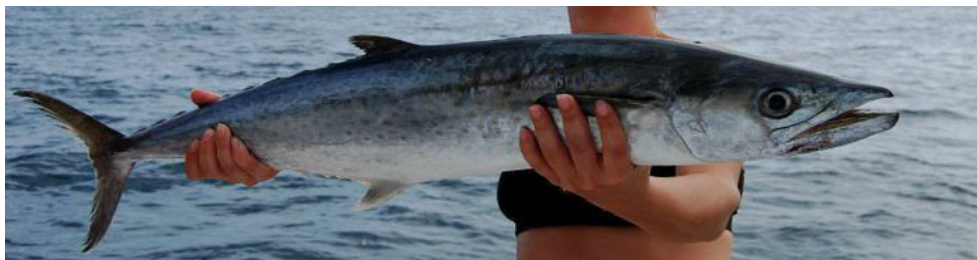




AMENDMENT GUIDE

11/2/11



Amendment 18 - Coastal Migratory Pelagics



Provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require regional fishery management councils to develop annual catch limits and accountability measures for managed species by 2010 for species subject to overfishing and by 2011 for all other species to ensure that overfishing does not occur

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A Guide to this Guide

Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fishery Management Plan was approved by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council in August 2011. The following is a summary of the actions contained within the amendment. The Council's selected alternative for each action is highlighted in yellow.

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[Introduction to Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fisheries Management Plan](#)

The Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management plan is a joint plan of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. King mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia are the species managed under this plan. Bluefish, cero, little tunny, and dolphin were part of the management plan, but Amendment 18 removes those species from management.

The Councils prepared Amendment 18 to bring the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and be consistent with best available science and current management practices.

The Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006 contains requirements to end and prevent overfishing through the use of Annual Catch Limits (ACLs), Annual Catch Targets (ACTs), and optionally, Accountability Measures (AMs). An Annual Catch Limit is the amount of fish from a stock or stock complex that can be caught in a year. Accountability Measures are measures taken to prevent fish harvest from exceeding Annual Catch Limits, and, if exceeded, can mitigate or correct the overage. According to National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, implementation of Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures must begin by 2010 for fish stocks subject to overfishing, and by the end of 2011 for all other stocks under federal management (with certain exceptions).

Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan addresses the establishment of Annual Catch Limits, Accountability Measures, and possible Annual Catch Targets for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia; considers modifications to the framework procedure contained within the amendment; defines management units for cobia; and considers modifications to the fish species managed in the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan.

Summary of Actions & Alternatives Affecting the Gulf of Mexico

Modifications to the Fishery Management Unit

In this action the Council considers whether to retain bluefish, cero, little tunny, and dolphin in the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan. While these species had been included in the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan, the Council has never managed their harvest. With the exception of dolphin, landings for these stocks have been low in recent years and most are recreational. If bluefish, cero, little tunny, and dolphin are retained as part of the management plan, the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures to be implemented for each stock. Removal of these species from management eliminates the need for Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures.

Action 1: Modifications to the Fishery Management Unit

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain the following species in the Fishery Management Plan for data collection purposes only, but do not add them to the Fishery Management Unit: cero, little tunny, dolphin (Gulf only), and bluefish (Gulf only).

Alternative 2: Add the following species to the Fishery Management Unit and set Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures:

Option a: Cero

Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region.

Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region.

Option b: Little tunny

Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region.

Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region.

Option c: Dolphin (In the Gulf of Mexico region only).

Option d: Bluefish (In the Gulf of Mexico region only).

Alternative 3: Remove the following species from the Fishery Management Plan:

Option a: Cero

Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region.

Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region.

Option b: Little tunny

Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region.

Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region.

Option c: Dolphin

Suboption i: In the Gulf of Mexico region.

Suboption ii: In the South Atlantic region.

Option d: Bluefish (In the Gulf of Mexico region only).

Modify the Framework Procedure

This action considers changing the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fishery Management Plan to incorporate the stock assessment (SEDAR) process; make adjustments to Annual Catch Limits; and revise some of the other generic procedures contained within the framework.

The Council addresses fishery management issues through management plans, plan amendments, temporary rules, or framework actions.

