

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2  
3 MACKEREL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4  
5 Beau Rivage Resort & Casino Biloxi, Mississippi

6  
7 October 24, 2022

8  
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

10 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama  
11 Susan Boggs.....Alabama  
12 Billy Broussard.....Louisiana  
13 Tom Frazer.....Florida  
14 Dakus Geeslin (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas  
15 Bob Gill.....Florida  
16 Michael McDermott.....Mississippi  
17 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana  
18 Bob Shipp.....Alabama  
19 Andy Strelcheck.....NMFS  
20 C.J. Sweetman (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida  
21 Troy Williamson.....Texas

22  
23 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

24 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi  
25 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC  
26 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana  
27 Phil Dyskow.....Florida  
28 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi  
29 Greg Stunz.....Texas

30  
31 **STAFF**

32 Matt Freeman.....Economist  
33 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director  
34 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer  
35 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist  
36 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist  
37 Mary Levy.....NOAA General Counsel  
38 Jessica Matos.....Administrative and Accounting Technician  
39 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist  
40 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer  
41 Ryan Rindone.....Lead Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison  
42 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager  
43 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director  
44 Carly Somerset.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist

45  
46 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

47 Chester Brewer.....SAFMC  
48 Janet Coit.....NOAA  
49 Peter Hood.....NMFS

1 John Walter.....SEFSC  
2  
3 - - -  
4

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TABLE OF MOTIONS

PAGE 10: Motion that landings reports be provided to council committees twice per year in April and October. [The motion carried on page 12.](#)

PAGE 16: Motion to remove Objective 3, as it is redundant with the newly-added Objective 9. [The motion carried on page 17.](#)

PAGE 17: Motion to amend the language of Objective 1 to read as follows: The primary objective of this FMP is to achieve and maintain optimum yield, to allow recovery of overfished populations, and maintain population levels sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment. [The motion carried on page 17.](#)

PAGE 18: Motion to delete Objective 5. [The motion carried on page 18.](#)

PAGE 30: Motion to add a new Alternative 4. Alternative 4: Modify the sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel by reallocating to the commercial sector 15 percent of the average difference between the total landings from the 2016-2017 through 2019-2020 fishing years using Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey (FES) data and the total simulated annual catch limit (ACL) for Model 2 in Appendix D for the predicted total landings by sector and the total projected ACL. [The motion carried on page 31.](#)

PAGE 37: Motion to make Option 2 the preferred. [The motion carried on page 38.](#)

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1 The Mackerel Management Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery  
2 Management Council convened at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino  
3 in Biloxi, Mississippi on Monday afternoon, October 24, 2022,  
4 and was called to order by Chairman Kevin Anson.  
5

6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**  
9

10 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** The current Mackerel Committee, Mr. Anson is  
11 Chair, Mr. Geeslin is Vice Chair, Mr. Schieble, Ms. Boggs, Mr.  
12 Broussard, Dr. Frazer, Mr. Gill, Mr. McDermott, Dr. Shipp, Mr.  
13 Strelcheck, Mr. Williamson, and Dr. Sweetman. Mr. Anson.  
14

15 **CHAIRMAN KEVIN ANSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That will take us  
16 to Adoption of the Agenda, which is Tab C, Number 1. Are there  
17 any changes that need to be made to the agenda? Is there any  
18 opposition to accepting the agenda as written? Seeing none, the  
19 agenda is adopted. Moving on to Item Number II, Approval of  
20 June 2022 Minutes, Tab C, Number 2, are there any edits that  
21 need to be made to the minutes? Mr. Gill.  
22

23 **MR. BOB GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 53, line 31,  
24 "Chairman Riechers" should be replaced by "Dr. Freeman".  
25

26 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Did staff get that? Can you repeat  
27 it one more time, Mr. Gill?  
28

29 **MR. GILL:** Certainly. Page 53, line 31, replace "Chairman  
30 Riechers" with "Dr. Freeman".  
31

32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other edits to the minutes? Seeing none,  
33 is there any opposition to accepting the minutes with the one  
34 correction? Seeing none, the minutes are adopted, with the  
35 correction. Item Number III on the agenda is the Action Guide  
36 and Next Steps. Dr. Mendez-Ferrer, if you can read those,  
37 please, or at least the first one.  
38

39 **DR. NATASHA MENDEZ-FERRER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Agenda Item  
40 IV will have a review of the coastal migratory pelagics  
41 landings, and so this will have Mr. Hood, who I believe is on  
42 the line, providing an update on the status of CMP landings in  
43 relation to the ACLs, and this is for information only, and no  
44 action is needed at this time by the committee.  
45

46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you. Mr. Hood, Peter, are  
47 you on the phone?  
48

1                   **REVIEW OF COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS LANDINGS**

2  
3 **MR. PETER HOOD:** Yes, and so I guess, Bernie, if you're running  
4 the machine, if you could pull up Tab 4, or Number 4. For this  
5 meeting, for our coastal migratory pelagic species, we're just  
6 going to go over tables, and we don't have any figures, and the  
7 reason for this is a couple of reasons.

8  
9 One is, with Hurricane Ian, it kind of slowed things down, and  
10 this requires a data request, and we had several other data  
11 requests that went in, and so, for example, for gray triggerfish  
12 and for pompano, and our LAPPs Branch folks had to work on  
13 those, and so it didn't leave them with much time, but one of  
14 the things that also is coming to light is that, when we  
15 developed those figures that we've been providing, it really --  
16 It takes a bit to generate.

17  
18 It requires a data request from the Science Center, and they are  
19 QA/QC-ing their data, and the data always changes, and so it's  
20 not like we have some static spreadsheet that we can pull data  
21 from, and then our branch has to take the data and process it  
22 for creating, you know, these tables, as well as figures, and,  
23 as I mentioned, our branch staff also have to, you know, process  
24 other data requests, for actions from all the councils, and not  
25 only the Gulf, but the South Atlantic and the Caribbean.

26  
27 One of the things that we would like to do is we will still  
28 provide these tables, but, in the future, maybe fewer  
29 presentations with the landings figures, showing the monthly  
30 landings and stuff, and, you know, what we're thinking is maybe  
31 once, in April, where you would have all of the previous year's  
32 finalized, or nearly-finalized, landings, so that we could look  
33 at performance of our different fisheries, when it comes to  
34 landing different species.

35  
36 Then perhaps, in August or October, we could provide a mid-year  
37 report, and that would show, you know, performance within a  
38 current fishing year, and so that's just something to think  
39 about, but I think it would make things go a little bit easier,  
40 and, on our side, we would be a lot more efficient, and so,  
41 anyway, just going through these tables, and, again, these are  
42 tables that you were seeing back when Sue Gerhart was the branch  
43 chief.

44  
45 You can see that, for king mackerel, for 2022-2023 preliminary  
46 landings, since that season starts, for the Western Zone and the  
47 Southern Zone, on July 1, and then, for the Northern Zone, on  
48 October 1, we don't have much, obviously, and the ACLs are --

1 We're not even close to really making a dent in those.  
2  
3 If we scroll down to the next table, the one entitled "2021-2022  
4 preliminary landings", you can see that, last year, for our  
5 different zones, Western, Northern, and Southern, for the year,  
6 we only harvested about 55 percent of the ACL, and we did go  
7 over for the king mackerel Southern Zone, and I think you've  
8 seen that in previous presentations, and we will be deducting  
9 the overage from their quota for this upcoming year, and so  
10 we'll be working on that.

11  
12 These are king mackerel landings, and these would be through  
13 Wave 3, and so that would get us through the 2021-2022 year, and  
14 you can see our preliminary landings show that only about 20  
15 percent of the ACL was caught, and, Bernie, if you just keep  
16 scrolling down, and you can go past this next table. Keep  
17 scrolling down to our stock ACLs, and so this is -- We have  
18 Spanish mackerel, and Spanish mackerel's fishing year goes from  
19 - Let's see, and I think it says it on there somewhere, but,  
20 yes, April 1 through March 31, and so, you know, we really just  
21 have one wave's worth of landings there for 2022-2023, and so  
22 they haven't really harvested a whole lot of their ACL yet.

23  
24 Then, for cobia, cobia is a January 1 through December 31  
25 fishing year species, and you can see that we're only -- If we  
26 take cobia commercial landings, which are through mid-October,  
27 and then our cobia recreational landings, which is basically  
28 Waves 1 through 3, we're only at 11.8 percent of the ACL, but  
29 we'll have to wait and see what happens with our -- With the  
30 following waves, you know, Wave 4 and on, which we haven't --  
31 We're just getting some preliminary numbers now, and,  
32 unfortunately, we didn't have time to incorporate those into  
33 this presentation. I think that's it, for me, and I would be  
34 happy to take any questions.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any questions for Peter? Peter, I thought I  
37 heard you say that you were proposing to make a change to how  
38 the landings are provided, and basically have those at two times  
39 a year, as far as the graphics that you normally would provide,  
40 and that is in fact a proposal, and are you looking -- If that  
41 is a proposal, are you looking for comment from the committee?

42  
43 **MR. HOOD:** Well, that's just an idea that we have, and we think  
44 it would help. It would make things more efficient, in terms of  
45 the meetings. We would be spending less time going over  
46 figures, which, particularly on the recreational side, since,  
47 you know, we're running, you know, two months or so behind a  
48 wave, it's kind of hard to have, you know, really up-to-date

1 landings there, and, if we can just focus on two times a year, I  
2 think we can really provide some good information on fishery  
3 performance, and it would allow you then to also spend more time  
4 on other activities within a council meeting.

