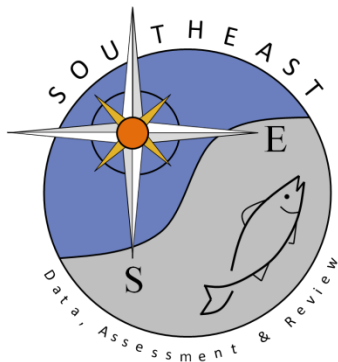


Public Comments received during the SEDAR 38 Process

SEDAR38-RW-06

8 August 2014



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Mr. Ben Hartig

Chair of the South Atlantic Fisheries

7/20/14

I have huge concerns over data being used by National Marine Fisheries scientists that indicate that there has been little recruitment of king mackerel in recent years upon Florida's east coast.

I am a commercial fisherman who targets king mackerel throughout the year and this data is completely opposite of what I observe and hear of on a daily basis.

During the course of the year I catch every size, group and age class including undersized king mackerel, less than twenty-four (24) inches.

In the 2013-2014 winter I caught fifty (50) head landing limits that weighed as much as eight-hundred (800) pounds and as little as three-hundred (300) pounds.

In the spring of 2014 in April offshore of Ft. Pierce I caught seventy-five (75) head landing limits that weighed three-hundred (300) to three-hundred and fifty (350) pounds and in both winter and spring undersized fish were present.

Particularly in the spring run there was a large body of small fish. This can be substantiated by landing data from a large group of participants.

A friend of mine, Mr. Tim Adams, targeting pompano and jack crevalle on the beach south of Sebastian Inlet caught and released many juvenile king mackerel.

Bottom fisherman offshore of St. Augustine found it difficult at times to fish because of the abundance of undersized king mackerel.

With all these small fish around, in so many various places, how can it be possible that no recruitment of fish has taken place?

Sincerely,



Mason Bowen

FL 9156 SH

To Ben Hartig chair of the South Atlantic Fisheries

I have huge concerns over data being used by National Marine Fisheries scientists, that indicate that there has been little recruitment of King mackerel in recent years upon Florida's east coast.

I am a commercial fisherman who targets King mackerel throughout the year, and this data is completely opposite of what I observe and hear of on a daily basis.

During the course of the year I catch every size group and age class including undersized King mackerel (less than 24 inches).

In the 2013-14 winter I caught 50 head landing limits that weighed as much as 800 lbs and as little as 300.

In the spring of 2014 in April offshore of Ft. Pierce I caught 75 head landing limits that weighed 300 to 350 lbs, and in both winter and spring undersize fish were present.

Particularly ~~it~~ in the spring run there was a large body of small fish. This can be substantiated by landing data from a large group of participants.

A friend of mine Mr. Tim Adams targeting pompano, and jack crevalle on the beach south of Sebastian inlet caught and released many juvenile King mackerel.

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found it difficult at times to fish, because
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With all these small fish around, in so
many various places how can it be possible
that no recruitment of fish has taken place.

sincerely Mason Bowen FL 9156 SH

Jim Adams FL 6037 DV

Paul C. Adams FL 7164 FG

Michael A. Jaffe DO. 577856, 553258

James R. Turner 9284 86

Bob Adams DO. 631557

Bob Adams DO. 1211868

Ruth Bowen FL 5700 CA

Albert Quintero DOC. 549302

Panel E. Skelly DO. 158519

DIRECTED SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, INC. (DSF)

August 07, 2014

Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR 38) Atlantic King Mackerel
Review Workshop (RW) Panelists

SEDAR38Comments@safmc.net

SEDAR 38 RW Panelists,

On behalf of the Atlantic King mackerel commercial fishing fleet, represented since 2007 by the Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Inc. (DSF) provides the following written comment that we hope will be carefully considered by the RW panel. We thank you for this opportunity to comment.