Framework actions are used for making changes to fishery management plans that are equipped with a framework procedure. Framework procedures are a standardized way to implement management measures that are relevant to the provisions already included in a fishery management plan.

Action 2: Modify the Framework Procedure

Alternative 1. No Action – Do not modify the framework procedure.

Alternative 2. Update the framework procedure to incorporate the SEDAR process and adjustments to Annual Catch Limits .

Alternative 3. Revise the framework procedure to incorporate the SEDAR process and adjustments to ACLs, and expand the procedure to allow adjustments of greater range of management measures under specific procedural guidelines.

Option a: Adopt the base Framework Procedure.

Option b: Adopt the more broad Framework Procedure.

Option c: Adopt the more narrow Framework Procedure.

Establish Separate Atlantic and Gulf Migratory Groups of Cobia

The Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fishery Management Plan considered cobia as a single stock in the Gulf and Atlantic, which was jointly managed by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils. Many scientific studies found that, despite genetic similarity between Atlantic and Gulf cobia, distinct differences in life history, such as maximum age and growth rates, exist between the two migratory groups. In this action the Council considers separating the two migratory groups of cobia.

Alternative 3:

	Option 1 (Base) (Preferred)	Option 2 (Broad)	Option 3 (Narrow)
Types of framework processes	Open abbreviated Open standard Closed	Open Closed	Open Closed
When open framework can be used	New stock assessment New information or circumstances When changes are required to comply with applicable law or a court order	In response to any new information or changed circumstances	Only when there is a new stock assessment
Actions that can be taken	Abbreviated Open framework can be used for actions that are considered minor and insignificant Standard Open framework used for all others Lists of actions that can be taken under Abbreviated and Standard Open framework are given. Closed framework can be used for a specific list of actions	Open framework can be used for a representative list of actions, plus other measures deemed appropriate by the Councils Closed framework can be used for a specific list of actions, plus any other immediate action specified in the regulations	Open framework can only be used for specific listed actions Closed framework can only be used for a specific list of actions
Public input	Requires public discussion at one meeting for each Council	Requires public discussion at one meeting for each Council	Requires public discussion during at least three meetings for each Council, and discussion at separate public hearings within the areas most affected by the proposed measures.
AP/SSC participation	Each Council may convene their SSC, SEP, or AP, as appropriate	Convening the SSC, SEP, or AP, prior to final action is not required	Each Council shall convene their SSC, SEP, and AP
How a request of action is made	Abbreviated requires a letter or memo from the Councils with supporting analyses Standard requires a completed framework document with supporting analyses	Via letter, memo, or the completed framework document with supporting analyses.	Via letter, memo, or completed framework document with supporting analyses.

Action 3: Establish Separate Atlantic and Gulf Migratory Groups of Cobia

Alternative 1. No action - Maintain one group of cobia.

Alternative 2. Separate the two migratory groups at the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line.

Alternative 3. Separate the two migratory groups at the SAFMC/GMFMC boundary.

Action 4: Set Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule for Gulf group Cobia

National Standard 1 in the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that fisheries management plans contain an Acceptable Biological Catch control rule. This control rule is a specific approach to setting the Acceptable Biological Catch limit for a stock based on the scientific uncertainty that exists in the assessment of that stock.

Alternative 1. No Action – Do not establish an ABC Control Rule.

Alternative 2. Adopt the Gulf Council's Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule.
[The SSC used Tier 3a to set ABC at 1.46 mp]

Alternative 3. Adopt a control rule that sets Acceptable Biological Catch = yield corresponding $0.75 \times \text{FMSY}$ when the stock is at equilibrium for Gulf group cobia [currently estimated at 1.45 MP] (This is the current definition of OY.)

