



PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE

11/16/16



Allocation Sharing and Accountability Measures for Gulf King Mackerel



Table of Contents

What is a public hearing?	2
How does a public hearing affect fisheries management?	2
How else can I get involved?	3
Definitions	3
Introduction to King Mackerel Allocation Sharing and Accountability Measures	4
Summary of Actions	5
Action 1 - Gulf King Mackerel Allocation Sharing	5
Action 2 - Gulf King Mackerel Recreational	6
Send us your comments	7
Public Hearings - Dates & Locations	8

What is a public hearing?

A public hearing gives you an opportunity to comment on a fishery management plan or amendment that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is developing. Public hearings are conducted later in the amendment development process, after the Council has begun selecting preferred alternatives for proposed actions, but before taking final action. Suggestions, issues, and concerns expressed during the public hearings will be presented to the Council for review and consideration before final action is taken.

Focusing your comments on the pros and cons of specific alternatives in each action provides the most useful guidance to the Council. If you are unable to attend a public hearing in person, you are encouraged to submit your comments online. For online comment forms, video presentations, and full amendment documents, visit our website at www.gulfcouncil.org and click the thermometer icon at the center of the homepage.

How does a public hearing affect fisheries management?

Comments provided during the public hearing process are reported to the Council prior to final action. Your input is considered as the Council deliberates and chooses the most appropriate management measures to address the issue(s) at hand.



The Central Florida Mills Adventure & Eco Squad

How else can I get involved?

There are many ways you can help the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council identify fishery management needs and develop reasonable management alternatives, each dependent on how actively involved you want to become. The first step to becoming involved is to educate yourself about the management process by visiting our website at www.gulfcouncil.org, signing up to receive our communications, and contacting Council members and staff to discuss management concerns. You can attend meetings, serve on panels and committees that advise the Council on fishery issues, and even apply to become a Council member.

Definitions

Optimum Yield- The harvest level that provides the greatest overall social, economic, and biological benefits.

Annual Catch Limit- A harvest level set at or below the acceptable biological catch (ABC) to further reduce the likelihood that the annual catch will exceed the ABC and overfishing limit (OFL). The ACL is also the limit of annual catch for a stock that, if exceeded, triggers accountability measures.

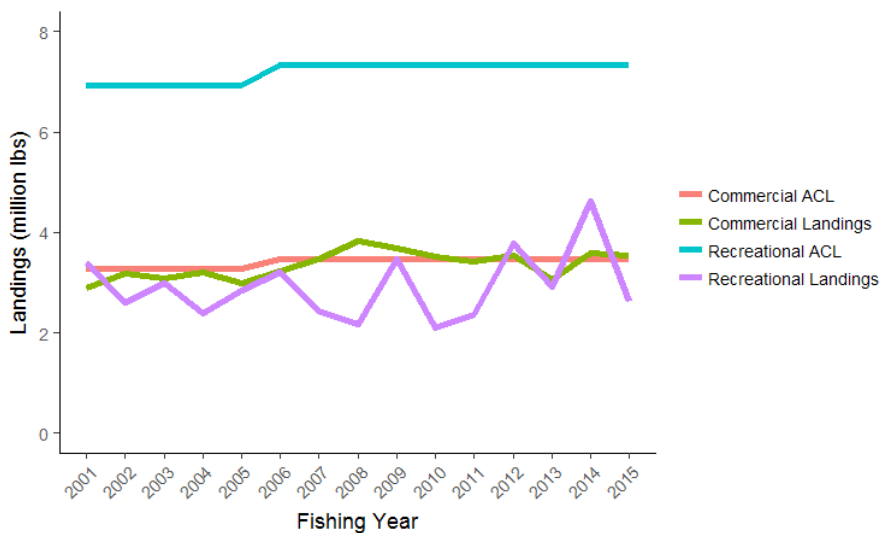
Accountability Measures- Management controls to prevent ACLs from being exceeded and correct or mitigate overages of the ACL if they occur.



Introduction to Allocation Sharing and Accountability Measures for Gulf King Mackerel

Over the last 15 years, the recreational sector in the Gulf of Mexico has not landed its sector allocation of the king mackerel stock annual catch limit, while the commercial sector has either met or exceeded its sector allocation.

Gulf King Mackerel Landings and ACLs: 2001-2015



The Council would like to achieve the maximum benefit from the resource without harming the population by ensuring that harvest levels achieve optimum yield. In an effort to increase the use of the recreational sector allocation, the Council recently voted to increase the recreational bag limit from 2-fish per person to 3-fish per person, per day (this measure is currently under review by the Secretary of Commerce). In this document, the Council is considering sharing unused recreational allocation with the commercial sector as another mechanism to ensure optimum yield is achieved, thereby increasing social and economic benefits through the sustainable harvest of king mackerel.

