

Regulatory Overview of South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel

SEDAR5. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel Data Workshop

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SEDAR5-DW-3

FMP: Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

Approved: 1982 Effective Date: February 1983

Single Stock

Commercial-Recreational allocations (historic ratios, 62.9% rec, 37.1% commercial)

Commercial net and hook and line allocations (historic ratios)

Amendment 1. Implemented September 1985.

TAC Framework

Revise MSY

Establish Gulf-Atlantic Migratory Groups

Eliminate Commercial Gear Allocations

Permits and bag limits

Gulf Commercial divided into eastern and western zones

Amendment 2. July 1987

Charter Boat permits required

Require TAC for overfished stock be set below the upper bound of ABC

Prohibit purse seines for overfished stocks

Amendment 3. 1990.

Prohibit drift gill nets for coastal pelagics

Prohibit purse seines for overfished mackerels

Amendment 4. 1989.

Spanish changes

Amendment 5. 1990.

Extend management through the Mid-Atlantic FMC jurisdiction

Revise objectives

Revise Overfishing definition

SAFMC responsible for Atlantic groups TAC, GMFMC for Gulf Groups TAC

Redefined rec bag limits as daily limits

Delete provision allowing sale of bag limit

Guidelines for corporate vessel permits

Gulf group king mackerel harvest only by hook and line and run around gill net

Minimum size king mackerel 12 inch fork 14 inch total

Amendment 6. November 1992.

Modify Objectives

Establish rebuilding times

Establish Biennial assessments

Allow additional seasonal adjustments: size limit, trip limit, close season or areas, gear rest.

Gulf King stock id and allocation when appropriate

Eliminate bag limit of 0 when rec quota filled

Modify rec fishing year to calendar year

King Minimum size: 20 inches fork. All size limits to Fork.

Amendment 7. August 1994.

Eastern Zone Gulf King Commercial allocation: Miami-Dade/Monroe line, 50% Northern (Miami-Dade to Volusia) , 50% Southwestern (Monroe Co. to FL/Alabama Border)

Gear allocation: None in Northern, 50% H&L/50% net in Southwestern

Permits specify gear type

Amendment 8. March 1998.

Specify allowable gear

Moratorium on new permits

Revise permit qualifications

Allow up to 5 cut-off or damaged king mackerel on vessels with comm trip limits

Revise Frameworks

Amendment 9. April 2000.

Reallocate commercial TAC, North Area, (Florida east coast) and south/west area (FL west coast) of Eastern Zone: 46.15% North, 53. 85% South/West, retain comm-rec allocation TAC at 68% rec / 32% Comm

Subdivide Commercial hook and line king allocation, gulf group, eastern zone, south west area, into 2 subzones with a line at Collier/Lee County Line

Regional King Mackerel Commercial allocation for West Coast of FL based on 2 subzones, 7.7% of Eastern Zone allocation of TAC allowed from subzone 2 and rest (92.3%) as : 50% FL east coast, 50% FL west coast; 50% net, 50% hook and line

Trip Limit: 3000 pounds Western Zone

Gulf Group King Minimum Size: 24 inches fork length

Moratorium on commercial king mackerel gill net endorsements, reissuance under restrictions.

Allow retention and sale of cut-off (damaged) legal sized king mackerel within established trip limits.

Amendment 10. June 1999

EFH provisions

Amendment 11. Partial approval December 1999.

SFA parameters, South Atlantic

Amendment 12. October 2000

Extend commercial permit moratorium, extend until 2005.

Amendment 13. August 2002.

Establish Dry Tortugas Marine Reserves

Amendment 14. July 2002.

3 year moratorium on charter and headboat permits

ATLANTIC GROUP KING MACKEREL

Fishing Year: Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, April 1 through March 31.

Commercial Possession Limits

April 1 - March 31 NY/CT to Volusia/Flagler	3,500 pounds
April 1 - October 31 Volusia/Flagler to Brevard/Volusia	3,500 pounds
April 1 - October 31 Brevard/Volusia to Dade/Monroe	50 fish
April 1 - October 31 Monroe County	1,250 pounds

Recreational Possession Limits

Atlantic group king mackerel : 3 NY-GA, 2 FL

Permits

Commercial Permits are required. Permits are required for headboat/charter vessels to exceed the recreational possession limit during open commercial seasons.
 Moratorium on permits exists, expires in 2005.

Migratory Group Boundaries

King mackerel are divided into two migratory groups .
 the *Gulf migratory group* and
 the *Atlantic migratory group*.

They are separated by boundaries that change seasonally.

