

SCOPING WORKSHOPS
Coastal Migratory Pelagics
Amendment 28
King Mackerel Permits

Biloxi, Mississippi
March 31, 2015

Meeting Attendees:
Rufus Young

King Mackerel Permits

Should separate permits be established?

- Yes, splitting permits is a good, fair idea.

Should permit holders be allowed to receive both permits?

- Yes. Shouldn't limit folks on where they want to fish.

If only one permit is granted per permit holder, how will the new permit be chosen?

- Landings would be an appropriate criteria to use if you give fishermen 3-5 years from now to qualify.

Should qualifying criteria be designed to reduce the number of permits?

- No, don't actively eliminate permits through qualifying criteria.

Spanish Mackerel Permits

Should separate commercial permits be established?

- Yes, separate Spanish mackerel permits.

Should either Council establish a limited access system for commercial permits?

- Limited access might be applicable to the Atlantic but not the Gulf. The Gulf stocks are healthy. No reason to cut someone out of the fishery.

What qualifying criteria should be used for limited access permits or to reduce the number of permits?

- Criteria should be based on having landed at least a certain number of fish for a certain time period/ series.

Saint Petersburg, Florida
April 13, 2015

Meeting Attendees:
Richard Sergent
Stewart Hehenberger

King Mackerel Permits

Should separate permits be established?

- Separate permits should absolutely not be created, the quotas and zones can be adjusted to ensure that the amount of fish being caught isn't too much. Establishing separate permits in the Gulf and South Atlantic won't help the fish stock or control the amount of fish harvested.
- Creating separate permits, especially if you don't qualify for both, would put a major financial burden on people.
- Separate permits would unevenly effect the traveling king mackerel fishermen.

Should permits holders be allowed to receive both permits?

- Yes.

If only one permit is granted per permit holder, how will the new permit be chosen?

- The fishermen should be able to pick the zone or area(s) where they want to fish.

What qualifying criteria should be used for permits?

- If you require some criteria to qualify you for a permit, and each fisherman wasn't allowed to choose, they felt that using the hailing port would be the worst criteria possible. Instead, they felt landings, trips, or days-at-sea should be used as criteria to qualify a fisherman.

Should qualifying criteria be designed to reduce the number of permits?

- No.

Other Issues:

- Concern was expressed about enforcement of the recently implemented transit provisions because it could be easily circumvented. For example, the transit

provision created in the southern subzone of the eastern zone may promote fishing while in closed waters. A fisherman could easily get around the transit provision when fishing for king mackerel because you only have 2 or 3 lines out while you're fishing. If you are pulled over you can quickly cut the lines to satisfy the gear storage requirement while in transit.

- By removing the stepped trip limit reductions in the Gulf, NMFS has compromised their ability to close the king mackerel fishery on time. Each of the subzones have overharvested their quota by 30% in 2015 since this was recently implemented. The Council should consider reestablishing that provision. If the fishery continues to go over the subzone quotas fishermen fear that NMFS will put an IFQ in place to control the fishery even though the previous trip limit reduction has proven to have the same benefits.

Key West, Florida
April 19, 2015

Meeting Attendees:

George Niles
Daniel Padron
Bill Kelly

King Mackerel Permits

Should separate permits be established?

- It depends on how many active permits are being used on both coasts and how many people it would affect.
- Fishermen still need to be able to follow fish as they migrate.

Should permits holders be allowed to receive both permits?

- Qualifying for both permits adds to cost of doing business. Would rather see only one permit or the other with option to change or transfer permits as needed, but not be able to have both at same time.

If only one permit is granted per permit holder, how will the new permit be chosen?

- Non-transferable permits are staying in families and don't allow others to get into fishery.
- Loopholes need to be closed, and the current system is not working the way it was designed.
- There needs to be a way to get rid of permits that fishermen have not been able to use.

Should qualifying criteria be designed to reduce the number of permits?

- There is no reason to get rid of any handline permits, both stocks are healthy.

Spanish Mackerel

Should separate commercial permits be established?