Summary of Actions

Action 1: Gulf King Mackerel Allocation Sharing

The Gulf king mackerel stock annual catch limit is allocated 68% to the recreational sector and 32% to the commercial sector.

Alternative 1: No Action

Gulf Preferred Alternative 2: Conditionally transfer a certain percentage (Options 2a-2d) of the stock annual catch limit (ACL) to the commercial sector for the next fishing year only, if the minimum recreational landings threshold is not met (*Options 2e-2g*). If the commercial sector does not land at least 90% of its ACL, this transfer will not occur. Landings data from two years prior will be used to determine allocation transfers.

Conditional Quota Transfer (MUST CHOOSE ONE):

Option 2a: Conditionally transfer 5% from the stock ACL to the commercial allocation.

Gulf Preferred Option 2b: Conditionally transfer 10% from the stock ACL to the commercial allocation.

Option 2c: Conditionally transfer 15% from the stock ACL to the commercial allocation.

Option 2d: Conditionally transfer 20% from the stock ACL to the commercial allocation.

Recreational ACL Minimum Threshold (MUST CHOOSE ONE), if the recreational sector landings are:

Option 2e: less than 50% of the recreational ACL.

Option 2f: less than 65% of the recreational ACL.

Gulf Preferred Option 2g: less than 75% of the recreational ACL.

Alternative 3: If the stock ACL is not harvested in a fishing year, the Gulf Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will convene to consider increasing the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the following fishing year only. If the SSC recommends increasing the ABC, the amount of the increase (in pounds) would be added to the ACL of the sector which landed at least 90% of its ACL in the previous fishing year. The SSC would convene to consider an adjustment in the ABC only if a minimum percentage of the stock ACL was not harvested in a given fishing season (Options 3a-3c). If one of Options 3a, 3b, or 3c is not chosen as preferred, and the stock ACL has not been landed, then the SSC will consider raising the ABC in any year when the stock ACL is not harvested:

Remaining Stock ACL Threshold (CHOOSE ONE):

Option 3a: At least 15% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

Option 3b: At least 20% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

Option 3c: At least 25% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

Action 2: Gulf Group King Mackerel Accountability Measures

Currently, the Gulf king mackerel recreational accountability measure (AM) is an in-season closure. If recreational landings reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL, the bag limit will be reduced to zero for the remainder of the fishing year. If an allocation sharing strategy is selected in Action 1, the Council would like to consider replacing the in-season AM with a post-season AM.

Alternative 1: No Action.

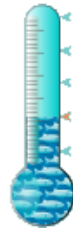
Alternative 2: Replace the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If the recreational ACL is exceeded in a fishing year, the length of the following fishing year will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure the landings do not exceed the ACL.

Gulf Preferred Alternative 3: Replace the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If both the recreational ACL and the stock ACL are exceeded in a fishing year, the length of the following recreational fishing year will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure the landings do not exceed the recreational ACL.

Send us your comments

The Council would like your input on this proposed amendment. If you would like to see the full text document and analysis of each action, visit: http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/BriefingMaterials/BB-10-2016/C%20-%204%20Public%20Hearing%20Draft%20-%20CMP%20Amendment%2029%20-%20100416.pdf

Submit your comments online by visiting: http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/comment_forms/Mackerl_29.php
or click on the thermometer icon on our homepage, www.gulfcouncil.org.



Scott Hickman

Public Hearings

Public hearings will be held beginning at 6 pm on the following dates and locations:

<u>Wednesday, November 30, 2016</u> Hilton Tampa Westshore Airport Hotel 2225 N. Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607	<u>Tuesday, December 6, 2016</u> Hilton Galveston Island 5400 Seawall Boulevard Galveston, TX 77551
<u>Thursday, December 1, 2016</u> Harvey Government Center 1200 N. Truman Avenue Key West, FL 33040	<u>Tuesday, December 6, 2016</u> Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel 64 South Water Street Mobile, AL 36602
<u>Monday, December 5, 2016</u> Hampton Inn & Suites 2208 Highway 361 Port Aransas, TX 78373	<u>Wednesday, December 7, 2016</u> Marriott Courtyard 142 Library Drive Houma, LA 70360
<u>Monday, December 5, 2016</u> Hilton Garden Inn 2703 Denny Avenue Pascagoula, MS 39567	<u>Wednesday, December 7, 2016</u> Hilton Garden Inn 1101 North U.S. Highway 231 Panama City, FL 32405
<u>Thursday, December 8, 2016</u> Webinar - 6 p.m. EST at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1169421153446562050	

Notes



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