



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100

Tampa, Florida 33607 USA

Phone: 813.348.1630 • Toll free: 888.833.1844 • Fax: 813.348.1711

www.gulfcouncil.org

July 1, 2016

Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D., Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Dr.
Miami, Florida 33149

Dr. Ponwith:

At its June 2016 meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) requested that the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) provide the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) with updated overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) yield streams for Gulf migratory group king mackerel for the 2017/2018 to 2019/2020 fishing seasons. These fishing seasons were initially projected by the SEFSC for the SSC after the completion of the most recent stock assessment on Gulf migratory group king mackerel (SEDAR 38 2014).

Over the last 15 years, the recreational sector has not landed its annual catch limit (ACL). The unharvested fish by the recreational sector has potentially resulted in projections with annually declining yield streams. The Council thinks this annual remainder may result in unnecessarily low OFL and ABC projections in the following years. Periodically updating these yield streams for Gulf king mackerel will help the Council manage this stock, and could increase fishing opportunities for Gulf fishermen. Please notify the Council of when you expect that this request can be fulfilled, and please contact the Council if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Kevin Anson
Council Chair

cc: Gulf Council
Council Staff
Adyan Rios