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's standard Acceptable Biological Catch control rule is as follows:

Tier 1 Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use	A quantitative assessment provides both an estimate of overfishing limit based on maximum sustainable yield or its proxy and a probability density function of overfishing limit that reflects scientific uncertainty. Specific components of scientific uncertainty can be evaluated through a risk determination table.
OFL	OFL = yield resulting from applying F_{MSY} or its proxy to estimated biomass.
ABC	The Council with advice from the SSC will set an appropriate level of risk (P^*) using a risk determination table that calculates a P^* based on the level of information and uncertainty in the stock assessment. ABC = yield at P^* .
Tier 2 Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use*	An assessment exists but does not provide an estimate of MSY or its proxy. Instead, the assessment provides a measure of overfishing limit based on alternative methodology. Additionally, a probability density function can be calculated to estimate scientific uncertainty in the model-derived overfishing limit measure. This density function can be used to approximate the probability of exceeding the overfishing limit, thus providing a buffer between the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch.
OFL	An overfishing limit measure is available from alternative methodology.
ABC	Calculate a probability density function around the overfishing limit measure that accounts for scientific uncertainty. The buffer between the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch will be based on that probability density function and the level of risk of exceeding the overfishing limit selected by the Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Risk of exceeding OFL = 45% b. Risk of exceeding OFL = 35% c. Risk of exceeding OFL = 25% (default level for unassigned stocks) d. Risk of exceeding OFL = 15% Set ABC = OFL – buffer at risk of exceeding OFL
Tier 3a Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use*	No assessment is available, but landings data exist. The probability of exceeding the overfishing limit in a given year can be approximated from the variance about the mean of recent landings to produce a buffer between the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch. Based on expert evaluation of the best scientific information available, recent historical landings are without trend, landings are small relative to stock biomass, or the stock is unlikely to undergo overfishing if future landings are equal to or moderately higher than the mean of recent landings. For stock complexes, the determination of whether a stock complex is in Tier 3a or 3b will be made using all the information available, including stock specific catch trends.
OFL	Set the overfishing limit equal to the mean of recent landings plus two standard deviations. A time series of at least ten years is recommended to compute the mean of recent landings, but a different number of years may be used to attain a representative level of variance in the landings.
ABC	Set acceptable biological catch using a buffer from the overfishing limit that represents an acceptable level of risk due to scientific uncertainty. The buffer will be predetermined for each stock or stock complex by the Council with advice from the SSC as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ABC = mean of the landings plus 1.5 * standard deviation (risk of exceeding OFL = 31%) b. ABC = mean of the landings plus 1.0 * standard deviation (default) (risk of exceeding OFL = 16%) c. ABC = mean of the landings plus 0.5 * standard deviation (risk of exceeding OFL = 7%) d. ABC = mean of the landings (risk of exceeding OFL = 2.3%)

Tier 3b Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use ^{Note 1}	No assessment is available, but landings data exist. Based on expert evaluation of the best scientific information available, recent landings may be unsustainable.
OFL	Set the overfishing limit equal to the mean of landings. A time series of at least ten years is recommended to compute the mean of recent landings, but a different number of years may be used to attain a representative level of variance in the landings.
ABC	Set an acceptable biological catch using a buffer from the overfishing limit that represents an acceptable level of risk due to scientific uncertainty. The buffer will be predetermined for each stock or stock complex by the Council with advice from its SSC as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ABC = 100% of OFL ABC = 85% of OFL ABC = 75% of OFL (default level for unassigned stocks) ABC = 65% of OFL
Tier 1 Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use	A quantitative assessment provides both an estimate of overfishing limit based on maximum sustainable yield or its proxy and a probability density function of overfishing limit that reflects scientific uncertainty. Specific components of scientific uncertainty can be evaluated through a risk determination table.
OFL	OFL = yield resulting from applying F_{MSY} or its proxy to estimated biomass.
ABC	The Council with advice from the SSC will set an appropriate level of risk (P^*) using a risk determination table that calculates a P^* based on the level of information and uncertainty in the stock assessment. $ABC = \text{yield at } P^*$.
Tier 2 Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use*	An assessment exists but does not provide an estimate of MSY or its proxy. Instead, the assessment provides a measure of overfishing limit based on alternative methodology. Additionally, a probability density function can be calculated to estimate scientific uncertainty in the model-derived overfishing limit measure. This density function can be used to approximate the probability of exceeding the overfishing limit, thus providing a buffer between the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch.
OFL	An overfishing limit measure is available from alternative methodology.
ABC	Calculate a probability density function around the overfishing limit measure that accounts for scientific uncertainty. The buffer between the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch will be based on that probability density function and the level of risk of exceeding the overfishing limit selected by the Council. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of exceeding OFL = 45% Risk of exceeding OFL = 35% Risk of exceeding OFL = 25% (default level for unassigned stocks) Risk of exceeding OFL = 15% Set $ABC = OFL - \text{buffer at risk of exceeding OFL}$
Tier 3a Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use*	No assessment is available, but landings data exist. The probability of exceeding the overfishing limit in a given year can be approximated from the variance about the mean of recent landings to produce a buffer between the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch. Based on expert evaluation of the best scientific information available, recent historical landings are without trend, landings are small relative to stock biomass, or the stock is unlikely to undergo overfishing if future landings are equal to or moderately higher than the mean of recent landings. For stock complexes, the determination of whether a stock complex is in Tier 3a or 3b will be made using all the information available, including stock specific catch trends.

