

Modifications to Commercial King Mackerel Gillnet Trip Limits, Accountability Measures, and Electronic Reporting Requirements, and Elimination of Latent Gillnet Endorsements in the Gulf of Mexico



DECISION DOCUMENT Framework Amendment Three to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic

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MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Action 1: Modify the Commercial King Mackerel Gillnet Trip Limit

Alternative 1: No Action – Do not modify the commercial king mackerel gillnet trip limit of 25,000 pounds per day.

Alternative 2: Modify the commercial king mackerel gillnet daily trip limit:

Option 2a: Increase the trip limit to 35,000 pounds (**Gulf CMP AP Preferred**)

Option 2b: Increase the trip limit to 45,000 pounds

Option 2c: Remove the trip limit for the commercial king mackerel gillnet component of the fishery

Alternative 3: Establish a buffer to the trip limit to account for landings uncertainty. This buffer can be in addition to the trip limit. Fishermen may profit from the sale of all king mackerel landed up to the trip limit, but will not be considered to have exceeded the trip limit unless the selected buffer has also been exceeded. Fishermen may not profit from the sale of any fish in excess of the trip limit. All king mackerel landed by vessels with gillnet endorsements, regardless of whether the trip limit has been exceeded, will count against that year's Gulf Southern Zone gillnet quota.

Option 3a: Establish a 5% buffer

Option 3b: Establish a 10% buffer

Option 3c: Establish a 20% buffer

Note: *The Gulf Council's CMP Advisory Panel (AP) recommended moving Alternative 3 of Action 1 to Considered but Rejected.*

Action 2: Modify Accountability Measures for the Gillnet Component of the Commercial King Mackerel Fishery

Alternative 1: No Action – Do not modify accountability measures for the gillnet component of the commercial king mackerel fishery.

Alternative 2: Establish a payback provision for the gillnet component of the commercial king mackerel fishery, whereby the weight of any fish landed by a vessel with a gillnet endorsement in excess of the trip limit is deducted from the following year's Southern Zone Gillnet ACL. The NMFS will monitor the landings and make any necessary adjustments to the subsequent year's Southern Zone Gillnet ACL. The ACT (if established) will be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

Alternative 3: Establish an annual catch target (ACT) for the Gulf of Mexico gillnet component of the commercial king mackerel fishery that is below the annual catch limit. The gillnet component of the commercial king mackerel fishery will be closed when the ACT is met or projected to be met.

Option 3a: ACT is equal to 95% of the ACL (**Gulf CMP AP Preferred**)

Option 3b: ACT is equal to 90% of the ACL

Option 3c: ACT is equal to 80% of the ACL

Option 3d: ACT is based on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's ACL/ACT Control Rule

Option 3e: If the gillnet component of the commercial king mackerel fishery does not land its quota in a given year, then the amount of any landings under the quota will be added to the following year's quota, up to but not exceeding the annual catch limit. (**Gulf CMP AP Preferred**)

Alternative 4: If the Southern Zone gillnet ACL is exceeded in a year, NMFS would reduce the Southern Zone gillnet ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT (if established) will be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

Option a. Payback regardless of stock status

Option b. Payback only if the Gulf king mackerel stock is overfished

Note: *Currently, the ACL = ABC in the Gulf of Mexico king mackerel fishery. Establishing an ACT in Alternative 3 provides a buffer between the quota and the ACL/ABC, making Alternative 5 a possibility. Alternative 5 is not feasible without Alternative 3 or 4.*

Note: *The Gulf CMP AP recommended moving Alternative 2 of Action 2 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.*

Action 3: Modify Electronic Reporting Requirements for Dealers Receiving King Mackerel Harvested by Gillnet in the Gulf Southern Zone

Alternative 1: No Action – Do not modify electronic reporting requirements for commercial king mackerel gillnet dealers. Dealers reporting purchases of king mackerel landed by the gillnet sector for the Gulf Southern Zone must submit forms daily to the electronic reporting system supported by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center by 6:00 a.m. local time. If no king mackerel landed by gillnet were received the previous day, a no landings report must be submitted by the same deadline.

Alternative 2: Remove the requirement for *daily* electronic reporting by commercial king mackerel gillnet dealers. Dealers reporting purchases of king mackerel landed by the gillnet sector for the Gulf Southern Zone must submit forms *weekly* for trips landing between Sunday and Saturday to the electronic reporting system supported by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center by 11:59 p.m. local time on the following Tuesday. If no king mackerel landed by gillnet were received the previous day, a no landings report must be submitted by the same deadline.

Alternative 3: Remove the requirement for *daily electronic* reporting by commercial king mackerel gillnet dealers. Dealers reporting purchases of king mackerel landed by the gillnet sector for the Gulf Southern Zone must report *daily via means determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service* (NMFS) during the open fishing season. Reporting frequency, methods, and deadlines may be modified upon notification by NMFS. If no king mackerel landed by gillnet were received the previous day, a no landings report must be submitted by the same deadline. In addition, dealers reporting purchases of king mackerel landed by the gillnet sector for the Gulf Southern Zone must submit forms *weekly* from trips landing between Sunday and Saturday to the electronic reporting system supported by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center by 11:59 p.m. local time on the following Tuesday. **(Gulf CMP AP Preferred)**

Action 4: Elimination of Inactive Commercial King Mackerel Gillnet Endorsements

Alternative 1: No Action – Maintain all current requirements for renewing commercial king mackerel gillnet endorsements.

Alternative 2: Allow commercial king mackerel gillnet endorsements to be renewed only if *average landings* during 2006-2015 were greater than **x** lbs. Gillnet endorsements that do not qualify will be non-renewable and non-transferable.

Alternative 3: Allow commercial king mackerel gillnet endorsements to be renewed only if *landings for a single year* during 2006-2015 were greater than **x** lbs. Gillnet endorsements that do not qualify will be non-renewable and non-transferable.

IPT Note: *The Council should choose a qualifying threshold based on Table 2.4.1.*

IPT Note: *The time period can be changed; however, the numbers in Table 2.4.1 would not change.*

Note: *The Gulf CMP AP recommended moving Action 4 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.*