

Coastal Migratory Pelagic
Draft Framework Amendment 14



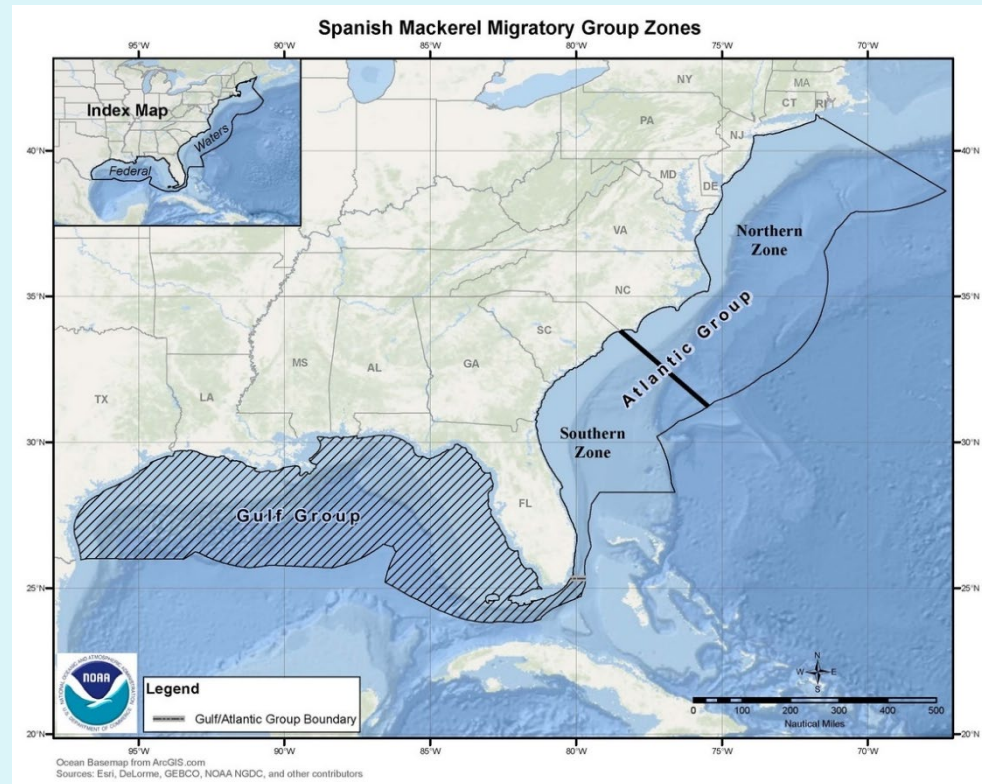
Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel Catch Limits and Accountability Measures



Tab C, No. 6(b)
April 2024

Gulf Spanish Mackerel

- FY: April 1 – March 31
- No sector allocation
- Min. size limit 12" FL
- Rec. bag limit 15 pp
- In-season AM, closure if the stock ACL is reached or projected to be reached



Purpose and Need

The purpose is to modify Gulf Spanish mackerel catch limits based on the results of the SEDAR 81 stock assessment.

The need is to use the best scientific information available for managing Gulf Spanish mackerel in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.



Action 1: Modify Gulf Spanish Mackerel OFL, ABC, and ACL

Alternative	OFL	ABC	Stock ACL	Units	Predicted in-season closure?
Alt 1 No Action	11.5	11.3	11.3	CHTS	N/A
	15.2	14.9	14.9	FES for comparison	
Alt 2 2025/2026 – 2027/2028 +	12.074	9.630	9.630	FES	No closure
Alt 3 2025/2026 – 2027/2028 +	12.074	9.630	8.667	FES	No closure