From April 1 through October 31, the boundary (summer separation) is a line extending westward into the Gulf of Mexico off southwest Florida directly from the Monroe/Collier County boundary.

From November 1 through March 31, the boundary (winter separation) which is a line extending eastward into the Atlantic off northeast Florida directly from the Volusia/Flagler County boundary.

§ 622.2 Definitions and acronyms.

Migratory group, for king and Spanish mackerel, means a group of fish that may or may not be a separate genetic stock, but that is treated as a separate stock for management purposes. King and Spanish mackerel are divided into migratory groups--the Atlantic migratory group and the Gulf migratory group. The boundaries between these groups are as follows:

(1) King mackerel--(i) Summer separation. From April 1 through October 31, the boundary separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel is 25°48' N. lat., which is a line directly west from the Monroe/Collier County, FL, boundary to the outer limit of the EEZ.

(ii) Winter separation. From November 1 through March 31, the boundary separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel is 29°25' N. lat., which is a line directly east from the Volusia/Flagler County, FL, boundary to the outer limit of the EEZ.

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL

ZONES, FLORIDA SUBZONES, AND QUOTAS

The Gulf group king mackerel fishery opens with a new quota every year on July 1. The subzone boundaries change seasonally based on the movement of the boundary that separates the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel: Collier/Monroe County line -- April 1 - October 31, Flagler/Volusia County line -- November 1 - March 31.

The Florida west coast subzone (FWCSZ) extends from the Florida/Alabama State boundary to the Collier/Monroe County boundary from April 1 - October 31, and from November 1 - March 31 to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundary. The FWCSZ has separate quotas for the 2 fisheries: hook and line (H&L) and run-around gillnet (GN).

The Florida east coast subzone (FECSZ) exists only from November 1 - March 31 annually in the Atlantic between the Flagler/Volusia County boundary to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundary.

For the 2000/2001 fishing year, the Florida west coast subzone was divided into northern (N-FWCSZ) and southern (S-FWCSZ) subzones. The southern boundary of the N-FWCSZ is located year-round at the Lee/Collier County Line. The S-FWCSZ includes Gulf waters year-round off Collier County, and Gulf and Atlantic waters off Monroe County to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line from November 1 - March 31 (CMP-FMP Amendment 9, final rule: 65 FR 16336, March 28, 2000). The N-FWCSZ has only a single quota for H&L gear. The S-FWCSZ has separate quotas for the H&L and GN fisheries.

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL COMMERCIAL QUOTAS

<u>ZONE/SUBZONE</u>	<u>QUOTA (POUNDS)</u>	<u>SEASON BEGINS</u>
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,250,000	
East Coast Subzone	1,040,625	Nov 1, 2003
West Coast Subzones	1,209,375	
<u>Northern</u>		
Hook and Line	168,750	July 1, 2003
<u>Southern</u>		
Hook and Line	520,312	July 1, 2003
Gillnet	520,312	Jan 21, 2004
WESTERN ZONE (Texas - Alabama)	1,010,00	July 1, 2003
Hook and Line		

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL COMMERCIAL TRIP LIMIT CHANGES

Definition: Commercial trip limits are limits on the amount of the applicable species that may be possessed on board or landed, purchased, or sold from a vessel per day.

Gulf Group King Mackerel

For hook-and-line fisheries in the Florida west and east coast subzones:

Northern and Southern Florida west coast subzones

The trip limit for commercial vessels will be reduced from 1,250 pounds/day to 500 pounds/day of king mackerel when 75 percent of the subzone's quotas are reached.

Florida east coast subzone,

The trip limit will be increased from 50 fish to 75 fish on February 1 if less than 75 percent of the Florida east coast subzone quota has been harvested, otherwise the trip limit will remain at 50 fish until the season ends on March 31.

§ 622.44 Commercial trip limits.

Commercial trip limits are limits on the amount of the applicable species that may be possessed on board or landed, purchased, or sold from a vessel per day....

(a) King mackerel--(1) Atlantic group...

(2) Gulf group. Commercial trip limits are established in the eastern and western zones as follows. (See § 622.42(c)(1)(i) for specification of the eastern and western zones and § 622.42(c)(1)(i)(A)(3) for specifications of the subzones in the eastern zone.)