5  
6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you. I have a couple of  
7 folks, first Bob and then Mr. Strelcheck.

8  
9 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and we've had this  
10 discussion before, at probably Full Council, if I remember  
11 correctly, and we've batted it around, but it seems, to me, that  
12 Peter is absolutely right that we spend a lot of time looking at  
13 information, which is available on their website twenty-four-by-  
14 seven, and so not only the prep time that he's talking about,  
15 but we waste council time.

16  
17 We've got the same landings report, with different species, in  
18 the Reef Fish Committee, and it's a whole lot longer, and it  
19 usually has all the graphs that they have to make for that, but  
20 we have that information readily available to us all the time,  
21 and so we're interested, for whatever reason, in that data, and  
22 it's there for us to look at, and I fully support his approach,  
23 and I would even make a motion, if that's what you wanted, but  
24 to limit the amount of landings reports we're requesting of the  
25 agency and that efficiency.

26  
27 We tend to dwell on things that we want, but do we really need  
28 it, and the answer is, no, we don't, because it's available  
29 elsewhere, and so I would urge us, both at council, which is  
30 probably where we're going to have to talk about it, and  
31 recognize that we're creating, unnecessarily, a time sink, in  
32 the Mackerel Committee and the Reef Fish Committee, and we could  
33 us that time for a whole bunch of other things, as we've  
34 discussed in the past, that we don't have time for, and we  
35 talked about that, for example, relative to the IFQ program, but  
36 we don't allow ourselves time, because we spend it on things  
37 like this, and so I think that's a well-placed request, and I  
38 fully support it.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Andy.

41  
42 **MR. ANDY STRELCHECK:** I agree both with Bob's and Peter's  
43 comments, and I think certainly what we can commit to, if the  
44 council is agreeable, and, you know, our landings are updated on  
45 a regular basis on our website, and so that link is available  
46 whenever the council wants to review the landings.

47  
48 I can be prepared to talk about specific issues, fisheries,



1 where we may be bumping up against catch limits, when we're not  
2 presenting the full suite of landings during a council meeting,  
3 and then, whether it's once or twice a year, whatever  
4 periodicity the council decides, we can agree to provide a  
5 summary of landings at those meetings.

6  
7 To me, it's really important, I think, to have the full annual  
8 landings, you know, in place, to give you a summary of what  
9 happened the prior year, and then, for particular fisheries  
10 where we know that, you know, the landings might affect  
11 reopening of the fisheries, to be able to line up, you know, any  
12 sort of presentation of data following the season, so that  
13 you're advised on the latest and greatest information. Thanks.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I have Susan next, but, first, I just wanted to  
16 get a clarification, and so what I thought I heard Peter ask  
17 for, or propose, was for the graphics portion of the  
18 presentation, and that this would still be provided on a regular  
19 basis, and did I mishear that, and, Peter, you can certainly  
20 jump in, but are we still going to get the landings at every  
21 committee meeting, and we just wouldn't get the graphics, except  
22 for twice a year, or is it everything that we wouldn't review  
23 but two times a year?

24  
25 **MR. HOOD:** Well, I think what we can do is we can always provide  
26 you with the landings and provide you with these landings  
27 tables, and then -- You know, then, in terms of graphics, and  
28 trying to look at landings by wave and by month, provide those  
29 twice a year, but we will always provide you with these  
30 landings.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay. Thank you.

33  
34 **MR. HOOD:** In a tabular form.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you for the clarification. Andy.

37  
38 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Well, and, to that point, I think it goes back  
39 to what's the purpose, and do you want us to just provide them,  
40 and they're in the briefing book, but we don't review them and  
41 discuss them, and we certainly can do that, but we're  
42 essentially then making a redundant step, in terms of what we  
43 already have available publicly, right, and so, to me, it's  
44 simply we'll show you where our link is on our webpage, and, if  
45 you want to review them for the committee meeting, and discuss  
46 them at that point, you would raise it during committee.

47  
48

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you for that. Susan.  
2  
3 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and what I remember,  
4 from the last meeting, was that we asked that that's fine, that  
5 we don't go through this step, but, in our briefing book, that a  
6 link be there, so that it reminds us, draws our attention to,  
7 hey, these landings are here, and then I would just ask, if we  
8 have a question about the landings, once we approve the agenda,  
9 to maybe say if there are any questions about the landings, and,  
10 if not, we move on, but I thought we had discussed that each  
11 briefing book would have a link, so that it would be easily  
12 accessible for us to go review those landings.  
13  
14 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right, and so any other comments on this  
15 topic? Dr. Sweetman.  
16  
17 **DR. C.J. SWEETMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think this  
18 conversation makes sense, from a practical perspective, in terms  
19 of time management, but I am wondering, as we're working through  
20 certain amendments, or if a species is overfished or undergoing  
21 overfishing, if, at that time, it makes sense to have a little  
22 bit more of a detailed description, whether it's graphically or  
23 via a table, to try and understand what is currently ongoing in  
24 a fishery, just to help the council move forward with some of  
25 these amendments here without losing any of this information  
26 that we have.  
27  
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I guess -- I mean, the agency staff can produce  
29 those, I mean, as a case-by-case basis occurs, and maybe we  
30 could request it at that time, and have a little bit more detail  
31 for that particular species, if in fact that were the case for  
32 that particular moment, but, I guess, Dr. Simmons, do you need a  
33 motion from the committee to, you know, go with a certain  
34 direction, as to how the information is to be presented, or,  
35 based on the comments here, you will go ahead and make those  
36 changes for a future committee?  
37  
38 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
39 think, based on the amount of discussion that we've had between  
40 our staff and the agency staff, a motion would be great.  
41  
42 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I am looking for -- Mr. Gill.  
43  
44 **MR. GILL:** There's an old saying that says never volunteer for  
45 anything. **I move that landings report be provided to council**  
46 **committees twice a year in April and October.**  
47  
48 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion on the board. Is there a

1 second to the motion?

2

3 **MS. BOGGS:** I will second it for discussion.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. We have a second. Susan, did you  
6 want to -- Do you have a question?

7

8 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, so I would like to see -- I mean, that's okay,  
9 but do we need to give direction to staff to provide a link in  
10 briefing books, because we don't want that to get lost. I mean,  
11 I have the link saved on my computer, but not everybody does,  
12 or, if you have someone in the audience that's trying to follow  
13 along, they may be wanting to look at the landings, and so that  
14 does that need to be a part of this motion, Carrie, or would  
15 that be something separate?

16

17 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I think we can add it to the  
18 motion, but I think, perhaps, where it says, "landings report",  
19 you could say "landings figures", right, because -- Then we just  
20 provide the link for the landings on the agenda. I guess that's  
21 a question maybe for Mr. Hood and staff, is it seems, to me,  
22 sometimes, when we check those landings websites, some things  
23 aren't up-to-date, and can we make sure that that happens before  
24 we put the link in the briefing book?

25

26 **MR. HOOD:** Mr. Chairman, I can answer that.

27

28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Go ahead.

29

30 **MR. HOOD:** Our landings are updated as landings come in, and so,  
31 you know, I think that the Wave 4 data is, you know, being  
32 processed right now, in our office, and so, you know, that  
33 information will go up soon on our website, and the commercial  
34 landings are, you know, updated through mid-October, at least  
35 when we made the table, and they may be updated to a later date  
36 right now, and I'm not sure. I haven't gone on the website, but  
37 we certainly update those as soon as we get that information,  
38 and so it's basically the latest and greatest. Thank you.

39

40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Susan.

41

42 **MS. BOGGS:** So back to this motion. Should we add the annual  
43 catch limits landings, and then would this be for both CMP and  
44 reef fish?

45

46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Well, it says "council committees", and so, I  
47 mean, not Mackerel Committee. Certainly we'll be bringing this  
48 up at Full Council, and so it would apply to any and all

1 committees, I think, at that point, where we review landings, is  
2 the way I read it. Andy.

3  
4 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I was going to say that, and then I guess one  
5 of the other things that I think we struggle with is we  
6 wordsmith alternatives quite frequently, and I think it's very  
7 clear, in terms of the direction to staff, that landings reports  
8 be provided twice a year, but then we would be providing this  
9 link the other times of the year, and so I would encourage us to  
10 not maybe get hung up on every detail, with regard to how we  
11 word alternatives, going forward, and figure out how we can at  
12 least provide that direction to staff, so that we can move  
13 motions like this quickly. Thanks.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Any other discussion on the motion?  
16 Mr. Diaz.

17  
18 **MR. DIAZ:** I am kind of thinking out loud here, and so I just  
19 asked Dakus if Texas landings would be ready, where we could get  
20 like a full idea of what's going on, and, Dakus, don't let me  
21 put words in your mouth, but I think he said that, by April, we  
22 could get landings through November 15 from Texas, but it  
23 wouldn't be through the end of the calendar year, and so I don't  
24 know if that has any bearing on your conversation. Thank you.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Well, I mean, it does and it doesn't, I guess.  
27 I mean, you know, as Peter mentioned, at least for the federal  
28 landings, you know, they only update it when they get landings,  
29 and so I guess that would then apply to any of the states that  
30 are providing landings as well, that they would update, and  
31 whatever the schedule would be would be when they update it, and  
32 just the timing of the council meeting, I guess, and, as long as  
33 they're done, you know, on a regular basis, we'll have the  
34 latest and greatest, as to when they have it, is the way I look  
35 at it. All right. Is there any other discussion? **Is there any  
36 opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion is approved.**

37  
38 That takes us, I think, to our next item, which would be Item  
39 Number V, and that has Dr. Freeman under here, Public Hearing  
40 Draft, Amendment 33, Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico  
41 Migratory Group King Mackerel Sector Allocation. Dr. Freeman,  
42 when you're ready.