OFL	Set the overfishing limit equal to the mean of recent landings plus two standard deviations. A time series of at least ten years is recommended to compute the mean of recent landings, but a different number of years may be used to attain a representative level of variance in the landings.
ABC	Set acceptable biological catch using a buffer from the overfishing limit that represents an acceptable level of risk due to scientific uncertainty. The buffer will be predetermined for each stock or stock complex by the Council with advice from the SSC as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ABC = mean of the landings plus 1.5 * standard deviation (risk of exceeding OFL = 31%) ABC = mean of the landings plus 1.0 * standard deviation (default) (risk of exceeding OFL = 16%) ABC = mean of the landings plus 0.5 * standard deviation (risk of exceeding OFL = 7%) ABC = mean of the landings (risk of exceeding OFL = 2.3%)
Tier 3b Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use ^{Note 1}	No assessment is available, but landings data exist. Based on expert evaluation of the best scientific information available, recent landings may be unsustainable.
OFL	Set the overfishing limit equal to the mean of landings. A time series of at least ten years is recommended to compute the mean of recent landings, but a different number of years may be used to attain a representative level of variance in the landings.
ABC	Set acceptable biological catch using a buffer from the overfishing limit that represents an acceptable level of risk due to scientific uncertainty. The buffer will be predetermined for each stock or stock complex by the Council with advice from its SSC as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ABC = 100% of OFL ABC = 85% of OFL ABC = 75% of OFL (default level for unassigned stocks) ABC = 65% of OFL

Action 5.1: Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Gulf Group Cobia

National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that Annual Catch Limits be set for stocks managed by the regional Councils. An Annual Catch Limit is the amount of fish that is allowed to be caught each year from a fish stock.

Alternative 1. No action – Do not set an Annual Catch Limit for Gulf group cobia.

Alternative 2. Set ACL = ABC for Gulf group cobia. [1.46 mp based on preferred ABC]

Option a. Set a single stock Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on current average percent of catches for the period 2000 through 2009.

Alternative 3: Set ACL = 90% of ABC for Gulf group cobia. [1.31 mp based on preferred Acceptable Biological Catch]

Option a. Set a single stock Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch

Limits based on current average percent of catches for the period 2000 through 2009.

Alternative 4: Set ACL = 75% of ABC for Gulf group cobia. [1.10 mp based on preferred Acceptable Biological Catch]

Option a. Set a single stock Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch

Limits based on current average percent of catches for the period 2000 through 2009.

Action 5.2: Set Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Gulf Group Cobia

An Annual Catch Target is an allowable harvest level that can be set by the Council to account for any management uncertainty that may occur. Annual Catch Target is set lower than the Annual Catch Limit to create a buffer so that harvest does not exceed the Annual Catch Limit and trigger Accountability Measures.

Alternative 1. No action – Do not set Annual Catch Target for Gulf group cobia.

Alternative 2. Set ACT = 90% of ACL for Gulf group cobia. [1.31 mp based on preferred ACL]

Option a. Set a single stock Annual Catch Target.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Targets based on current average percent of catches for the period 2000 through 2009.

