



Tab C, No. 7

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 34

(Atlantic king mackerel catch levels and Atlantic king
and Spanish mackerel management measures)



**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting
June 2021**

Why is the South Atlantic Council considering action?

- An update to SEDAR 38 was completed in April 2020 and indicated that Atlantic migratory group king mackerel (Atlantic king mackerel) was not overfished or undergoing overfishing. The SSC provided new catch level recommendations to the Council in June 2020.
- Due to revised recreational landings that are based on the MRIP-FES, the South Atlantic Council is considering revising current sector allocations.
- Additionally, the South Atlantic Council is considering modifications to management measures based on recommendations from their Mackerel Cobia AP.



Purpose and Need Statement

The *purpose* of this amendment is to revise the annual catch limits and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel; to revise recreational and commercial allocations for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel; and to revise or establish management measures for Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel.

The *need* for this amendment is to ensure annual catch limits are based on the best scientific information available and to ensure overfishing does not occur in the Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel fisheries, while increasing social and economic benefits through sustainable and profitable harvest of Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel.



Action 1. Revise the stock annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The stock ACL = OY = current ABC level (12,700,000 pounds).

Alternative 2. The stock ACL = OY = updated ABC level.

Alternative 3. The stock ACL = OY = 95% of the updated ABC level.

Alternative 4. The stock ACL = OY = 90% of the updated ABC level.

** The language for all actions and alternatives is simplified for purposes of the presentation. **

Purpose of Action: update Atlantic king mackerel catch levels based on the results of the SEDAR 38 Update 2020 and SSC recommendations.



Annual Catch Limit levels based on revised MRIP estimates for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel under Action 1 proposed alternatives.

Fishing Year	Alternative 1 (No Action)	Annual Catch Limits (lbs.)		
		Alternative 2 (ACL=ABC)	Alternative 3 (ACL=95% ABC)	Alternative 4 (ACL=90% ABC)
2021/22	Not BSIA, not a viable alternative.	33,300,000	31,635,000	29,970,000
2022/23		28,500,000	27,075,000	25,650,000
2023/24		25,400,000	24,130,000	22,860,000
2024/25		23,300,000	22,135,000	20,970,000
2025/26+		21,800,000	20,710,000	19,620,000

Note: The current ABC is 12,700,00 pounds. However, previous ABCs and ACLs and the proposed ABCs are not directly comparable because the updated assessment includes changes in the recreational catch estimates based on new methodology used in the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).



Action 2. Revise sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Action 2 (Allocations)	Commercial Allocation	Recreational Allocation	Calculation
Alternative 1 (No Action)	37.1%	62.2%	Average landings 1978-1983
Alternative 2 ¹	21.56%	78.44%	Maintains current commercial ACL beginning in 2026/2017 season and allocates the remainder to the recreational sector
Alternative 3	29.05%	70.95%	Average landings 2004-2019
Alternative 4	31.1%	68.9%	Average landings 2014-2019
Alternative 5	27.08%	72.92%	(50% * average long catch range (lbs) 2000-2008 + (50% * average of recent catch trend (lbs) 2017-2019).

¹The percentage allocation in Alternative 2 will vary based on the alternative chosen as preferred in Action 1 in Amendment 34 to the CMP FMP, current percentages reflect **Alternative 2 in Action 1**.

Purpose of Action: The South Atlantic Council's Allocation Trigger Policy includes after a stock assessment is approved by the SSC. Allocations need to be reviewed considering the MRIP FES method and other changes in the fishery.



- Based on the new MRIP FES recreational landings, none of the proposed recreational ACLs are expected to be exceeded.
 - An average of the last five years of landings are 5,145,513 lbs.
 - The maximum landings from the last five years is 7,053,331 lbs.
 - Lowest proposed recreational ACL is 13,712,200 lbs. (Alternative 1 (No Action)).

- Based on commercial fishing year landings for the past five years, none of the proposed commercial ACLs are expected to be exceeded.
 - An average of the last five years of landings is 2,385,128 lbs.
 - The maximum landings from the last five years is 2,971,512 lbs.
 - Lowest proposed commercial ACL is 4,700,000 lbs. (Alternative 2).