- The same metric should be used for Spanish as for kingfish.

Should either Council establish a limited access system for commercial permits?

- Not in the Gulf- Gulf fishers do not go to the South Atlantic for mackerel, and the Gulf Spanish mackerel ACL is very high.
- If the South Atlantic is having a problem, then they should cap the number of permits at the current level. Don't limit the use of newly purchased permits, whether in Gulf or South Atlantic.
- Establish temporary moratorium during which qualifying criteria could be met

What qualifying criteria should be used for limited access permits or to reduce the number of permits?

- Since the Spanish mackerel price is high right now, people will try to keep others from getting into the fishery.
- There is concern expressed about South Atlantic plan for limited access since so many South Atlantic based fishermen come to the Gulf. If the South Atlantic makes it harder to catch Spanish mackerel over there, what would keep the South Atlantic based fishermen from coming to the Gulf?

Other issues:

- Do not want to see 1250 lb limit because they won't be able to afford to fish. The 2000 lb limit that was proposed was voted down with no explanation given.
- The quota needs to make fishing worthwhile, the commercial sector is being severely punished through no fault of theirs.
- There is an over-capitalization of the king mackerel fishery even though it is under quota.
- Emotional pleas have trumped science from both Gulf & South Atlantic Councils.
- Permit holders need to be protected, since they are affected by low trip limits.

Galveston, Texas
April 27, 2015

Meeting Attendees:
Shane Cantrell

King Mackerel Permits

Should separate permits be established?

- Yes, but the number of permits allowed need to be monitored, it could further over-capitalize fishery.

Should permits holders be allowed to receive both permits?

- Yes, in special cases people should be allowed to hold both permits if historically their landings are large enough on each side to qualify for each permit.
- This may prevent newer entrants from being able to get into fishery. New entrants should not have to buy nontransferable permits. There needs to be some mechanism in place to allow for new entrants without the large initial investment of buying a permit. Potentially, a federally-backed loan program could subsidize costs of permits for new entrants.

What qualifying criteria should be used for permits?

- An income qualifier should be used as a criteria to receive permits.

Should qualifying criteria be designed to reduce the number of permits?

- Yes, the fishery is likely over-capitalized.

Spanish Mackerel

Should separate commercial permits be established?

- Yes, this will allow the Councils to do what is best for their fishermen.

Should either Council establish a limited access system for commercial permits?

- There should be a cap on the number of permits. It should be set at the current level of participation.
- Qualifying criteria used should be based on income & landings. The landings criteria needs to be based on a tiered landing system, where those fishermen with landings only in recent years can still qualify for a permit, while also recognizing the historical fishermen.

- A temporary moratorium should be established so fishermen can meet qualifying criteria.

Other Issues:

- Limited access needs to be maintained, but new entrants need to be allowed to get into fishery through some mechanism (purchase existing permit, purchase shares, etc).
- The commercial western zone king mackerel season should open on June 1.

Grand Isle, Louisiana
April 28, 2015

Meeting Attendees:

Dean Blanchard
Kelty Readenour
Michael Frazier
Abigail Frazier
Brian Hardcastle

King Mackerel Permits

Should separate permits be established?

- Yes. You should be fishing where you live.

Should permits holders be allowed to receive both permits?

- No. You should only be allowed to fish in either the Gulf or the Atlantic.

What qualifying criteria should be used for permits?

- The length of time people have held permits should be considered and there should be historical endorsements that allow for the fully transferable option as proposed by the Gulf CMP AP in March 2015. You should qualify for the fully transferable option either by your landings history, or through a historical endorsement.

Should qualifying criteria be designed to reduce the number of permits?

- No, qualifying criteria shouldn't reduce permits because the current number of fishermen are not hurting the stock.

Spanish Mackerel Permits

Should separate commercial permits be established?

- Yes. If you are going to split king mackerel permits, you should split Spanish mackerel permits too.

Should either Council establish a limited access system for commercial permits?

- Let the South Atlantic Council decide on their side but, the Gulf should not consider a limited access program.