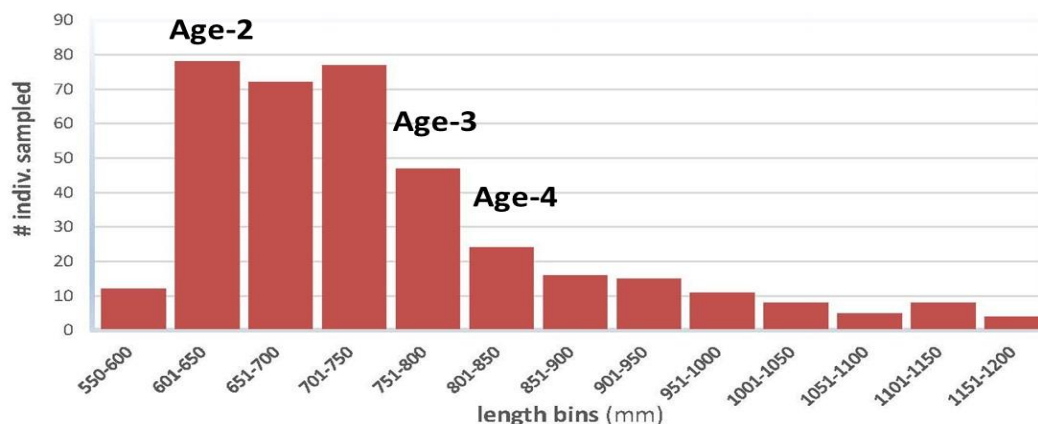
We are pleased that SEDAR 38 has found that the Atlantic King mackerel stock is not overfished and is not undergoing overfishing. However, we believe that the stock assessment is using an inappropriate index of abundance for estimating recruitment, the South Atlantic SEAMAP trawl survey. We know that this survey is not spatially or temporally explicit to the boundaries of the fishery, including a significant spawning site for Atlantic King mackerel, south of Cape Canaveral to Palm Beach County, Florida.

Alternatively, we have analyzed the NMFS-Trip Intercept Program (TIP) data for King mackerel along the east Florida coastline and see strong evidence of significant recruitment of new age classes into the fishery (see figure below, from SEDAR 38 Barile-RW working paper). Indeed, many of our fishermen have provided individual comments on their observations of schools of undersized (< 2 year old) King mackerel, and evidence of small 3-5 lb. (age-2 to 3) fish have become common in their recent landings. We know that the projections for future stock availability are based upon the spurious SEAMAP trawl recruitment estimates, and we encourage you to consider the available empirical evidence that should support more positive stock projections for the future.

We are also disappointed that the NMFS-SEFSC was unable to detect any relationship of water temperature to the dynamics of a fish stock that we know is temperature sensitive. The use of coarse sea surface temperature data from satellite imagery is apparently not an appropriate scale of measurement for understanding the dynamic of this fishery. Alternatively, direct bottom temperature from fisheries independent surveys in this region has been identified as a significant factor in affecting CPUE in other South Atlantic fisheries, such as Gray Triggerfish (see SEDAR 41 DW-11).

Length frequency of TIP King Mackerel

Palm Beach to Volusia Co.- April 2014



PO BOX 9351
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA 32120-9351
386-239-0948

DIRECTED SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, INC. (DSF)

Thank you for giving a thorough review to both the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic King mackerel stock assessment results. We look forward to an honest and thoughtful consideration of the direct evidence of new recruitment into the fishery, as recruitment predictions will affect stock projections in the future.

Rusty

Russell Howard Hudson, President
Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Inc. (DSF, Inc.)
PO Box 9351
Daytona Beach, Florida 32120-9351