(ii) Eastern zone-Florida west coast subzone--(A) Gillnet gear. (1) In the southern

(B) Hook-and-line gear. In the Florida west coast subzone, king mackerel in or from the EEZ may be possessed on board or landed from a vessel with a commercial permit for king mackerel, as required by § 622.4(a)(2)(iii), and operating under the hook-and-line gear quotas in § 622.42(c)(1)(i)(A)(2)(i) or (c)(1)(i)(A)(2)(ii):

(1) From July 1, each fishing year, until 75 percent of the respective **northern** or southern subzone's hook-and-line gear quota has been harvested--in amounts not exceeding 1,250 lb (567 kg) per day.

(2) From the date that 75 percent of the respective **northern** or southern subzone's hook-and-line gear quota has been harvested, until a closure of the respective **northern** or southern subzone's fishery for vessels fishing with hook-and-line gear has been effected under § 622.43(a)--in amounts not exceeding 500 lb (227 kg) per day.

(iii) Notice of trip limit changes. The Assistant Administrator, by filing a notification of trip limit change with the Office of the Federal Register, will effect the trip limit changes specified in paragraphs (a)(2)(i) and (a)(2)(ii)(B) of this section when the requisite harvest level has been reached or is projected to be reached.

§ 622.43 Closures.

(a) General. When a quota specified in § 622.42 is reached, or is projected to be reached, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification to that effect with the Office of the Federal Register. On and after the effective date of such notification, for the remainder of the fishing year, the following closure restrictions apply:

(1)...

(3) King and Spanish mackerel. The closure provisions of this paragraph (a)(3) do not apply to Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel, which are managed under the commercial trip limits specified in § 622.44(b) in lieu of the closure provisions of this section.

(i) A person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for king or Spanish mackerel has been issued, as required under § 622.4(a)(2)(iii) or (iv), may not fish for king or Spanish mackerel in the EEZ or retain king or Spanish mackerel in or from the EEZ under a bag or possession limit specified in § 622.39(c) for the closed species, migratory group, zone, subzone, or gear, except as provided for under paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this section.

(ii) A person aboard a vessel for which valid charter vessel/headboat permits for Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish or South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic fish and a valid commercial vessel permit for king or Spanish mackerel have been issued may continue to retain fish under a bag and possession limit specified in § 622.39(c), provided the vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat.

(iii) The sale or purchase of king or Spanish mackerel of the closed species, migratory group, zone, subzone, or gear type is prohibited, including such king or Spanish mackerel taken under the bag limits.

(4)...

(b)Exception on sale/purchase. (1) The prohibition on sale/purchase during a closure for Gulf reef fish, king and Spanish mackerel, royal red shrimp, greater amberjack, or wreckfish in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(3)(iii), (a)(4), (a)(5)(i), or (a)(6) of this section does not apply to the indicated species that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

(2) The prohibition on sale/purchase during a closure for allowable octocoral in paragraph (a)(2) of this section does not apply to allowable octocoral that was harvested and landed ashore prior to the effective date of the closure.

(c) Reopening. When a fishery has been closed based on a projection of the quota specified in § 622.42 being reached and subsequent data indicate that the quota was not reached, the Assistant Administrator may file a notification to that effect with the Office of the Federal Register. Such notification may reopen the fishery to provide an opportunity for the quota to be reached.