Action 3. Revise the recreational annual catch target for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the recreational ACT based on the previous ABC ($ACL[(1-PSE) \text{ or } 0.5]$, whichever is greater = 7,400,000 pounds).

Alternative 2. Revise the recreational ACT to reflect the updated ABC level. $ACL[(1-PSE) \text{ or } 0.5]$, whichever is greater].

Alternative 3. Revise the recreational ACT to reflect the updated ABC level. ACT equals 90% sector ACL.

Alternative 4. Revise the recreational ACT to reflect the updated ABC level. ACT equals 85% sector ACL.

Purpose of Action: update Atlantic king mackerel catch levels based on the results of the SEDAR 38 Update 2020 and SSC recommendations.



Action 4. Increase the recreational bag and possession limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel in the exclusive economic zone off Florida.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The daily bag limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel in the exclusive economic zone off Florida is two fish per person.

Alternative 2. Increase the daily bag limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to three fish per person in the exclusive economic zone off Florida.

Purpose of Action: included in the amendment based on a recommendation from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel to create consistency in the recreational bag limit throughout the king mackerel management jurisdiction.

Estimated percent increase in Atlantic king mackerel recreational landings.

Bag Limit	Method 1	Method 2
Increase to 3-fish pp off FL	14%	3%

Method 1: all the trips that met the 2-fish bag limit meet the 3-fish bag limit.

Method 2: trips that met the 2-fish bag limit and discarded king mackerel meet the 3-fish bag limit.



Action 5. Reduce the minimum size limit for recreational and commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The minimum size is 24-inches fork length.

Alternative 2. Reduce the minimum size limit to 22-inches fork length.

Alternative 3. Reduce the minimum size limit to 20-inches fork length.

Alternative 4. Remove the minimum size limit.

Purpose of Action: included in the amendment based on a recommendation from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel to increase recreational harvest and reduce discards.

- Commercial: discarded fish below the minimum size limit accounted for 2.2% of the total discarded fish. 74% were about 29 inches fork length.
- Recreational: 44% of discarded king mackerel measured 23-inches.



Action 6. Modify the recreational requirement for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel and Spanish mackerel to be landed with heads and fins intact.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Cut-off (damaged) Atlantic migratory group king mackerel or Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel caught under the recreational bag limit may not be possessed.

Alternative 2. Cut-off (damaged) fish caught under the recreational bag limit, that comply with the minimum size limits, may be possessed, and offloaded ashore.

Sub-alternative 2a. Atlantic migratory group king mackerel

Sub-alternative 2b. Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel

Purpose of Action: included in the amendment based on a recommendation from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel to increase recreational harvest and address the increase in shark and barracuda depredation.



Tentative Amendment Timing

	Process Step	Date
✓	South Atlantic Council directs staff to start work on an amendment.	June 2020
✓	Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel reviews assessment and makes recommendations for actions to include in amendment.	November 2020
✓	South Atlantic Council reviews options paper and approves amendment for scoping.	December 2020
✓	South Atlantic Council reviews scoping comments and approves action/alternatives to be analyzed.	March 2021
✓	Gulf Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel reviews amendment	March 2021
✓	South Atlantic Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel reviews amendment	Spring 2021
	South Atlantic Council reviews draft amendment, selects preferred alternatives, and approves for public hearings.	June 2021
	Gulf Council reviews document and provides direction to staff.	June 2021
	Public Hearings	Summer 2021
	South Atlantic Council reviews the draft amendment, modifies the document as necessary.	September 2021
	Gulf Council reviews the draft amendment, modifies the document as necessary.	October 2021
	South Atlantic Council approves for formal review.	December 2021
	Gulf Council approves for formal review.	January 2022
	CMP Amendment 34 transmitted for Secretarial Review.	Spring 2022



Questions?



**Is there something that wasn't covered?
Do you have more questions? Contact me!**

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