(386) 239-0948 Telephone
(386) 253-2843 Facsimile
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Saltwater Fisheries Consultant, Shark Specialist
Deep-Sea Fishing and Shrimp Boat Captain
Retired 100-ton United States Coast Guard (USCG) Licensed Sea Captain
Recreational, For-Hire & Commercial Fishing Life Experience, 1959-2014
Sixth Generation Waterman from Central Florida East Coast
Seafood Coalition (SFC) member
American Elasmobranch Society (AES) member 2004-2014
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Advisory Committee member from Florida
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Coastal Shark (CS) Florida (FL) Advisory Panel (AP) commercial & for-hire recreational member [former Chair of CS AP]
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Highly Migratory Species (HMS) AP commercial member 2013-2015
NMFS HMS SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) AP Pool member 2013-2015
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) SEDAR AP Pool member
SAFMC Marine Protected Area (MPA) Expert Work Group (EWG) participant 2012-2013
Former SAFMC MPA AP FL commercial member
Former NMFS Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team FL participant (ALWTRT)
Former NMFS Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team FL participant (BDTRT)
Participant, observer and/or contributor to US coastal shark stock assessments during 1992, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2012 and 2013
Participant, observer and/or contributor SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) 11 (Large Coastal Sharks), 13 (Small Coastal Sharks), 16 (King Mackerel), 19 (Red Grouper/Black Grouper), 21 (Large Coastal Sharks/Small Coastal Shark), 24 (Red Snapper), 25 (Black Sea Bass/Golden Tilefish), 28 (Spanish Mackerel/Cobia), 29 (Gulf Blacktip Shark), 32 (Gray Triggerfish/Blueline Tilefish), 34 (Atlantic Sharpnose Shark/Bonnethead Shark), 36 (Snowy Grouper), 38 (King Mackerel) and SEDAR 41 (Atlantic Red Snapper/Gray Triggerfish)

PO BOX 9351
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA 32120-9351
386-239-0948

King Mackerel

nick hill <livebaitman@yahoo.com>

Tue 7/29/2014 1:35 AM

To:SEDAR38 Comments <sedar38comments@safmc.net>;

SAFMC Chairman, Ben Hartig-

I have been made aware that the SEDAR 38 King Mackerel stock assessment model includes data that indicate lower than normal recruitment in recent years, although the stock assessment suggest that the Atlantic stock is not overfished, and no overfishing is occurring.

From my commercial log books it is evident that this spring (April) near Ft. Pierce, FL, I routinely caught daily limits (75 head/day) of small king mackerel that were barely over the size limit. These fish averaged about 4.5 lbs./ head, which is about an age-2 kingfish. These fish represent an important recruitment of new juveniles into the fishery.

Please consider this vast recruitment of young fish when you are considering the future projections and quotas for this healthy fishery. Also consider the ways used to check recruitment of the stock as other means are needed to get the true facts of the recruitment for the stock. You are no better than the methods or models used in this process and it is evident from the webinars that we need better science and methods also people that know something about the fishery they are regulating. It has been a very frustrating time to have to listen to these webinars and know that the level of understanding and the methods being used are just about useless. This is peoples livelihoods and families that hang in the balance and to have to listen to all this is very disturbing that people with so little knowledge or a hidden agenda attempt to regulate a stock of fish that they know very little about. It is time for all of this to end and use real data and better science to base the status of the stock on.

Thanks,
Nicholas Hill,
4945 Owens Ave
Grant, Fl 32949
FL 2582 MT
321-795-1038

From: captalq23 <captalq23@aol.com>
To: Sedar38comments <Sedar38comments@safmc.net>
Sent: Tue, Jul 29, 2014 8:46 am
Subject: POSITIVE RECRUITMENT OF KING MACKEREL

Dear Sir

7/29/2014

I would like to make a report,of the undersized King Mackerel that I have seen caught and released between Cape Canaveral and Saint Lucie inlet during February ,March and April of 2014. I' am very happy to be able to include in my report,the healthy abundance of small and undersized King mackerel that I have,caught and released during June and July of this same year.

I would once again have to make a statement that the wide spread and persistent cold water events of the previous several summers were factually the main reason for decreased production and lack of availability of the King Mackerel. I can add that during those cold water events (and I spent allot of time and miles looking and learning) there was no bait,no remora's or Barracudas biting, no Mahi,but there was a few big King Mackerel hanging around.

As this summer unfolded, we first saw the positive sign that the condition of the water was staying warm and good,with large amounts of bait spread for miles on the various reefs. Sure enough with this improvement we are once again producing good catches and have seen a very strong scattering of discard or undersized King Mackerel both inshore and offshore.

Fact; April of 2014 down off Fort Pierce produced some of the smallest landing limits I have participated in producing to date.