Alternative 3. Set ACT = 85% of ACL for Gulf group cobia. [1.24 mp based on preferred Annual Catch Limit]

Option a. Set a single stock Annual Catch Target.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Targets based on current average percent of catches for the period 2000 through 2009.

Action 6: Set Accountability Measures (AMs) for Gulf Group Cobia

Accountability Measures are designed to prevent annual harvest levels from exceeding Annual Catch Limits, and if exceeded, they correct or mitigate any overages. National Standard 1 defines two types of Accountability Measures; in-season measures that are designed to reduce the chances of exceeding Annual Catch Limits, and post-season measures that address overages after they have occurred.

Note: Council can choose more than one alternative and option.

Alternative 1. No Action.

Option a. Commercial - The Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the bag/possession limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

Option b. Recreational - The Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the bag possession limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

Alternative 2. Set in-season Accountability Measures for Gulf group cobia.

Option a. If the Annual Catch Target is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the fishery for the remainder of the fishing year.

Option b. If 90% of stock Annual Catch Target is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the possession limit to one fish per person per day.

Option c. When the 90% Annual Catch Target is reached, that the possession limit be reduced to one fish per person per day until the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) is reached. Once the Annual Catch Limit is reached, the fishery would be closed.

Alternative 3. Set post-season Accountability Measures for Gulf group cobia.

Option a. Payback - If the Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the Annual Catch Limit in the following year

by the amount of the overage. The Annual Catch Target would also be adjusted according to the Annual Catch Target formula in Action 5.

Option b. Possession limit reduction - If the Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the possession limit to one fish per person per day in the following year.

Option c. Shorten season - If the Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to implement temporary regulations for the following year to close the stock at a date when the stock is projected to meet its Annual Catch Target.

Option d. Trigger (can be chosen in addition to other options) - Post-season accountability measures will be triggered in 2012 if the 2011 landings exceed the Annual Catch Limit, in 2013 if the 2011-2012 average landings exceed the Annual Catch Limit, or in 2014 if the 2011-2013 average landings exceed the Annual Catch Limit, and thereafter if average landings exceed the equivalent three-year Annual Catch Limit. If in any year the Annual Catch Limit is changed, the sequence of future Annual Catch Limits will begin again starting with a single year of landings compared to the Annual Catch Limit for that year, followed by two-year average landings compared to the Annual Catch Limit in the next year, followed by a three-year average of landings Annual Catch Limit for the third year and thereafter.

Action 7: Set Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule for Gulf Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1. No Action – Do not establish an Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule.

Alternative 2. Adopt the Gulf Council's Acceptable Biological Catch Control rule. [Note: the SSC used Tier 1 to set Acceptable Biological Catch at 11.9 mp in 2012 and 10.8 mp in 2013]

Alternative 3. Adopt a control rule that sets $ABC = \text{yield at } F 85\% \text{ at } SPR30\%$.

Action 8.1: Set Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Gulf Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1. No Action - Maintain Annual Catch Limit at the current Total Allowable Catch for Gulf group king mackerel. [10.2 mp]

Alternative 2. Set ACL = ABC for Gulf group king mackerel. [11.9 mp for 2012]

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on current allocations (recreational 8.092 mp, commercial 3.808 mp).

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate Annual Catch Limits for hook-and-line and run-around gillnets (hook-and-line: 3,200,386 lb.; gillnet 607,614 lb.).

Alternative 3. Set ACL = 90% of ABC for Gulf group king mackerel. [10.7 mp for 2012]

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on current allocations.

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate Annual Catch Limits for hook-and-line and run-around gillnets.

Alternative 4. Set ACL = 85% of ABC for Gulf group king mackerel. [10.1 mp for 2012]

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on current allocations.

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate Annual Catch Limits for hook-and-line and run-around gillnets.

Alternative 5. Set ACL = 80% of ABC for Gulf group king mackerel. [9.5 mp for 2012]

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on current allocations.

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate Annual Catch Limits for hook-and-line and run-around gillnets.

Action 8.2: Set Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Alternative 1. No Action - Do not set an Annual Catch Target for Gulf group king mackerel.

