close the EEZ of each zone when the respective quota is reached.

Preferred Option b: Each zone quota would be the Atlantic migratory group ACL times the average of **the proportion of landings in that zone from 2002/2003 through 2011/2012.**

For Amendment 26, the expected percentage of the quota for each zone was re-calculated using the same time period as specified in Amendment 20B, but with landings that would be counted as Atlantic king mackerel using the stock boundary and mixing zone from SEDAR 38 (**Table 1**). The expected percentages will be:

Northern Zone - 23.04% **Southern Zone - 76.96%**

Northern Zone landings = Atlantic king mackerel landings north of the NC/SC boundary (North Carolina + Mid-Atlantic landings).

Southern Zone landings = Atlantic king mackerel landings south of the NC/SC boundary to the Dade/Monroe county line + Atlantic KM landings in the [new] mixing zone landings from April 1 through October 31 + 50% of Atlantic KM landings in the [new] mixing zone from November 1 through March 31.

Table A-2 shows how landings would be counted as Atlantic king mackerel landings under the SEDAR 38 stock boundary and mixing zone. Following the approach used in SEDAR 38, landings from the [new] mixing zone from November 1- March 31 are counted as 50% Atlantic and 50% Gulf; and landings from the [new] mixing zone from April 1- October 31 are counted as 100% Atlantic. The fishing year for Atlantic king mackerel is March 1- February 28/29.

The landings data for the [new] mixing zone are confidential and cannot be shown separately from other Florida landings.

Table A-2. Commercial landings of Atlantic king mackerel in the Northern and Southern Zones using the SEDAR 38 approach to designating landings in the [new] mixing zone as 100% Atlantic stock from April 1 – October 31; and 50% of landings in the [new mixing zone] from November 1 - March 31 and landings in the Florida East Coast subzone November 1 - March 31 as Atlantic stock. Proportion of total landings is shown for each year, in addition to the average proportion of total landings for each Zone from 2002-03 through 2011-12. Data source: SEFSC and SEDAR 38.

Fishing Year	Commercial Landings of Atlantic King Mackerel (lbs)			Proportion of Total Landings	
	Northern Zone (NC and Mid-Atl)	Southern Zone (SC, GA, FL, new mixing zone)	TOTAL Landings	Northern Zone	Southern Zone
2002-03	777,749	2,102,493	2,880,242	27.00%	73.00%
2003-04	594,870	2,181,464	2,776,334	21.43%	78.57%
2004-05	1,046,857	2,622,305	3,669,162	28.53%	71.47%
2005-06	1,156,465	2,021,140	3,177,605	36.39%	63.61%
2006-07	1,204,659	2,825,673	4,030,332	29.89%	70.11%
2007-08	1,112,270	2,709,845	3,822,115	29.10%	70.90%
2008-09	953,736	3,359,877	4,313,613	22.11%	77.89%
2009-10	786,060	4,087,983	4,874,043	16.13%	83.87%
2010-11	294,281	4,255,278	4,549,559	6.47%	93.53%
2011-12	433,295	2,817,705	3,251,000	13.33%	86.67%
			AVERAGE:	23.04%	76.96%