



Tab. C, No. 7(b)

# Current King Mackerel Management Status and Next Steps



# Stock Status Gulf King Mackerel

Minimum size limit	24" FL
Recreational bag limit	3
Most recent stock assessment	SEDAR 38 Update
Overfished	No
Overfishing	No
Spawning	May – October
Age at 50% maturity	~2 years, ~23" FL
Maximum age	~20 years

- Next Assessment for Gulf king mackerel slated Mid-2025
  - Gulf Large Marine Ecosystem efforts could support Mexican federal participation in a Gulf-wide stock assessment with the U.S.



# Recent Council Actions

- Framework Amendment 11 (effective Jan 2023)
  - Transitioned to MRIP-FES and reduced total ACL

Fishing Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Recreational ACL	Commercial ACL
2022/2023	11,050,000	9,720,000	9,720,000	6,609,600	3,110,400
2023/2024+	11,180,000	9,990,000	9,990,000	6,793,200	3,196,800

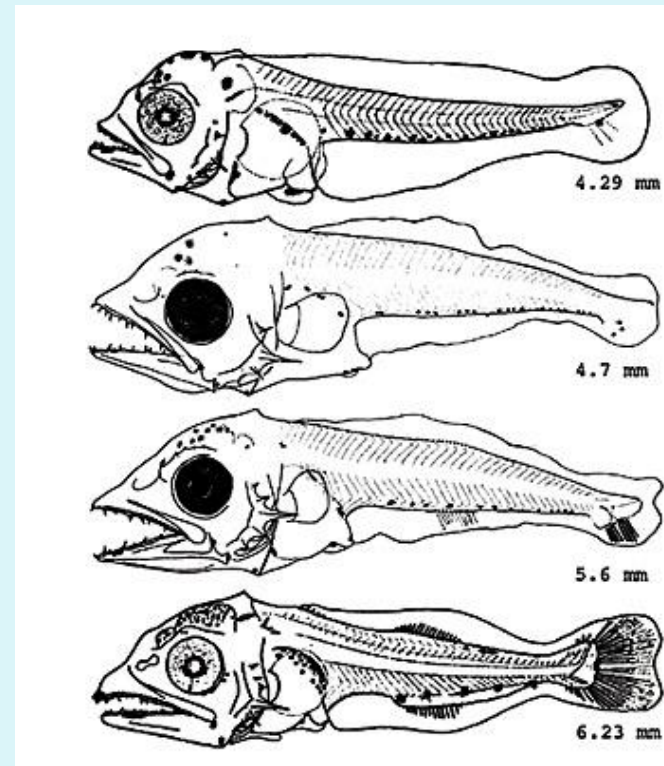
- Framework Amendment 12 (effective Oct 2023)
  - Removed weekend and holiday closures for commercial gillnet fishery
- Amendment 33 – Considered modifying sector allocations (Tabled)
  - Stakeholder concerns about the stock
  - Mackerel stakeholder engagement



# Recent Council Actions

- Fishermen concerned about Gulf king mackerel since 2021
- Council requested the SEFSC consider Interim Analysis
- SSC and SEFSC concluded data from fishery-independent indices was not robust enough to modify catch advice

Mayo (1973) and Wollam (1970)



# Mackerel AP Feedback

- Number of traveling fishermen following the fish declining
- Commercial CMP permitted vessels with Gulf king mackerel landings:

Year	CMP Permitted Vessels with Gulf KM Landings	Gulf KM Trips
2017	299	2,890
2018	256	2,385
2019	237	2,180
2020	221	1,960
2021	205	1,979
Average	244	2,279

# Background

**October 2023 Motion:** Begin development of a Council action to review and modify Gulf king mackerel recreational and commercial annual catch limits and management measures.