43  
44 **PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT AMENDMENT 33: MODIFICATIONS TO THE GULF OF**  
45 **MEXICO MIGRATORY GROUP KING MACKEREL SECTOR ALLOCATION**  
46

47 **DR. MATT FREEMAN:** Okay. Great, and so, from the action guide  
48 for this item, it says that staff will review the action and

1 alternatives in the public hearing draft and also review the  
2 joint FMP objectives. Staff will present motions from the South  
3 Atlantic Council's September 2022 meeting. The committee should  
4 discuss the action and corresponding analyses and determine if  
5 any modifications are needed.

6  
7 If appropriate, the committee may select a preferred alternative  
8 and direct staff to schedule public hearings after the December  
9 2022 South Atlantic Council meeting. Staff is recommending  
10 virtual public hearings and utilizing the Fishbrain and Fish  
11 Rules apps, based on little to no attendance for in-person  
12 public hearings on other king-mackerel-related documents. I  
13 will give staff a moment to open up the presentation.

14  
15 These first few slides I know council members have seen several  
16 times already. As a remember, for the 2020 SEDAR 38 update,  
17 Gulf king mackerel is not overfished nor experiencing  
18 overfishing, and so the proposed modification is looking at  
19 sector allocations between commercial and recreational, and that  
20 is currently at 68 percent recreational and 32 percent  
21 commercial, which has been in effect since 1985.

22  
23 In considering that reallocation, it's being considered to  
24 address the differences in sector landings relative to the  
25 sector ACLs while accounting for adjustments in the historical  
26 recreational landings, due to the replacement of MRIP-CHTS data  
27 with MRIP-FES data.

28  
29 I will laugh and say that anyone who was here a few years ago,  
30 when I got to go through the Reef Fish FMP objectives, we're  
31 still continuing to look at them for CMP, and so, prior to the  
32 discussion that the council had this summer, the last time these  
33 were modified was back in 1992, with CMP Amendment 6, and that  
34 simply increased the number of objectives from seven to eight.

35  
36 A NMFS procedural directive does provide recommended practices  
37 during an allocation review, which includes reassessing FMP  
38 objectives, if they are not current, clear, or measurable, and  
39 so, in particular, I think the "current" part, that we can  
40 definitely highlight that there.

41  
42 The next few slides go through the eight objectives, and, rather  
43 than read through them all, I will simply just leave that slide  
44 active for just a few seconds, if people need to refresh their  
45 memory before we go into the motions. Again, just reiterating  
46 this is a total of objectives, and so I put four on each.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a question. Susan.

1  
2 **MS. BOGGS:** Do we want Matt to finish this presentation before  
3 we ask questions or ask as we go?  
4

5 **DR. FREEMAN:** I am fine taking questions during.  
6

7 **MS. BOGGS:** So I did have a question about one of the  
8 objectives, Number 3, to provide necessary information for  
9 effective management and establish a mandatory reporting system  
10 for monitoring catch. I don't think we really met that  
11 objective, and, I mean, we have the commercial sector, and we  
12 have the charter fleet that is now with their data collection  
13 system, but how is it being monitored -- I guess is it MRIP that  
14 we're looking at for the recreational sector on this? Is that  
15 the reporting system?  
16

17 **DR. FREEMAN:** Maybe should have waited to get the questions,  
18 because I was going to say that the South Atlantic actually made  
19 a motion regarding Objective 3, and so let me revisit that once  
20 I get to the next slide, and that was perfect timing to segue  
21 into it.  
22

23 The Gulf Council made a motion, at its June meeting, to add a  
24 new objective, and that is that sub-bullet to achieve robust  
25 fishery reporting and data collection systems across all sectors  
26 for monitoring the coastal migratory pelagic fishery, which  
27 minimizes scientific, management, and risk uncertainty. If you  
28 recall, that was brought forward to mirror the language that is  
29 in the Reef Fish FMP objectives, and so, when I presented to the  
30 South Atlantic Council, at its September meeting, they concurred  
31 with that idea for a new objective, and so that will be added to  
32 the document, as a new objective.  
33

34 Following that, they made a motion to remove Objective 3, as  
35 they felt that it was somewhat redundant with that newly-added  
36 objective, since they both deal with reporting systems, and, in  
37 this case, the new one goes a little bit further, in terms of  
38 achieving it, and it also addresses the data collection, and,  
39 again, stressing that it's across all sectors.  
40

41 The other motion that they made was to amend the language of  
42 Objective 1, and so I've highlighted the additions and deletions  
43 here, and so the way it read previously was that the primary  
44 objective of this FMP is to stabilize yield at the maximum  
45 sustainable yield, allow recovery of overfished populations, and  
46 maintain population levels sufficient to ensure adequate  
47 recruitment.  
48

1 They modified to read: The primary objective of this FMP is to  
2 achieve and maintain optimum yield, to allow recovery of  
3 overfished populations, and maintain population levels  
4 sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment.  
5

6 Just to provide a little background, in terms of their  
7 discussion, the reason for that is that Standard 1 from MSA  
8 reads that conservation and management measures shall prevent  
9 overfishing, while achieving, on a continuous basis, the optimum  
10 yield (OY) from each fishery for the U.S. fishing industry, and  
11 so they felt that the wording would be better suited to refer to  
12 OY, instead of MSY. Before I move from this slide, I will need  
13 a motion from the committee in response, and I do see Mara's  
14 hand raised, and so I will pause there.  
15

16 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mara.

17  
18 **MS. MARA LEVY:** Thank you, and just a question. I understand  
19 why they wanted to change it to refer to optimum yield. Did  
20 they talk, at all, about why they would leave in the part to  
21 allow recovery of overfished populations? I mean, at this  
22 point, right, none of the three stocks are overfished, and so  
23 they're recovered, and I'm just wondering if anybody gave any  
24 thought to that or it was just focused on the optimum yield.  
25

26 **DR. FREEMAN:** It was focused on the optimum yield, and I will  
27 note -- I was the one who brought to their attention the  
28 language from MSA, referring to OY, and so I will take the blame  
29 that I kind of put some of the focus there, and they perhaps  
30 didn't consider the remaining language, and I see Ms. Boggs'  
31 hand is raised.  
32

33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Susan.

34  
35 **MS. BOGGS:** So does this not include cobia, which is overfished?  
36

37 **MS. LEVY:** My bad. You are correct.  
38

39 **DR. FREEMAN:** Then I retract my statement that I take any blame.  
40 Thank you, Ms. Boggs, for the save.  
41

42 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, you know that I stay so confused up here, and  
43 I missed this slide, evidently, when I was going through all  
44 this, and so I apologize, and so you're saying you need a motion  
45 to adopt all of this?  
46

47 **DR. FREEMAN:** The first one is simply letting the Gulf Council  
48 know that there is a new motion, and the South Atlantic adopted

1 the one that the Gulf Council put forward in June, and so it  
2 would be up to the committee, and you all may want to make two  
3 separate motions, potentially, one to remove Objective 3 and  
4 then a second to amend the language of Objective 1. Do you have  
5 a follow-up question?  
6

7 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Go ahead.  
8

9 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, don't we have to adopt the new Objective 3,  
10 and I agree with this, because I looked back, and I remember  
11 when Ms. Bosarge said it needs to mirror what the Reef Fish FMP  
12 is, and so I'm glad that they did this, and so -- But do you not  
13 need --  
14

15 **DR. FREEMAN:** At the top, that would be Objective Number 9, and  
16 so we've got a new Objective Number 9, and so, moving forward,  
17 we would remove Objective 3, and everything would get reordered  
18 at that point.  
19

20 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** So, yes, that's what we need to do, and so did  
21 you want to go ahead, Susan?  
22

23 **MS. BOGGS:** Sure, and I apologize. I understand now, and we've  
24 already adopted the first, and now we need to -- **I would like to**  
25 **make a motion to remove Objective 3, as it is redundant with the**  
26 **newly-added objective. Objective 3 is to provide necessary**  
27 **information for effective management and establish a mandatory**  
28 **reporting system for monitoring catch.**  
29

30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right, and so staff is getting the motion  
31 on the board. It is on the board, technically, but they're  
32 putting it in a different location. Is there a second to the  
33 motion? C.J. Thank you. All right. There's a motion to  
34 remove Objective 3, as it is redundant with the newly-added  
35 objective, and then Objective 3 is to provide necessary  
36 information for effective management and establish a mandatory  
37 reporting system for monitoring catch. Are there any comments?  
38 Mr. Gill.  
39

40 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. **I would suggest a friendly**  
41 **to "the newly-added Objective 9", so it's clear as to what that**  
42 **objective is.**  
43

44 **MS. BOGGS:** **I'm fine with that.** I wasn't sure what number it  
45 was.  
46

47 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** C.J., you're okay with that? **Okay, and so**  
48 **we'll add to change that to "newly-added Objective 9".** Any



1 other comments on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**  
2 **motion? We have one opposed.**

3  
4 All right, and so, as Dr. Freeman said, in order to be  
5 consistent with the South Atlantic, as we move forward with this  
6 document, is there anyone else who wants to make a motion  
7 relative to modifying the language in the Objective 1? Michael.