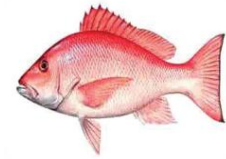
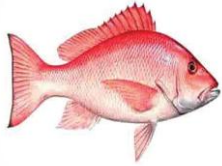
I like to make a statement that in February 2014 I saw a very impressive showing of King Mackerel offshore at the High Bar N.E. of Sebastian Inlet.The catches from those's massive schools consisted of a mix grade or class of fish ranging from undersized to over twenty pounds producing quick 75 head limits of six to eight pound average fish.These fish would have in previous years with the right conditions migrated inshore and set up off of Thomas Shoals, Wabasso Rock or the Pines, producing better weighing limits because the bigger fish separate from the little ones and bite when they move inshore.There was one day that they started to move in there and a catch was made. However the water for some reason got cold on the bottom, it was an unexplainable early up welling that made

those fish do an about face, back off to the off shore bar east of Sebastian where we found a portion of them and limits were produced, until negative weather and bad ocean conditions pushed them to an area where nobody was looking.

Its evident that, that stock off fish did not go down and mix with the small tiny fish off Saint Lucie County because the fleet or the dealers saw no prevalent sign of big fish there. However a good portion or the fleet did go down to Saint Lucie county and you can look at that data along with more recent Discard reports to prove the fact that there is good recruitment of juvenile King Mackerel.

Truely and with best Regards
Capt. Albert Quatraro
F/V ZORA DOC. # 549302
772-413-1924

SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

August 07, 2014

Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR 38) Atlantic King Mackerel
Review Workshop (RW) Panelists

SEDAR38Comments@safmc.net

SEDAR 38 RW Panelists,

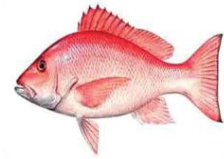
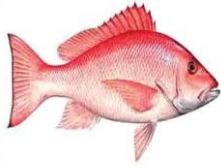
On behalf of the Atlantic King mackerel commercial fishing fleet, the Southeastern Fisheries Association, East Coast Fisheries Section (SFA ECFS) provides the following written comment that we hope will be carefully considered by the RW panel. We thank you for this opportunity to comment.

We are pleased that SEDAR 38 has found that the Atlantic King mackerel stock is not overfished and is not undergoing overfishing. However, we believe that the stock assessment is using an inappropriate index of abundance for estimating recruitment, the South Atlantic SEAMAP trawl survey. We know that this survey is not spatially or temporally explicit to the boundaries of the fishery, including a significant spawning site for Atlantic King mackerel, south of Cape Canaveral to Palm Beach County, Florida.

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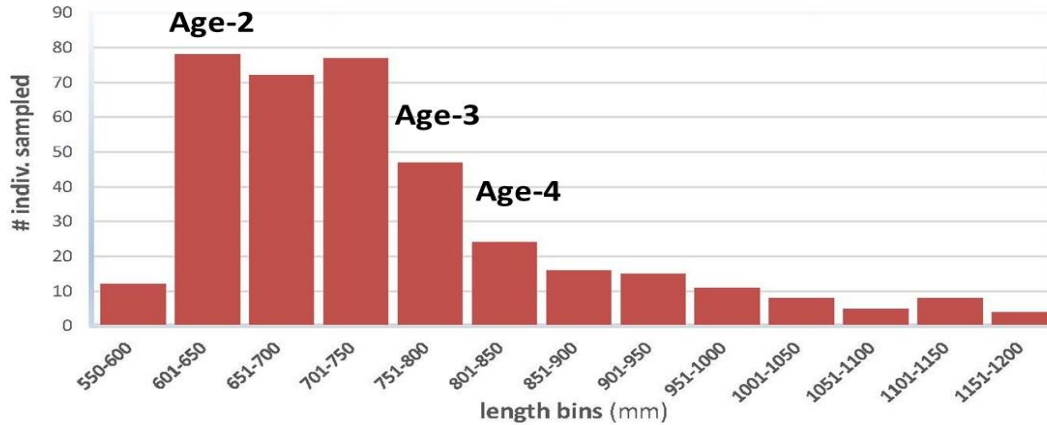
SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (SFA)



EAST COAST FISHERIES SECTION (ECFS)

Length frequency of TIP King Mackerel

Palm Beach to Volusia Co.- April 2014



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Jimmy Hull, Chairman
SFA ECFS