# Ongoing Activities

- Council requested funds from Inflation Reduction Act Climate Resilience Funding to examine environmental factors that could be contributing to king mackerel decline
  - Proof of increasing water temps altering distributions of fish populations in the Gulf of Mexico and NE Atlantic (Pinsky et al. 2013; Overholtz et al. 2011)
- Council will continue to engage with stakeholders via the engagement process
  - January 2024 Education and Outreach Committee
  - Covered king mackerel, cobia, and Spanish mackerel observations

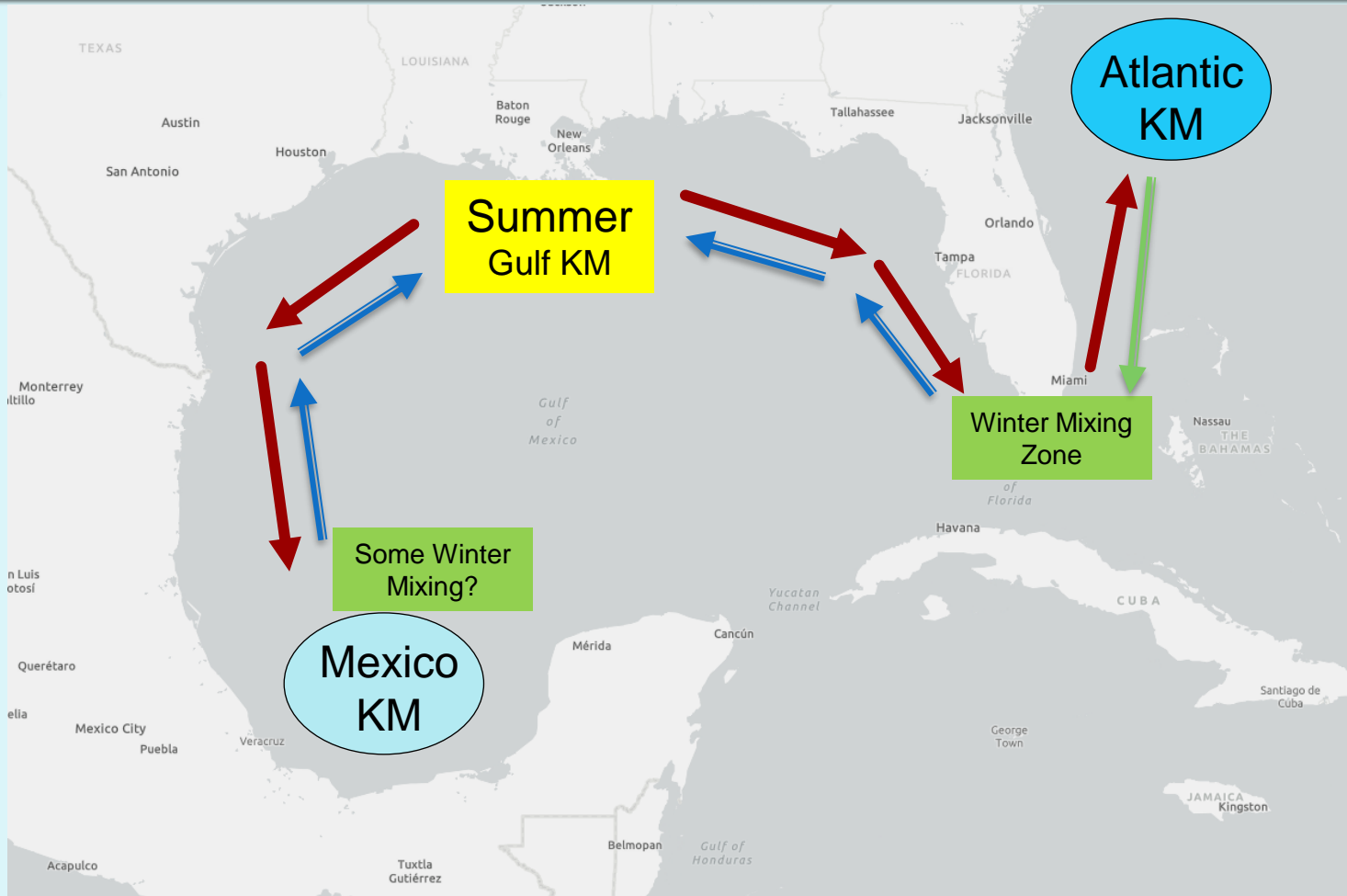


# Gulf King Mackerel Migration

Spring



Fall





# Questions for Committee

- What kind of reduction in catch limits do you want to consider?
  - 3-year recent landings ~ 55.5% reduction from current ACL
  - 5-year recent landings ~ 43.5% reduction from current ACL
- Do you want to consider other management measures?
  - Reduction in the recreational bag limit or a closed season
  - Commercial season closures by zones or gear
- Is the timing right to consider management changes when other factors such as environmental factors may be the primary drivers of the decline?

