



Tab C, No. 6
January 2021

Scoping Presentation:
Amendment 33: King Mackerel



Why are we here?

- 2020 Gulf king mackerel update (SEDAR 38U):
 - Not overfished, not experiencing overfishing
 - $F_{\text{Current}}/F_{\text{SPR30\%}} = 0.84$
 - $SSB_{2017}/SSB_{\text{SPR30\%}} = 1.12$
- The Council is considering modifying Gulf king mackerel:
 - Catch limits (OFL, ABC, ACLs)
 - Sector allocations (commercial, recreational)
 - Size limits

Modifying Catch Limits

- SSC reviewed SEDAR 38U in September 2020
 - SEDAR 38U is BSIA
 - Gulf king mackerel not overfished, not undergoing overfishing
- SSC Catch Limit Recommendations for 2021 – 2023:

OFL (mp ww)		ABC (mp ww)	
2021	10.89	2021	9.37
2022	11.05	2022	9.72
2023	11.18	2023	9.99

- ABC = projected yield at F_{OY} ($0.85 * F_{SPR30\%}$)
 - To account for uncertainty not captured in the model

Modifying Catch Limits

- Current limits are monitored in MRIP-CHTS (mp ww)
 - OFL = 8.95
 - ABC = 8.55
 - Recreational ACL = 5.81
 - Commercial ACL = 2.74
- SEDAR 38U catch limits are in MRIP-FES
 - New recommended catch limits, while higher than the current limits, also assume more recreational fishing effort

Sector Allocations

- Allocations based on averages catches for 1975 – 1979
 - MRIP-FES data do not exist for 1975 – 1979
 - Approximately 70% recreational, 30% commercial
- Established in CMP Amendment 1
 - Implemented September 22, 1985
 - **Set at 68% recreational, 32% commercial**
 - Accounts for occasional sales by for-hire sector



Sector Allocations

- Considerations for revisions to sector allocations:
 - Landings history biased by current allocation
 - Commercial sector regularly lands its ACL
 - Recreational sector has not landed its ACL in over 20 years
 - Remember: MRIP-FES assumes higher recreational fishing effort than CHTS
 - Results in approximate doubling of recreational landings



Sector Allocations

- Recent landings history:

Fishing Year	Recreational CHTS	Recreational FES	Commercial	Total CHTS	Total FES	% Increase to FES
2012/2013*	3,224,351	6,856,317	2,739,233	5,963,584	9,595,550	161%
2013/2014*	2,082,852	3,948,649	2,524,253	4,607,105	6,472,902	140%
2014/2015*	4,015,683	7,777,977	2,833,403	6,849,086	10,611,380	155%
2015/2016*	2,528,084	4,809,690	2,593,097	5,121,181	7,402,787	145%
2016/2017	2,586,973	4,986,461	2,693,084	5,280,057	7,679,545	145%
2017/2018	2,354,916	5,209,295	3,032,173	5,387,089	8,241,468	153%
2018/2019	2,338,564	5,044,834	2,808,800	5,147,364	7,853,634	153%
2019/2020	1,052,149	2,104,025	2,694,643	3,746,792	4,798,668	128%
Source: SERO ACL Monitoring Data						
* FLEC excluded from commercial totals for comparison						



Sector Allocations

- Considerations for revisions to sector allocations:
 - Commercial sector comments from the CMP AP:
 - Optimize landings by commercial zone and gear
 - Stable dockside price as fish migrate through zones across Gulf
 - Protect historical fishing access
 - Quota increase if possible



Sector Allocations

- Considerations for revisions to sector allocations:
 - Recreational comments from the CMP AP:
 - Maintain year-round access to fishery
 - Maintain surplus of fish to increase odds of catching trophy fish
 - Access and high probability of interaction more valuable than keeping more fish



Size Limits

- Commercial fishermen public testimony (2019/2020):
 - Catching a lot of undersized king mackerel in recent years
 - Small king mackerel show higher discard mortality
 - Commercial fishermen would rather not throw back dead fish
 - Would rather sell catch, especially if it won't survive being released



Size Limits

- SEDAR 38U used a combined-sex growth curve
- 50% of Gulf king mackerel are sexually mature at about 58 cm fork length (FL), or 22.8 inches
- Current minimum size limit is 24 inches FL



Next steps

- Does the Council want to move forward with a document to modify Gulf king mackerel:
 - Catch limits
 - Sector allocations
 - Size limit



Questions?