8  
9 **MR. MICHAEL MCDERMOTT:** I will make a motion to amend the  
10 language of Objective 1 to read as it's written on the board  
11 there.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you.

14  
15 **MR. GILL:** Second.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** It's seconded by Bob. Thank you. I think the  
18 motion is to amend the language of Objective 1 to read as  
19 follows, and we need to get that cleaned up a little bit. Is  
20 there any discussion on the motion, while this is being put up  
21 on the board?

22  
23 All right, and so I think we've got it finished. **To amend the**  
24 **language of Objective 1 to read as follows: The primary**  
25 **objective of this FMP is to achieve and maintain optimum yield,**  
26 **to allow recovery of overfished populations, and maintain**  
27 **population levels sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment.**  
28 Any discussion? **Any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the**  
29 **motion carries.** Dr. Freeman. Mr. Gill.

30  
31 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we leave objectives,  
32 the way I read Number 5 is that's outdated and no longer  
33 required. I would defer to the experts on that, but, if that's  
34 so, I am prepared to make a motion to delete it.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I think you're correct, as I read it, that it  
37 might be redundant. I guess, Dr. Freeman, you have, in the  
38 guide, the action guide, that you talked about public hearings,  
39 and so any modifications that we make -- I mean, they're going  
40 to have to go back to the South Atlantic Council, will they not,  
41 in order to be consistent?

42  
43 **DR. FREEMAN:** Yes, sir, and so, currently, we are slated to  
44 bring this document to the South Atlantic Council at its  
45 December meeting, and, if anyone wants to confirm, but I'm  
46 guessing that, if there's any further modifications to FMP  
47 objectives -- I think it would still be fine to continue that  
48 discussion while the public is considering the action within CMP

1 34, and I think that discussion can continue.  
2  
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Bob.  
4  
5 **MR. GILL:** Are you waiting on me, Mr. Chairman? **So I move to**  
6 **delete Objective 5 as outdated.**  
7  
8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion to delete Objective 5. Is  
9 there a second? Susan, you seconded?  
10  
11 **MS. BOGGS:** Second.  
12  
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I don't think it needs much discussion. Bob,  
14 did you want to discuss it? No? Okay. Any other discussion?  
15 We'll make sure we get it on the board first. All right. **There**  
16 **it is, to delete Objective 5. Hopefully that's clear enough,**  
17 **what it means and ties to, but is there any opposition to the**  
18 **motion? Seeing none, the motion passes.** Susan.  
19  
20 **MS. BOGGS:** I am not sure if I'm on the right track with this,  
21 but Objective 7, and I had a note about Number 5, if it had  
22 still applied, and so then, if I look at Objective 7, to provide  
23 appropriate management to address specific migratory groups of  
24 king mackerel, and why would not add, there, Spanish mackerel  
25 and cobia, because it's -- Or just specific -- Provide  
26 appropriate management for CMP, and I don't understand why king  
27 mackerel, and is there some background there of why that's just  
28 being singled out?  
29  
30 **DR. FREEMAN:** I see that Andy has got his hand raised.  
31  
32 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Yes, and, I mean, keep in mind, Susan, that,  
33 when you're amending the plan, you're not always dealing with  
34 all of the species at once, and so I think this is just a  
35 summation of all of the objectives that were added over time  
36 being brought together, and that's why you're seeing certain  
37 species identified, rather than the collective group of all  
38 coastal migratory pelagic species.  
39  
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Susan.  
41  
42 **MS. BOGGS:** So would it be appropriate to amend that objective  
43 to be more broad, or just to remove it, because that's what we  
44 should be doing anyway.  
45  
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Andy.  
47  
48 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Certainly if it's the broader objective to

1 manage the fishery, fisheries, in that same way, yes, then it  
2 would be appropriate that you could broaden it and modify it,  
3 and I think that's the point I'm making though, is that we were  
4 specifically modifying those migratory groups, I'm sure, in a  
5 king mackerel action, right?

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Susan.

8  
9 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, I am going to offer up a motion to amend  
10 Objective 7, and I'm not exactly sure how to -- To amend the  
11 language for Objective 7 to read: To provide appropriate  
12 management to address -- Well, hang on a minute. I guess to  
13 address specific migratory species of king mackerel, Spanish  
14 mackerel, and cobia, because, I mean, this -- I asked this  
15 question earlier today, before the meeting, about the difference  
16 between the Mackerel Committee and the Migratory Species  
17 Committee, and so I don't want to confuse the two. To provide  
18 appropriate management for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and  
19 cobia.

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** So staff is trying to catch up here, Susan, and  
22 do you want to try to -- Do you want to go ahead and re-read  
23 that?

24  
25 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, what I would like to do here is add Spanish  
26 mackerel and cobia, because I think that is one of our  
27 objectives, is that we need to appropriately manage those  
28 species. I am not exactly sure -- I don't know if you would say  
29 specific migratory groups of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel,  
30 and cobia, since you've got your Atlantic and your Gulf and your  
31 mixing zones, and I'm not exactly sure how would be the  
32 appropriate way to word that, and so I am looking at staff for  
33 maybe some assistance.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I wonder if you could just leave off any  
36 reference to those species, since they are already identified in  
37 the CMP, and just say specific migratory groups, and just leave  
38 it at that?

39  
40 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, and that's when I made the comment. We have  
41 our Mackerel Committee, and we have our Migratory Species  
42 Committee, and so does that -- Maybe I need to wait until Full  
43 Council and have some discussion, but I just don't understand  
44 why -- I understand what Andy says, and that's really how I  
45 figured it came about, and that's why we're here now, is we're  
46 trying to kind of clean up what has happened over the years, but  
47 we've removed Objective 5, which addresses the Spanish mackerel,  
48 and so I hate to leave them completely out of our objectives,

1 but nowhere in here do we address cobia, and I can wait until  
2 Full Council.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Simmons.

5

6 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
7 a suggestion, and could we just say to address specific coastal  
8 migratory pelagic groups? I am looking back at Ryan, since he  
9 has probably the most historical knowledge of the different  
10 groups for management of the CMP species, to see if that makes  
11 sense.

12

13 **MR. RYAN RINDONE:** I caught the last nine words of that, Dr.  
14 Simmons, which is just enough for me to get in trouble.

15

16 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** The motion.

17

18 **MS. BOGGS:** Mr. Chair, I will wait until Full Council and work  
19 with staff and try to bring something back that makes a little  
20 more sense. Thank you.

21

22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Any other -- Dr. Freeman.

23

24 **DR. FREEMAN:** Sure. Given that there was a little bit of a lag,  
25 I did at least, for the last objective, try to see if there was  
26 any discussion in CMP Amendment 6, and it said to optimize the  
27 social and economic benefits of the coastal migratory pelagic  
28 fisheries, and so, actually, can we -- I am kind of curious why  
29 7 was -- It was older, and I haven't -- Unfortunately, because  
30 the internet is slow.

31

32 The rationale there was that this new objective provides a goal  
33 to enhance economic benefits to all groups, and so perhaps what  
34 was suggested -- We might can modify that language for Objective  
35 7 to be similar to Objective 8, perhaps.

36

37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you. All right. I don't see  
38 any other hands, and do you want to continue with the  
39 presentation, Matt?

40

41 **DR. FREEMAN:** Certainly. I think we're all caught up on this,  
42 and certainly, if anyone has additional thoughts on the FMP  
43 objectives for Full Council, that gives us more time to revisit  
44 those. We can move to the next slide, the purpose and need,  
45 and, if you recall, this was updated at the June meeting.

46

47 There was an addition, that last part that says, "aim to  
48 continue to achieve optimum yield from the Gulf king mackerel

1 stock", and so that was added in June, and, when I presented the  
2 purpose and need statements to the South Atlantic Council in  
3 September, they were in agreement with those.

4  
5 Moving forward, a lot of this will look familiar to council  
6 members, and this looks at recent landings history, as well as  
7 the percent of the sector ACL landed. As you will note, in the  
8 third-to-last column, for the commercial sector, the percent  
9 sector ACL landed, where it has gone above the commercial ACL,  
10 those are highlighted, and so you will note that the commercial  
11 sector, in recent history, has exceeded, or come very close, to  
12 their sector ACL, and then, in the second-to-last column, for  
13 the recreational sector, they have been slightly less than half  
14 of their sector ACL, in terms of their landings.

15  
16 Alternative 1, as usual, is our no action, and, in this case,  
17 this would maintain the current sector allocation, which I  
18 mentioned previously is 32 percent commercial and 68 percent  
19 recreational.

20  
21 With Alternative 2, here, we are looking at modifying the sector  
22 allocation by reallocating to the commercial sector 25 percent  
23 of the average difference between the total landings from the  
24 2016-2017 through 2019-2020 fishing years, using MRIP-FES data,  
25 and the total simulated ACL from Model 2, which is located in  
26 Appendix D, for the predicted total landings by sector and the  
27 total projected ACL. The resulting sector allocation would then  
28 be 42 percent commercial and 58 percent recreational.

29  
30 Alternative 3 takes a similar approach, except, in this case,  
31 instead of reallocating to the commercial sector 25 percent of  
32 the average difference, here it's reallocating 50 percent of the  
33 average difference. The resulting sector allocations for Gulf  
34 king mackerel would then be 53 percent commercial and 47 percent  
35 recreational. If we move to the next slide, there's sort of a  
36 summary there of that.

