



PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE

7/22/13



Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 19 Sale and Permit Provisions



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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 after the Council has selected a preferred alternative for each proposed action, and comments should focus on possible benefits and drawbacks of the alternatives contained in each 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.

How does a public hearing affect fisheries management?

Comments provided during the public hearing process are reported to the full 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.

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. You can attend meetings, serve on panels and committees that advise the Council on fishery issues, and even apply to become a Council member.

Introduction to Amendment 19

Coastal Migratory Pelagics are managed jointly by the Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. This amendment is being developed to address fishermen's concerns that the sale of recreationally caught fish causes the commercial quota to be harvested quicker and may make harvest data inaccurate. The amendment also addressed the idea that increased participation in the commercial fishery may negatively affect current commercial Coastal Migratory Pelagic permit holders.

Amendment 19 - Summary of Actions

Action 1. Sale of King and Spanish Mackerel

Currently, you are allowed to sell king and Spanish mackerel without a federal permit, but in some states you need a license to sell regulated finfish. Private anglers do not usually sell their fish, but crews from for-hire boats sometimes sell the fish left behind by their customers.

Under the current system, all fish that are sold are considered commercial harvest and count toward the commercial quota even if they are caught recreationally. This can cause fish to be "double counted" when harvest from a single trip counts toward both the commercial quota and the recreational allocation.

Alternative 1: No action.

Alternative 2: Prohibit the sale of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit with the exception of for-hire trips in which the vessel also holds the necessary federal king or Spanish mackerel commercial permits. All sales of king and Spanish mackerel are prohibited during a commercial closure.

Option a: In the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction.

Option b: In the Gulf Council's jurisdiction.

Alternative 3: Prohibit the sale of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit. A king mackerel permit is required to sell king mackerel and a Spanish mackerel permit is required to sell Spanish mackerel.

Option a: In the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction.

South Atlantic/Gulf Preferred Option b: In the Gulf Council's jurisdiction.

Alternative 4: Prohibit the sale of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit with the exception of state permitted or licensed tournaments.

South Atlantic/Gulf Preferred Option a: In the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction.

Option b: In the Gulf Council's jurisdiction.

Action 2: Elimination of Inactive King Mackerel Permits

In recent years, increased restrictions on other fish species may have caused fishermen to shift their efforts to king mackerel. Although king mackerel permits are limited access, there are a number of fishermen who continue to renew their permits even when they are not actively using them. This action considers eliminating inactive king mackerel permits to prevent increasing effort and quota closures.

Gulf Preferred Alternative 1: No action.

Alternative 2: Renew commercial king mackerel permits if average landings are:

Option a: At least 500 lbs. from 2002 through 2011

Option b: At least 1,000 lbs. from 2002 through 2011

Option c: At least 500 lbs. in at least one year between 2002 through 2011

Option d: At least 1,000 lbs. in at least one year between 2002 through 2011

Alternative 3: Allow transfer of inactive commercial king mackerel permits only to immediate family members and allow transfer to another vessel owned by the same entity. Permits will be considered inactive if landings are not:

Option a: At least 500 lbs. from 2002 through 2011

Option b: At least 1,000 lbs. from 2002 through 2011

Option c: At least 500 lbs. in at least one year between 2002 through 2011

Option d: At least 1,000 lbs. in at least one year between 2002 through 2011

South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 4: Allow two-for-one permit reduction in the king mackerel commercial fishery.

Action 3: Modify or Eliminate Income Requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic Commercial Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permits

At least 25% of your income or \$10,000 must have been derived from commercial or charter fishing during one the three previous calendar years if you wish to obtain or renew a commercial vessel permit for king or Spanish mackerel. The Council is considering changing the income requirement.

Alternative 1: No action.

South Atlantic/Gulf Preferred Alternative 2: Eliminate the income requirement.

Alternative 3: Allow the Gulf or South Atlantic Council to recommend suspension of the renewal requirements. Councils will have to specify the event triggering suspension, the duration of the suspension, and who is eligible for suspension.

Alternative 4: Increase the income requirement so that people obtaining or renewing commercial permits must have derived income from commercial or for-hire fishing during one of the preceding three calendar years of at least:

Option a: 75%

Option b: 50%

The Council is collecting input on this proposed amendment at a series of meetings across the Gulf coast. Each of the following meetings will begin at 6 p.m. local time and conclude no later than 9:00 p.m.

August 5, 2013

D'Iberville, MS

Courtyard Marriott
11471 Cinema Drive
D'Iberville, MS 39540
(228) 392-1200

August 12, 2013

St. Petersburg, FL

Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Parkway
950 Lake Carillon Drive
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
(727) 540-0050

August 6, 2013

Panama City, FL

Holiday Inn Select
2001 N. Cove Boulevard
Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 769-0000

August 13, 2013

League City, TX

Hampton Inn & Suites
2320 Gulf Freeway S.
League City, TX 77573
(281) 614-5437

August 8, 2013

Mobile, AL

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza
64 S. Water Street
Mobile, AL 36602
(251) 438-4000

August 15, 2013

Key West, FL

Harvey Government Center
1200 Truman Avenue
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 295-5000

August 12, 2013

Corpus Christi, TX

Hilton Garden Inn
6717 S. Padre Island Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412
(361) 991-8200

August 15, 2012

Grand Isle, LA

Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Lab
195 Ludwig Lane
Grand Isle, LA 70358
(985) 787-2163

If you are unable to attend a public hearing, your input is still important. Submit comments online at: http://www.gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/comment_forms/Mackerel_19.php, or click on the thermometer icon on our home page.





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