*Weights are expressed in millions of pounds whole weight

Gulf Spanish Mackerel Landings

Year	Rec. Landings	Rec. Landings FES	Comm. Landings	Total Landings	Total Landings FES	Stock ACL	% ACL	Units
2000/01	2,787,759	7,134,661	1,054,259	3,842,018	8,188,920	9.10	42.2%	MRFSS
2001/02	3,453,003	8,245,055	810,099	4,263,102	9,055,154	9.10	46.8%	MRFSS
2002/03	3,171,267	8,183,802	1,745,064	4,916,331	9,928,866	9.10	54.0%	MRFSS
2003/04	2,742,259	6,704,231	941,702	3,683,961	7,645,933	9.10	40.5%	MRFSS
2004/05	2,665,254	7,014,438	1,986,512	4,651,766	9,000,950	9.10	51.1%	MRFSS
2005/06	1,595,371	3,746,160	1,221,294	2,816,665	4,967,454	9.10	31.0%	MRFSS
2006/07	2,845,319	5,004,288	1,534,040	4,379,359	6,538,328	9.10	48.1%	MRFSS
2007/08	2,724,709	6,044,654	902,827	3,627,536	6,947,481	9.10	39.9%	MRFSS
2008/09	2,525,545	6,687,581	2,360,043	4,885,588	9,047,624	9.10	53.7%	MRFSS
2009/10	1,890,078	4,845,791	942,501	2,832,579	5,788,292	9.10	31.1%	MRFSS
2010/11	2,964,208	7,484,430	1,248,711	4,212,919	8,733,141	9.10	46.3%	MRFSS
2011/12	2,677,119	7,048,872	1,347,945	4,025,064	8,396,817	9.10	44.2%	MRFSS
2012/13	3,578,421	7,858,124	1,413,904	4,992,325	9,272,028	5.15	96.9%	MRFSS
2013/14	5,232,534	11,738,205	1,464,381	6,696,915	13,202,586	5.15	130.0%	MRFSS
2014/15	1,946,040	4,307,213	924,490	2,870,530	5,231,703	12.70	22.6%	CHTS
2015/16	2,616,377	6,669,809	1,219,634	3,836,011	7,889,443	11.80	32.5%	CHTS
2016/17	2,607,122	6,850,152	1,094,568	3,701,690	7,944,720	11.30	32.8%	CHTS
2017/18	2,184,055	7,900,308	700,383	2,884,438	8,600,691	11.30	25.5%	CHTS
2018/19	1,922,494	6,059,628	1,065,335	2,987,829	7,124,963	11.30	26.4%	CHTS
2019/20	3,251,330	9,887,158	989,648	4,240,978	10,876,806	11.30	37.5%	CHTS
2020/21	1,883,604	7,219,120	523,578	2,407,182	7,742,698	11.30	21.3%	CHTS
2021/22	1,445,107	5,509,628	352,847	1,797,954	5,862,475	11.30	15.9%	CHTS

CMP AP Feedback

- Recreational landings seem high. Not many anglers seek to retain the 15-fish per person bag limit.
- Overall landings seem to be declining. Concerns about the condition of the stock.
- Increased shark depredation on Spanish mackerel.
- Council should explore options to prevent a closure (e.g., change AMs, sector allocation).



CMP AP Recommendations

Motion: the CMP AP recommends that in Action 1 to make Alternative 2 the preferred.

Motion carried unanimously

Motion: the CMP AP recommends that the Council explore options to reduce harvest in the Spanish mackerel fishery to prevent a fishery closure.

Motion carried 10 – 3



Action 2: Modify Gulf Spanish Mackerel AM

- **Alternative 1:** No Action. Retain the current AM, whereby the Regional Administrator will close the fishing season for Gulf Spanish mackerel for the commercial and recreational fishing sectors when the stock annual catch limit (ACL) is reached or projected to be reached.
- **Alternative 2:** Modify the AM for Gulf Spanish mackerel. If the stock ACL is exceeded in a fishing year, then in the following fishing year, the Regional Administrator will close the fishing season for Gulf Spanish mackerel for the commercial and recreational fishing sectors if the stock ACL is projected to be reached.



Action 2: Discussion

- Historically, Spanish mackerel closures are rare. Based on current harvest projections and the catch limits under consideration in Action 1, this change would likely have minimal impact.
- Should Action 2 be kept if it does not add substantive value?
- Are there other AM options with clearer benefits?



Questions

- Preferred alternatives?
- Consider additional management measures?