37  
38 Okay, and so that bottom table goes through the three  
39 alternatives and then shows what the sector ACL would be, as  
40 well as the sector allocations, and so, again, Alternative 1  
41 would be 68 percent rec and 32 percent commercial, and  
42 Alternative 2 would be 58 percent rec and 42 percent commercial,  
43 and Alternative 3 would be 47 percent rec and 53 percent  
44 commercial.

45  
46 Again, the council members have seen this table before as well,  
47 and I will go through it again, but the top portion is looking  
48 at the average recreational landings from the last four fishing

1 years, the time the document was started, which was 2016-2017  
2 through 2019-2020, and that was roughly 4.6 million pounds, and,  
3 if we compare those average historical landings, in FES, to what  
4 is proposed for the rec sector's ACL under Alternative 2 and  
5 Alternative 3, that's 80.2 percent and 97.6 percent, and I do  
6 want to clarify, again, that this is not -- This entire table is  
7 not projecting forward what might occur, and this is simply sort  
8 of backward-looking, in comparison to what is being proposed.

9  
10 The middle portion of this table is taking the average  
11 commercial landings from that simulated Model 2 in Appendix D,  
12 and, in essence, as you all saw just a little while ago, the  
13 commercial sector has been constrained, at times, by its ACL,  
14 and so Model 2, in that case, the ACL, as simulated, was higher,  
15 and so, here, the predicted commercial landings for those four  
16 years would have been 4.1 million pounds.

17  
18 In comparison to the commercial sector ACLs, under Alternative 2  
19 and Alternative 3, those landings would result in 97.3 percent,  
20 proportional to the proposed ACL, and 78.2 percent of the  
21 proposed ACL under Alternative 3.

22  
23 The bottom portion of the table, similar to the top portion,  
24 looks at what was actually landed, and so the average commercial  
25 landings for those four years was about 2.85 million pounds. As  
26 a percentage of the proposed commercial ACL under Alternative 2,  
27 that is 67.3 percent and 54.1 percent, and, if we go forward  
28 another slide, again, this shows the Gulf king mackerel bag  
29 limit distribution from the 2015-2016 through 2019-2020 fishing  
30 years.

31  
32 It is weighted more towards one king mackerel per person, and  
33 keeping in mind, of those years that's looking at the bag limit  
34 distribution, the rec daily bag limit increased to three fish  
35 per person per day during the 2017 fishing year. However, the  
36 king mackerel per person is still skewed towards one per person.

37  
38 This is an old request from a council member, but we did keep it  
39 in though, and it looks at the recreational catch, versus  
40 release, in FES, over a five-year time period.

41  
42 These are some tentative next steps that the committee and  
43 council can consider, which is selection of a preferred  
44 alternative, as well as approval for public hearings, and those  
45 could potentially occur as early as January of next year. The  
46 next steps, at this point, more closely, time-wise, would be to  
47 bring CMP 33 back to the South Atlantic Council at its December  
48 meeting, to see if they would also select a preferred

1 alternative, and approve public hearings, based off of what the  
2 Gulf Council does at this meeting. At a minimum, it appears  
3 that I will need to still bring CMP 33 back to them for  
4 consideration and modification of the joint FMP objectives.  
5

6 If those public hearings are held, we could potentially bring  
7 CMP 33 back to the Gulf Council at its April meeting, to go  
8 final, and to the South Atlantic Council at its June meeting, to  
9 go final, and so that's the end of the presentation, if there's  
10 any questions or discussion.

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Mendez-Ferrer.  
13

14 **DR. MENDEZ-FERRER:** Before the committee goes back to making  
15 deliberations with the questions that Matt just presented, I  
16 also wanted to let you know that we have scheduled a CMP AP  
17 meeting for December 1 of this year, and we're planning on  
18 presenting this document, to gather feedback from the AP.  
19

20 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you, Dr. Freeman. Mr. Gill.  
21

22 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One question I have is why  
23 is the fishing year 2020-2021 not included in the document?  
24

25 **DR. FREEMAN:** Certainly, and so that's a great question. That  
26 was at the time that the IPT started, and one of the discussions  
27 is usually sort a terminal year for data, and so that was the  
28 most recent, at the time, and that was when the -- That was the  
29 last year that we used, in terms of our data analysis, and so a  
30 follow-up?  
31

32 **MR. GILL:** To that point, it's one thing to have a terminal year  
33 for data for assessment purposes, and it's another thing in  
34 terms of consideration of what the management issues ought to be  
35 relative to it, and I think this document is incomplete, and not  
36 ready for public hearings, until that portion is in there for  
37 council consideration as to how to handle king mackerel relative  
38 to the most recent landings, rather than something that is two  
39 or three years old.  
40

41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Go ahead, Bob.  
42

43 **MR. GILL:** I don't want to hog the conversation, if someone else  
44 has something to say.  
45

46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I don't see any -- I see a hand now. Mr.  
47 Williamson.  
48

1 **MR. TROY WILLIAMSON:** To add to Bob's point, the 2019 and the  
2 2020 season were COVID years, and so I think that, you know,  
3 there were probably less fishermen out there, and the data for  
4 that year is probably an anomaly.

5  
6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I've got a couple of folks. I've got Susan and  
7 then Dr. Frazer.

8  
9 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, I would argue just the opposite, Mr.  
10 Williamson. During COVID, I can tell you that our fuel sales,  
11 at our fuel dock, in March and April, surpassed June and July of  
12 any prior year, and people were out fishing, and so, if  
13 anything, I would think that that's probably, you know, very  
14 telling of actually what was happening, because I feel like  
15 there were more fishermen out on the water than there have ever  
16 been.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Frazer.

19  
20 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and so I agree with  
21 Bob as well. I mean, there's a couple of things that we do  
22 know, right, and so, prior to the 2019 year, you know, we had  
23 about 2.3 million pounds of fish that were harvested by the  
24 recreational sector, and then, for 2019, it was 1.6, and, even  
25 without that missing year, right, when we look at the update  
26 that was just provided by Peter, we're down to 1.1 million  
27 pounds, and so there's clearly a trend, right, in the  
28 recreational catches, and I think it's reflected over the last  
29 decade or so.

30  
31 When I'm thinking about this particular amendment, and this  
32 particular action item, I see a couple of things that are worth  
33 considering, you know, a continued decline in the recreational  
34 catches, and, this past year, some declines in the commercial  
35 catches, and, in particular sectors, a continued discussion, in  
36 the public comment periods, about a reduction in the size  
37 structure, and potential concerns over recruitment, and so I  
38 want to see all of that data, to be honest with you, to kind of  
39 fully evaluate where we are with this amendment, before we -- I  
40 mean, we can still have a discussion about picking a preferred,  
41 but these are things that I'm thinking about, and that's why I  
42 think that they are important.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Andy.

45  
46 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Tom raises a lot of good points, and I guess I  
47 did want to go back to Bob's comment, and I think this is the  
48 challenge, as we work through the management process, because



1 we're very deliberate, and it takes a long period of time,  
2 obviously, to work on these actions, and then the data become  
3 stale, right, and so we're then in a situation where we're  
4 having to potentially add a year of data at a time, you know, in  
5 order to keep it up-to-date.

6  
7 In this instance, there's some things that are changing in the  
8 fishery, obviously, that could be relevant, obviously, to our  
9 decision about how to allocate king mackerel, and I think that's  
10 important to consider, in terms of where both sectors are at, in  
11 terms of harvesting their quotas, but I do caution, I think, the  
12 council, with regard to kind of this rolling changing of the  
13 data, because that puts a lot of additional burden and work on  
14 staff to then keep up the data, obviously, with the actions.

15  
16 Maybe the solution is we move through things quicker, if we can,  
17 and keep that data as closely aligned with the management  
18 approach, but, in terms of the actual alternatives, I think it's  
19 really important that, you know, if you look at that four or  
20 five-year time period that's summarized in the amendment, you  
21 might reach one conclusion, but then, you look at kind of the  
22 more recent harvest rates, and both sectors aren't harvesting  
23 their quotas right now, and the question is then does it make  
24 sense to reallocate, and, if so, what does that reallocation  
25 look like, or should we be reallocating, based on conservation  
26 and management, and so I think I just would encourage the  
27 council to kind of think about that as we go through the  
28 selection of a preferred alternative.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I have a couple of -- Dr. Freeman and then  
31 Susan.

32  
33 **DR. FREEMAN:** Bernie, could I get you to scroll back up a couple  
34 of slides for me? It's the one that had the columns. Perfect.  
35 I did want to note, just offhand, like if you look at the rec  
36 sector, that second-to-last column, in the 2019-2020 fishing  
37 year, you saw it was 27.9 percent, and the previous year was --  
38 I think it says 39.5 percent.

39  
40 It's perfect timing that Peter just gave a presentation on the  
41 landings. If you refer to the 2020-2021 final landings for the  
42 rec sector, that percent of landings to ACL was 29.8 percent,  
43 and so it falls pretty much in range, and, if you look at the  
44 rec column as a whole, it's actually very much on the lower end  
45 of that scale, and then it's certainly preliminary at this  
46 point, but, preliminary for 2021-2022, the percent to ACL is at  
47 20 percent right now. We're not seeing -- Even if we were to  
48 update it, I don't think it's any massive change, really, from

1 what we're seeing historically.

2  
3 It would take me a little bit longer to get the commercial,  
4 because they have it broken out by component, and so I would  
5 have to figure it out for the whole, and certainly, if the  
6 committee would like, I can talk with someone from SERO, and we  
7 can put that together for Full Council, if needed.