Alternative 2. Set ACT = 90% of ACL for Gulf group king mackerel.

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Target.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Targets based on current allocations.

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate Annual Catch Targets by zone, subzone, and gear.

Alternative 3. Set ACT = 85% of ACL for Gulf group king mackerel.

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Target.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Targets based on current allocations.

Option c. For the commercial sector, set separate Annual Catch Targets by zone, subzone, and gear.

Action 9: Set Accountability Measures (AMs) for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

Preferred Alternative 1. No Action - Retain current in-season accountability measures (AMs) for Gulf group king mackerel.

Option a. Commercial

Suboption i. If the quota for a zone, subzone, or gear is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close that zone, subzone, or gear for the remainder of the fishing year.

Suboption ii. If 75% of quota is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the trip limit to 500 lbs per day for the northern and southern west coast Florida subzones.

Option b. Recreational - The Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the bag limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

Alternative 2. Change in-season Accountability Measures for Gulf group king mackerel.

Option a. Commercial – If the commercial quota for a zone, subzone, or gear is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the trip limit by 50% for any zone, subzone, or gear when 75% of its commercial Annual Catch Target is reached or projected to be reached.

Option b. Recreational - If 75% of the recreational allocation is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the bag limit to one.

Alternative 3. Set post-season Accountability Measures for Gulf group king mackerel.

Option a. Commercial

Suboption i. Payback - If the total commercial Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the Annual Catch Limit in the following year by the amount of the overage. The Annual Catch Target would also be adjusted according to the Annual Catch Target formula in Action 8.

Suboption ii. Payback - If the commercial Annual Catch Limit for a gear is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the Annual Catch Limit for that gear in the following year by the amount of the overage. The Annual Catch Target would also be adjusted according to the Annual Catch Target formula in Action 8.

Option b. Recreational

Suboption i. Payback - If the recreational Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file

a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the recreational Annual Catch Limit in the following year by the amount of the overage. The Annual Catch Target would also be adjusted according to the Annual Catch Target formula in Action 8.

Suboption ii. Trip limit reduction - If the Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the trip limit to one fish per person per day in the following year.

Suboption iii. Shorten season - If the recreational Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to implement temporary regulations for the following year to close the recreational sector at a date when the recreational sector is projected to meet its Annual Catch Target.

Action 10: Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule for Gulf Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1. No Action – Do not establish an Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule.

Alternative 2. Adopt the Gulf Council's Acceptable Biological Catch Control rule.

[Note: the SSC used Tier 3a to set ABC at 5.15 mp]

Alternative 3. Adopt a control rule that sets $ABC = \text{yield corresponding } 0.75 * FMSY$ when the stock is at equilibrium for Gulf group Spanish mackerel. (This is the current definition of OY.)

Action 11.1: Set Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Gulf Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1. No Action - Maintain Annual Catch Limit at current Total Allowable Catch for Gulf group Spanish mackerel. [9.1 mp]

Alternative 2. Set $ACL = ABC$ for Gulf group Spanish mackerel. [5.15 mp based on preferred ABC]

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on current allocations (57% commercial = 2.94 mp, 43% recreational = 2.21 mp).

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on recent landings.

Alternative 3. Set ACL = 90% of ABC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel. [4.64 mp based on preferred ABC]

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on current allocations (57% commercial = 2.64 mp, 43% recreational = 1.99 mp).

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on recent landings.

Alternative 4. Set ACL = 75% of ABC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel. [3.86 mp based on preferred ABC]

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Limit.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on current allocations. (57% commercial = 2.20 mp, 43% recreational = 1.66 mp)

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Limits based on recent landings.

Action 11.2: Set Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Gulf Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1. No Action – Do not set an Annual Catch Target for Gulf group Spanish mackerel.

Alternative 2. Set ACT = 90% of ACL for Gulf group Spanish mackerel.

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Target.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Targets based on current allocations (57% commercial, 43% recreational).

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Targets based on recent landings.

Alternative 3. Set ACT = 85% of ACL for Gulf group Spanish mackerel.

Option a. Set a single Annual Catch Target.

Option b. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Targets based on current allocations (57% commercial, 43% recreational).