Excerpt, Amendment 15 Draft, regarding SFA parameters

4. **Overfished and Overfishing:**

- a. **Gulf group king mackerel stocks in the Gulf of Mexico will be considered overfished if the probability that B_{current} is less than MSST is greater than 50%. The minimum stock size threshold (MSST) is defined as $(1-M)*B_{\text{MSY}}$ or 80% of B_{MSY} . Gulf group Spanish mackerel stocks and cobia stocks in the Gulf of Mexico will be considered overfished if the probability that B_{current} is less than MSST is greater than 50%. The minimum stock size threshold (MSST) is defined as $(1-M)*B_{\text{MSY}}$ or 70% of B_{MSY} . ~~A mackerel stock or migratory group is considered to be overfished when the biomass is reduced below the MSST.~~**
- b. The South Atlantic Council's target level or OY is 40 percent static SPR. The Gulf Council's target level or optimum yield (OY) is **the yield corresponding to a fishing mortality rate (F_{OY}) defined as: $F_{\text{OY}}=0.85*F_{\text{MSY}}$ when the stock is at equilibrium for Gulf group king mackerel and the yield corresponding to a fishing mortality rate (F_{OY}) defined as: $F_{\text{OY}}=0.75*F_{\text{MSY}}$ when the stock is at equilibrium for Gulf group Spanish mackerel and cobia** ~~30 percent static SPR. ABC is calculated based on both MSY (defined for Gulf group king and Spanish mackerel as the yield associated with $F_{30\%}$ SPR when the stock is at equilibrium and the yield associated with F_{MSY} when the stock is at equilibrium for cobia) and OY the target level or optimum yield (SAFMC = 40 percent static SPR and GMFMC = 30 percent static SPR).~~
- c. When a stock or migratory group is overfished (biomass is below MSST), a rebuilding program that makes consistent progress towards restoring stock condition must be implemented and continued until the stock is restored to B_{MSY} ~~MSY~~. The rebuilding program must be designed to achieve recovery within an acceptable time frame consistent with the National Standard Guidelines, and as specified by the Councils. The Councils will continue to rebuild the stock above MSY until the stock is restored to the management target (OY) if different from MSY.
- d. ~~When a stock or migratory group is not overfished,~~ The act of overfishing is defined as MFMT = F_{MSY} . **The Gulf group king mackerel, Gulf group Spanish mackerel and Gulf group cobia stocks would be considered undergoing overfishing if the probability that F_{current} is larger than F_{MSY} is greater than 50%.** ~~a static SPR that exceeds the threshold of 30 percent (i.e., $F_{30\%}$ percent or MFMT).~~ If fishing mortality rates that exceed the level associated with **these thresholds** ~~the static SPR threshold~~ are maintained, the stocks may become overfished. Therefore, if overfishing is occurring, a program to reduce fishing mortality rates toward management target levels (OY) will be implemented, even if the stock or migratory group is not in an overfished condition.
- e. **The stock assessment process should** ~~The Councils have requested the Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel (MSAP) provide a range of possibilities and options for specifying B_{MSY} and the MSST.~~
- f. For species when there is insufficient information to determine whether the stock or migratory group is overfished, overfishing is defined as a fishing mortality rate in excess of the fishing mortality rate corresponding to a default threshold static SPR of 30 percent, which is the MFMT. If overfishing is occurring, a program to reduce fishing mortality rates to at least the level corresponding to management target levels will be implemented.

Jim,

One correction:\

For the 2002-2003 fishing year, the Southern subzone hook and line fishery opened on July 1, 2002, reduced to 500 pounds on Mar 5, 2003, and closed on Mar. 23, 2003.

In the text below I said the fishery did not close before Mar 31 (the end of the period when that area is still gulf group.

Steve Branstetter wrote:

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- > Fishing year July 2000 - June 2001
- > Western Zone - season opened July 1, 2000 closed August 26, 2000
- > Northern subzone of Eastern Zone - opened July 1, 2000 closed November 19, 2000
- > Southern subzone:
- > Hook and line: opened July 1, 2000- reduced to 500 pounds on Feb. 20, 2001, closed on March 2, 2001
- > Gillnet: opened Jan. 16, 2001, closed Jan 19, 2001
- > East Coast Gulf Group: opened Nov. 1, 2001 did not close
- >
- > Fishing year July 2001 - June 2002
- > Western zone - opened July 1, 2001, closed November 19, 2001
- > Northern subzone of eastern zone - opened July 1, 2001, closed November 10, 2001
- > Southern subzone
- > Hook and line - opened July 1, 2001, reduced to 500 pounds March 11, 2002, closed March 21, 2002
- > Gillnet - opened Jan. 22, 2002, closed Jan. 28, 2002
- > East Coast Gulf group: Opened Nov 1 2001, increased trip limit from 50 to 75 fish Feb. 1, 2002
- >
- > Fishing Year July 2002 - June 2003
- >
- > Western Zone: opened July 1, 2002, closed Oct. 25, 2002
- > Northern subzone - opened July 1, 2002, reduced to 500 pounds Nov. 30, 2002, closed Dec. 5, 2002
- > Southern subzone:
- > Hook and line: opened July 1, 2002, reduced to 500 pounds Mar. 5, 2003, did not close thru end of fishing year, March 31, 2003.
- > Gillnet: opened Jan 21, 2003, closed Feb. 4, 2003
- > East Coast Gulf Group, Opened Nov. 1, 2002, increased to 75 fish on Feb. 1, 2003
- >
- > Fishing year, July 2003 to present (Nov. 2003)
- >
- > Western Zone, opened July 1, 2003 closed Sept. 24, 2003
- > Northern Subzone of eastern zone - opened July 1, 2003, reduced to 500 pounds Oct. 30, 2003, closed Nov. 13, 2003
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- > Southern Subzone -
- > Hook and line: opened July 1, 2003 still open

- > Gillnet: will open the Tues after Martin Luther King Day,
- > Jan. XX, 2004.
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- > East Coast Gulf group: will increase to 75 fish if 75% of
- > quota is not taken by Feb. 1, 2004
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