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Well, I certainly, you know, going back to Dr.  
10 Frazer's comments, and Bob's comments, and then Andy's comment,  
11 I certainly understand both sides, and, you know, obviously, in  
12 an ideal world, we like to make decisions on the, you know, the  
13 most complete and the newest set of data, but there is the  
14 challenge of, you know, trying to work through the management  
15 process and make decisions, you know, on a timely basis.

16  
17 I am afraid that, if we always are trying to look for that next  
18 iteration of data, that there will be desire, amongst some  
19 members, to delay and such, in order to get that next set of  
20 data, to try to help their side or -- So, you know, I would just  
21 provide those comments, and so I have Susan up first, and she  
22 had her hand up a little bit ago, and then Dr. Frazer.

23  
24 **MS. BOGGS:** So, along those same lines, and I understand what  
25 Mr. Gill is saying, but we do have the data. I mean, it may not  
26 be in this document, but we do have the data available, and we  
27 can go, and we can look, and we may have to look a little  
28 harder, just like them not providing these reports anymore, and  
29 we're going to have to go online, and we're going to have to  
30 look, and we're going to have to get the data, and it's the same  
31 concept. You're wanting the most up-to-date data, and, well,  
32 there it is, and all you have to do is click on that link that  
33 they're going to provide, and we'll have it.

34  
35 To Andy's point about moving a little faster, I guess maybe we  
36 have to look a little harder, and we have to say, okay, we have  
37 2019-2020, but, over here, we clearly have the next years that  
38 we need to make a decision, but look at CMP 11.

39  
40 We finally got it passed, and it started for fishing year 2021-  
41 2022, but it's going to start with 2023-2024 going forward, and  
42 so I agree that we need to figure out how to move a little  
43 faster, and I used to hear this phrase all the time at this  
44 table, kicking the can down the road, and, if it's to the  
45 benefit of someone, that's what we tend to do, is kick the can  
46 down the road.

47  
48 This is an uncomfortable conversation, and we did it during red

1 grouper, and we're going to do it with amberjack, and we're  
2 going to do it with all these species coming down the line, and  
3 I will be the first one to say that I'm not a big fan of FES,  
4 but that's what we've got to do, and we've got to find some  
5 compromises, but for us just to continue with we need more,  
6 more, more, that's just a stall tactic, in my mind. Thank you.

7

8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Frazer.

9

10 **DR. FRAZER:** Just let me clarify, and I certainly don't want to  
11 discount what Andy said, and so I'm not all about, you know,  
12 trying to work with a rolling document forever and ever and  
13 ever. What I am saying is that we have a document in place, and  
14 clearly Mr. Gill recognized that there was some data, more  
15 recent data, that are available, and I think we're compelled to  
16 look at the data, and that's all that I'm asking, and, as we  
17 move out into a public hearing, this document can stay the way  
18 that it is, in my view, right, but, as part of the presentation,  
19 we can provide that updated material.

20

21 My only point was that it's relevant data, right, and so we need  
22 to know what those most recent catches are, because they're  
23 consistent with a trend, right, and it doesn't -- It's saying  
24 that things are continuing to go in the same direction, and it  
25 allows us to bring up some other things that should be discussed  
26 in a public forum, and so I don't think that anybody is -- You  
27 know, there is not hard differences here, to be honest with you,  
28 and I think everybody wants -- We recognize that there is, you  
29 know -- We have to draw the line somewhere, with regard to the  
30 document, but, as Susan said, it doesn't preclude us from  
31 looking at more recent data, and we should do that, when we have  
32 the opportunity.

33

34 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** My comment to that would be just that, I mean,  
35 it's one thing to add extra data in, but, if the data -- The  
36 data should really only be in there if it helps support the  
37 action items and decisions, or recommendations, that are made on  
38 those action items, and so, if we add the extra data, but yet  
39 none of our action items change to reflect the extra data, then  
40 what's the point, at that point?

41

42 I mean, people might ask the same question you are asking of,  
43 well, you had the most up-to-date data, and why didn't you make  
44 the decision on the most up-to-date data, but yet we didn't do  
45 it, and we've used previous iterations, at least up to where we  
46 are with the document, and so that's all.

47

48 We are at two minutes over our allotted time. The Chairman has

1 said that we can continue, but he wants to me to be as efficient  
2 as possible in trying to get us through the rest of the agenda,  
3 and so are there any other comments, or discussion, on this  
4 particular item? We still need to address a preferred, if we  
5 want. Mr. McDermott.

6  
7 **MR. MCDERMOTT:** I was going to ask a question about these  
8 alternatives. It looks like, in the first alternative, there is  
9 no reallocation, and the second one is 25 percent, and the third  
10 one is 50 percent, and was there some kind of reasoning as to  
11 how we arrived at the 25 and 50 percent options?

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Well, there was. I mean, it was -- As I  
14 recall, it was based more on the reality of the data. Ryan.

15  
16 **MR. RINDONE:** Can you pull up the actual action and  
17 alternatives? That will make it easier to explain, wherever  
18 that is in the -- Just go to Chapter 2, I guess. Okay, and so,  
19 when we had originally wrote this, it was a few meetings ago,  
20 and the idea that we were asked to do was to look at the amount  
21 of fish that were going unharvested and to compare that against  
22 the Science Center model that was done to simulate what the  
23 catch limits could have been, had we -- Had we used in FES in  
24 the last SEDAR assessment, which is SEDAR 38, and that used data  
25 through I think it was 2012.

26  
27 If we scroll down a little bit, to get Alternative 3 in there,  
28 Alternative 2 says we would look at moving 25 percent of the  
29 average difference of the total landings from the 2016-2017 to  
30 2019-2020 fishing years using MRIP through that simulation, and  
31 the reason why we used 2016-2017 and 2019-2020 is that, in CMP  
32 Amendment 26, we redrew the line from where the Gulf and  
33 Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel were thought to be  
34 and when they were thought to be there.

35  
36 Before that, there was this giant mixing zone that went up the  
37 east coast of Florida that was then constrained, during the  
38 wintertime, to be south of the Keys and then partly up the  
39 southwest coast of Florida, and, actually, Dr. John Walter's  
40 analysis of the commercial trip ticket data for that assessment  
41 was what led to the contraction, and much better specification,  
42 of where those fish actually are and landed.

43  
44 Now that mixing zone only occurs south of the Keys in the  
45 wintertime, and the amount of mixing down there is just not near  
46 the quantity of fish and the volume of area that it was  
47 previously estimated, and so it's a much smaller mixing zone.

1 Through that Amendment, through Amendment 26, the Gulf and South  
2 Atlantic Councils agreed that the Gulf Council would manage  
3 kingfish to the Dade-Monroe County line year-round, and that  
4 was, in part, because of the gillnet fishery that occurs in  
5 southwest Florida, and so it's a historic Gulf fishery, and so  
6 the councils just agreed to let the Gulf be in charge of that  
7 area, with respect to that.

8  
9 That's why we don't use anything prior to 2016, because, prior  
10 to 2016, it was a completely different spatial management setup  
11 that we don't use anymore, and that the best science doesn't  
12 support, and so that does kind of limit us, in terms of the  
13 years that we can look at, but it also has the benefit of being  
14 a more recent time series, and we have a lot more confidence in  
15 our most recent data than we do data from like 1981 or something  
16 like that.

17  
18 Alternative 2 just says use 25 percent of that average  
19 difference, and Alternative 3 says use 50 percent, and there's  
20 not a very specific reason why we picked 25 percent or 50  
21 percent, and we considered, at -- Or the council, at one point,  
22 considered 100 percent, but, ultimately, decided not to go that  
23 route, and one of the main things that the council has repeated,  
24 with respect to any consideration of reallocation here, was to  
25 make sure that, whatever happened, that the recreational sector  
26 would still have enough of an ACL to remain open year-round,  
27 since it's been open year-round for decades, at this point, and  
28 so the idea was not to rock that particular boat, if you get my  
29 meaning.

30  
31 If we scroll down to the tables, Bernie, between those two  
32 tables, you can see the demonstration of how all that shakes  
33 out, and that Science Center simulation for what the catch  
34 limits would have been, had we used FES in SEDAR 38, can be  
35 found in one of the appendices, and, Matt, I don't recall which  
36 one, off the top of my head, but --

37  
38 **DR. FREEMAN:** E.

39  
40 **MR. RINDONE:** Appendix E, but, here, you can see the effect of --  
41 - In this table right here, the effect of moving 25 percent of  
42 that difference, or 50 percent in Alternative 3, and what that  
43 results in for the recreational and commercial allocations.

44  
45 If you change the percent difference that's shifted, that will  
46 change the allocations, but this was -- All this work, using  
47 this model simulation, using it in a way that we did, this was  
48 all at the explicit direction of the council, through multiple

1 rounds of discussions, when we were in the earlier developmental  
2 stages of this document.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Go ahead.

5

6 **MR. MCDERMOTT:** Well, it doesn't appear that there was, you  
7 know, any particular reason, as Ryan just said, of why we chose  
8 25 and 50 percent, and my concern is, if you take out the 2020  
9 year, I don't want to be in a situation where the recreational  
10 sector is now overharvesting. **I would move that we add a fourth**  
11 **alternative that shifts 15 percent to the commercial sector.**

12

13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Is there a motion?

14

15 **MR. MCDERMOTT:** It is.

16

17 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay.