Option c. Set separate commercial and recreational Annual Catch Targets based on recent landings.

Alternative 4. Set $ACT = OY$ at $75\% F_{MSY}$.

Action 12: Set Accountability Measures (AMs) for Gulf Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

Alternative 1. No Action - Retain current in-season Accountability Measures (AMs) for Gulf group Spanish mackerel.

Option a. Commercial – If the quota ($= ACL \times \text{commercial allocation}$) is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year.

Option b. Recreational - The Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the bag limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

Alternative 2. In-season Accountability Measures for Gulf group Spanish mackerel.

Option a. If the stock Annual Catch Limit is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the fishery for the remainder of the fishing year.

Option b. If 75% of the stock Annual Catch Limit is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to implement a 3,500 lb. commercial trip limit and reduce the recreational bag limit.

Alternative 3. Set post-season Accountability Measures for Gulf group Spanish mackerel.

Option a. Payback - If the stock Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the stock Annual Catch Limit in the following year by the amount of the overage.

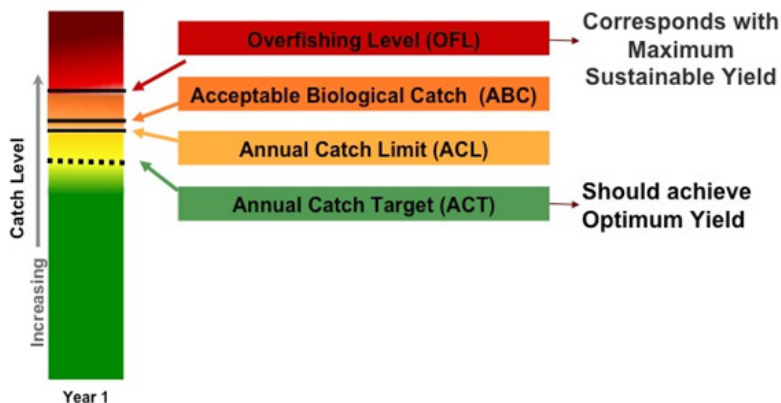
Option b. Trip limit reduction - If the stock Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to implement a 3,500-lb. trip limit and reduce the recreational bag limit to xx fish per person per day in the following year.

Option c. Shorten season - If the stock Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to implement temporary regulations for the following year to close the fishery at a date when the stock is projected to meet its Annual Catch Limit.

Option d. Trigger (can be chosen in addition to other options) - Post-season accountability measures will be triggered in 2012 if the 2011 landings exceed the Annual Catch Limit, in 2013 if the 2011-2012 average landings exceed the Annual Catch Limit, or in 2014 if the 2011-2013 average landings exceed the Annual Catch Limit, and thereafter if average landings exceed the equivalent three-year Annual Catch Limit. If in any year the Annual Catch Limit is changed, the sequence of future Annual Catch Limits will begin again starting with a single year of landings compared to the Annual Catch Limit for that year, followed by two-year average landings compared to the Annual Catch Limit in the next year, followed by a three-year average of landings Annual Catch Limit for the third year and thereafter.



A quick overview of terms contained within the amendment:



Overfishing Level - the threshold that allows for the greatest possible harvest of fish without compromising the health of the stock.

Maximum Sustainable Yield - the largest amount of fish that can be taken from a stock without compromising the stock's ability to reproduce and maintain a healthy biomass into the future.

Acceptable Biological Catch - the amount of fish that can be removed from a stock, as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee is set lower than the over fishing limit to account for scientific uncertainty and natural fluctuations in stock size.

Annual Catch Limit - the amount of fish that can be harvested from the stock each year, must be set less than or equal to the acceptable biological catch determined by the scientific and statistical committee. If annual catch limits are exceeded accountability measures are triggered.

Annual Catch Target - a harvest level set by the Council if they deem it necessary. Set lower than the annual catch limit to account for any management uncertainty that may occur, and it creates a buffer so that harvest does not exceed annual catch limit and trigger accountability measures.

Optimum Yield - based on maximum sustainable yield as modified by economic, social, or ecological factors, is the yield from a fishery that provides the greatest overall benefit to the nation.



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