18

19 **MR. MCDERMOTT:** Of course, using the same time series, the 2016-  
20 2017 to 2020.

21

22 **MR. RINDONE:** Just to clarify, to add an alternative to -- Can  
23 you scroll back up a little bit, Bernie, on the original  
24 document, just so I can say it out loud and make sure this is  
25 what Mr. McDermott wants?

26

27 To modify the sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel by  
28 reallocating to the commercial sector 15 percent of the average  
29 difference between the total landings, et cetera, and so like  
30 the whole rest of the language would essentially remain the  
31 same.

32

33 **MR. MCDERMOTT:** Except for the last sentence I believe would  
34 then change.

35

36 **MR. RINDONE:** Right, and so we can leave that last sentence off,  
37 and maybe it would be cleanest -- There we go. Maybe that would  
38 be the cleanest thing to do. Then just change "25" to "15"  
39 percent in the motion.

40

41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay, and so we have the motion on the board.  
42 **It's to add a new alternative, Alternative 4, and it would be to**  
43 **modify the sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel by**  
44 **reallocating to the commercial sector 15 percent of the average**  
45 **difference between the total landings from the 2016-2017 through**  
46 **2019-2020 fishing years, using the Marine Recreational**  
47 **Information Program's Fishing Effort Survey data and the total**  
48 **simulated annual catch limit for Model 2 in Appendix D for the**

1 **predicted total landings by sector and the total projected ACL.**  
2 Is there a second to the motion? It's seconded by Mr.  
3 Williamson. Any discussion on the motion? C.J.

4  
5 **DR. SWEETMAN:** Just a question, and so a point of clarification,  
6 for me, really, and, Mr. McDermott, are you thinking a 15  
7 percent average difference, or are you talking a 15 percent  
8 average change in the allocation?

9  
10 **MR. MCDERMOTT:** No, and 15 percent of the average difference,  
11 which it would essentially be the same as Alternatives 2 and 3,  
12 but just 10 percent less than Alternative 2.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other discussion on the motion? Andy.

15  
16 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I guess a point of clarification as well, and  
17 so Alternative 2, if it was selected as the preferred, shifts 25  
18 percent, and it still doesn't indicate that the recreational  
19 sector would be catching their catch limit, and so can you  
20 explain the rationale again for the 15 percent, versus 25  
21 percent, or even 50 percent?

22  
23 **MR. MCDERMOTT:** Well, I believe, with Alternative 2, using that  
24 same time series, it would put us at like 88 or 90 percent of  
25 our ACL, and so, you know, if we were to have a substantial  
26 swing, like we did down in 2019 and 2020, and if we would have a  
27 swing the other way, and I just am concerned that then, you  
28 know, we would be facing a closure.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other discussion? **Is there any opposition**  
31 **to the motion? One opposed.** All right. **Seeing none, the**  
32 **motion carries.** Dr. Freeman, is that -- We need a preferred.  
33 Is there any interest in selecting a preferred, or is it kind of  
34 we don't need to do that now, and do we need to have the  
35 analysis done for this? Mara.

36  
37 **MS. LEVY:** I am not going to answer that question, but I am just  
38 going to say, when you bring this to Full Council, right, I  
39 think consider -- We just talked about the data lag and how it's  
40 becoming stale, and now we've added a new alternative that's  
41 going to require an update to all the analysis that has already  
42 been produced.

43  
44 I'm not saying not to do it, but you're then looking at further  
45 delaying the amendment, and it's not so much the data that goes  
46 in the tables, right, the landings data, and you can throw that  
47 in, but it's the data that the staff have to get and then use in  
48 the analyses, and the economic analyses, in particular, I think,

1 gets complicated, and, the more you keep adding years in, you  
2 prolong the process, and so I'm just throwing that out there.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Mara. Susan.

5

6 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, I mean, I just sat here and calculated, from  
7 2012 to 2020, and I didn't go back and add 2020 and 2021, but  
8 the sector, as a whole, on average, has landed -- Or not the  
9 sector, but the stock as a whole -- Right at 59 percent has been  
10 landed, and so an overage is not something I am real concerned  
11 about in the immediate future.

12

13 I mean, I don't have a lot of heartburn on your motion, Mr.  
14 McDermott, but, again, it drags out longer and longer, and, as I  
15 said, I think at the last council meeting, this council can make  
16 a change, if they decide to make a change, and I know this isn't  
17 the discussion that we're having right now, but there's a  
18 problem with king mackerel, and the commercial sector seems to  
19 be able to catch them, and so are they better fishermen than the  
20 rec sector? I don't know, and I don't think so, but there's a  
21 problem there.

22

23 To see that, this year, we've only caught, what is it, 20  
24 percent, to-date, and, I mean, there's an underlying problem  
25 here, and so I think prolonging this allocation discussion  
26 doesn't address the true problem that we have, and I don't think  
27 any of the two -- Either of the current -- Or three  
28 alternatives, I should say, are going to hurt the fishery one  
29 way or the other, because, right now, it's poor.

30

31 I mean, the only sector that's even bumping up against their  
32 quota is the commercial sector, and I'm not saying throw all the  
33 extra fish to the commercial sector, and I don't think that's  
34 the right answer either, but, to prolong this allocation issue,  
35 I don't think it helps us to get to the underlying problem,  
36 which is going to be discussions we have to have coming up soon,  
37 is what has happened in the king mackerel, and climate change,  
38 the warming waters, freshwater, algae blooms, and all those  
39 things I do think --

40

41 I think our whole Gulf reef -- Well, Gulf ecosystem is topsy-  
42 turvy right now, and I think we're going to see a lot of these  
43 kinds of changes, coming forward, and, how we address them, I  
44 don't have the answer to that, but I do think prolonging this --  
45 If we're going to prolong it, I just say do away with it,  
46 because it's not going to get any better, in any direction,  
47 allocation, the fishery itself, and so I don't know what the  
48 answer is, but those are just my two-cents' worth.



1  
2 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Dugas.

3  
4 **MR. J.D. DUGAS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not on your  
5 committee, but I do have two questions for staff. I believe  
6 that the allocation review for mackerel is every six years, and  
7 maybe it's 2025 is the next -- I think I'm saying this right,  
8 where we are forced to look at allocations, and I would like to  
9 confirm that, and then I have a second question.

10  
11 **DR. FREEMAN:** I would have to verify the year on our website,  
12 and so I can't answer right off the top of my head, but  
13 certainly that policy that the council adopted -- Yes, there is  
14 a time criteria, and I can't remember the exact wording, but it  
15 was added in that certainly the council can revisit allocations  
16 sooner, based off of input, and I believe it was something along  
17 those lines.

18  
19 **MR. DUGAS:** So we're not forced to take action, is I think what  
20 I'm understanding, and my second question is usually Alternative  
21 1 is no action, status quo, and it's usually not an alternative  
22 that we can choose, and so my question is, can Alternative 1 be  
23 chosen at this time?

24  
25 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Ryan.

26  
27 **MR. RINDONE:** Yes. A clarification, and so there's a difference  
28 here, right, and, when we do like most of the reef fish ones,  
29 and we've been looking at the reallocation for the reef fish  
30 species, we were operating in time series there where we were  
31 able to back-calibrate things.

32  
33 In the case of -- We were also dealing with though, between the  
34 recreational and commercial sectors with kingfish, you have  
35 different sizes of fish that are typically targeted and retained  
36 by each of the fleets, by a function of where and how they fish  
37 and when they do it.

38  
39 With kingfish, it doesn't really matter whether it's a  
40 recreational or a commercial fisherman, and the practice is  
41 generally the same. You're trolling for them, or jigging for  
42 them, but, either way, you're targeting hook-and-line, and,  
43 you're targeting the same fish, generally speaking, in the same  
44 areas, and so the selectivity and retention curves are  
45 indiscernibly different, and so, because of that, it doesn't  
46 make any -- Like we don't have to do any new projections or  
47 anything like that, if we're looking at different sector  
48 allocations for kingfish, because it all comes out the same.

1  
2 Also, we can't back-calibrate to the original reference period  
3 that was used for kingfish, from 1975 to 1979, because there was  
4 no formal Gulf-wide recreational data collection program at that  
5 time. The one that did exist -- Really, in 1979, it was MRFSS,  
6 and it wasn't fully implemented across the Gulf, in a consistent  
7 way, until 1981, and it continued to undergo changes all the way  
8 through 1985.

9  
10 1986 was the first year that the whole program was uniform  
11 across the Gulf, and so the reference period here that we have  
12 for kingfish -- We can't calibrate to it, but the main thing for  
13 why it doesn't make as much of a difference, and why Alternative  
14 1 is still viable, is because of the no difference in the  
15 selectivity and the retention curves, and so we don't -- It  
16 doesn't have an effect, in terms of changing what the  
17 projections would be, if you move fish to one side or the other.

18  
19 Alternative 1 though also represents what you guys have already  
20 approved in the last framework action that you did, following  
21 the SEDAR 38 update, and so Alternative 1 is a viable option to  
22 choose here, and you've already chosen it previously, in the  
23 last framework action, following the last stock assessment.

24  
25 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other discussion? Susan.

26  
27 **MS. BOGGS:** One of the things, and one of the reasons, I was  
28 really taking a hard look at maybe feeling like we needed to do  
29 something with this, because it was 2016-2017 when the  
30 commercial -- The commercial sector lost fish back to the South  
31 Atlantic, and so, you know, that was something that I took into  
32 account, that they already reached -- They bump up against their  
33 buffers, but it's because their allocation came down, because  
34 part of their allocation was moved back to the South Atlantic.

35  
36 I think there's a presentation, and I don't know that Matt is  
37 going to go through it, but it does talk about and specify all  
38 the different reasons why you can reallocate, based on our  
39 allocation policy, but that's something that I think that the  
40 council should consider, is that change that took place in 2016-  
41 2017 for the commercial sector.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right, and so we're still at a point, and,  
44 again, we can, you know, carry this over to Full Council,  
45 potentially, about the preferred, and I don't see anyone else  
46 really raising their hand, and so that might be something that  
47 we can bring up at that time, and so, Dr. Freeman, are you  
48 finished with your portion of the agenda?

1  
2 **DR. FREEMAN:** I believe so.  
3

4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you. So that will take us  
5 then to our next item, Dr. Mendez-Ferrer.  
6

7 **DRAFT FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT: MODIFICATIONS TO THE GULF OF MEXICO**  
8 **MIGRATORY KING MACKEREL GILLNET FISHING SEASON**  
9

10 **DR. MENDEZ-FERRER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Please bear with me.  
11 Daycare germs are ruthless, and so I'm a little bit out of  
12 breath. Agenda Item Number VI is Draft Framework Amendment:  
13 Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King  
14 Mackerel Gillnet Fishing Season.  
15

16 For this portion, staff will review the action that will remove  
17 the regulatory language restricting the Gulf king mackerel  
18 gillnet component from prosecuting the fishery during weekends  
19 and observed federal holidays. Due to the fast-paced nature of  
20 the fishery, representatives of the Gulf king mackerel gillnet  
21 component requested this change to enhance the efficiency and  
22 reduce the economic burden on the fishermen, and so the  
23 committee should discuss the document that we're presenting and  
24 select a preferred option, in anticipating of taking final  
25 action in early 2023.  
26

27 What we have included in the briefing book for this meeting is a  
28 Draft Chapter 1 for an abbreviated framework that would modify  
29 the language in relation to the fishing season for the gillnet  
30 component for Gulf king mackerel.  
31

32 Fishing for Gulf king mackerel with runaround gillnet is only --  
33 If we scroll down to where that Figure 1.1.1 is, it's only  
34 permissible in the Gulf Southern Zone, and so, in this zone, for  
35 the commercial sector, we have the handline and the gillnet  
36 component. The current commercial season for the gillnet  
37 component begins in January, the Tuesday after the Martin Luther  
38 King Jr. Holiday, and it is open on that first weekend following  
39 the MLK holiday, but it is closed every subsequent weekend and  
40 observed federal holiday.  
41

42 This is a small group of permitted fishermen, and there are  
43 sixteen active permits, and it's a fishery that is very fast-  
44 paced, where they have usually like spotter planes that are used  
45 to locate large schools of mackerel, which are then targeted by  
46 the fishermen, using the gillnets.  
47

48 These weekend closures were created because of the fast pace of

1 the fishery, the high catch rates, and they could be landed very  
2 rapidly, and so, in the event that the quota were to be met when  
3 federal offices and NMFS would be closed, on the weekends or  
4 observed federal holidays, and we didn't have someone in the  
5 office to be able to implement that change, but, the way that  
6 the fishery is currently prosecuted is these fishermen really  
7 know what they're catching.

8  
9 The fishery also has a post-season accountability measure, in  
10 which, if they go over the quota, then there's a payback  
11 provision, and so there's really no incentive in going over the  
12 quota, because that means that they have less fish to catch the  
13 next year.

14  
15 We received a request from representatives of the gillnet  
16 component during the April 2022 council meeting, which is why  
17 the council directed staff to work on a document to remove that  
18 language from the regulatory text, and so that's why we're  
19 bringing this document to you.

20  
21 Some of the concerns that were brought up is that, in the event  
22 that the fish were to be landed -- Right now, the closure, the  
23 weekend closure, begins on 6:00 a.m. of the Saturday, and so  
24 this does not allow time for the fleet to return from the  
25 fishing grounds and offload their fish, if they did not catch  
26 anything until Friday night, and so we have included the  
27 regulatory language in here that we would need to modify.

28  
29 If we scroll down to Table 1.1.1, here, in 1.1.1, we're  
30 including the landings from the sector. Since the  
31 implementation of the post-season accountability measure, the  
32 gillnet component has marginally exceeded their quota three  
33 times, and so, in the following table, 1.1.2, we can see that  
34 this happened in the Fishing Year 2018-2019, 2020-2021, and  
35 2021-2022.

36  
37 One thing that I do want to note is that there is a discrepancy  
38 on this document, with the landings for 2018-2019, between both  
39 tables, but we will correct for the next iteration of the  
40 document. The correct landings for that fishing year is the  
41 631,000 that you see in this table that we're showing right now.

42  
43 If we can scroll down to the purpose and need, right now, the  
44 purpose of this document is to allow the Gulf king mackerel  
45 gillnet component to continue to fish from the season start date  
46 until NMFS determines that the gillnet quota has been met, and  
47 the need is to increase the Gulf king mackerel gillnet  
48 component's efficiency and reduce economic burdens on fishermen,

1 while managing to achieve optimum yield, in accordance with the  
2 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

3  
4 I can stop here, if the committee has any edits or comments to  
5 the purpose and need. Otherwise, we can go to the two options  
6 of the different paths that we can take for this document.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Does anyone have any comments about the purpose  
9 and need? Please continue.

10  
11 **DR. MENDEZ-FERRER:** All right, and so this is kind of a  
12 different issue from what we usually hear. In this case, we're  
13 looking at a fleet that wants to be efficient and have their  
14 fishery close a little earlier, to be able to catch their fish  
15 in a more fast -- In faster, more efficient way, and I should  
16 mention that many of these fishermen also prosecute stone crab  
17 and spiny lobster, and so there is no way to prosecute both of  
18 those at the same time, and gillnets take a massive amount of  
19 space in the boat, and so, once they're done with their quota  
20 for kingfish, they can proceed and continue fishing for stone  
21 crab and spiny lobster.

22  
23 The two options that we are including here is Option 1, to  
24 maintain the current weekends and federal holiday closures for  
25 the gillnet component for Gulf king mackerel, being that the  
26 gillnet component is open on the first weekend following the  
27 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, and it's closed also on weekends  
28 and observed federal holidays, or Option 2 is to remove the  
29 weekend and holiday closure for the gillnet component for Gulf  
30 king mackerel, and we can be able to provide what the codified  
31 text will look like at a later meeting, and so, right now, we're  
32 looking for direction from the committee on if we want to be  
33 able to modify this language.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Mr. Gill.

36  
37 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. **I move that the preferred**  
38 **option is Option 2.**

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Preferred option meaning -- I think it's a  
41 little premature for a preferred at this stage, when we don't  
42 have any analysis, and it's probably a simple analysis, but --

43  
44 **DR. MENDEZ-FERRER:** So we're planning to take final action in  
45 April, but one of the discussions that we had in our IPT meeting  
46 was that it would be appropriate to select a preferred.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right, and so there's a motion. There's a

1 second by C.J. While it's being put on the board, Susan.  
2  
3 **MS. BOGGS:** So the king mackerel fishery in southern Florida, is  
4 that prosecuted in state waters or federal waters? I know most  
5 of our king are caught -- Well, these days, there's no king  
6 being caught, and so never mind.  
7  
8 **DR. MENDEZ-FERRER:** Ryan, correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe  
9 it's prosecuted in both state and federal.  
10  
11 **MR. RINDONE:** The gillnet fleet? Federal waters.  
12  
13 **DR. MENDEZ-FERRER:** Federal waters.  
14  
15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other discussion on the motion? Andy.  
16  
17 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I just wanted to speak in support of the  
18 motion. I had a conversation with Bill Kelly, months ago, about  
19 this very issue, and I think this makes a lot of sense, and this  
20 is somewhat outdated, given how we used to collect landings  
21 statistics, and we have a very close relationship with industry  
22 members, the gillnet fishermen, and get reports regularly, in  
23 terms of their landings. Even though they've had some overage  
24 in recent years, they have a payback provision, and so I would  
25 support the motion.  
26  
27 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other discussion on the motion? **Seeing**  
28 **none, is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing no**  
29 **opposition, the motion carries.** That takes us -- Dr. Mendez-  
30 Ferrer, anything else?  
31  
32 **DR. MENDEZ-FERRER:** No, and that's it. For the next time that  
33 we bring this to the committee, we will be bringing Chapters 2  
34 and 3, which have the analyses, so that we can go over that, and  
35 hopefully go to final action, and then, that way, it will be  
36 implemented for 2024.  
37  
38 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. That takes us then to the final  
39 item on the agenda, Other Business, and there wasn't any, as I  
40 recall, when we opened up the committee, and is there anyone  
41 else that has any other business at this time? Susan.  
42  
43 **MS. BOGGS:** It's not other business, but, based on the motion  
44 that Mr. McDermott made, with discussion of Amendment 33, will  
45 we hold off on discussing public hearings, or what to do with  
46 that, until full committee?  
47  
48 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Simmons.

1  
2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and so I  
3 think we really need to select a preferred alternative, before  
4 we go out to public hearings, and we do need to do that at Full  
5 Council, hopefully, and then decide what type of hearings you  
6 would like to have.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. I don't see any other hands up, and  
9 so, Mr. Chair, that concludes the Mackerel Committee.

10  
11 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on October 24, 2022.)

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13 - - -