

**Public Hearing Comments Summary
CMP Amendment 26**

**Corpus Christi, Texas
February 22, 2016**

Council/Staff

Greg Stunz
Emily Muehlstein
Charlotte Schiaffo

1 member of the public attended.

Mike Miglini – Commercial Fisherman
He would like the western zone for king mackerel to open on June 1.

**Pascagoula, Mississippi
February 22, 2016**

Council/Staff

Dale Diaz
Ryan Rindone
Karen Hoak

No members of the public attended.

**Texas City, Texas
February 23, 2016**

Council/Staff

Doug Boyd
Emily Muehlstein
Charlotte Schiaffo

6 members of the public attended.

Buddy Guindon – Commercial Fisherman

For Action 1, which addresses the mixing zone, *the current preferred Alternative 3 benefits the Gulf the most*. For Action 7, it's hard to distribute specific quotas in the zones because pressure would change. Consider making people declare a zone but, grandfather in the guys that are currently traveling. We should make fishermen pick a zone and stay with it. It seems like a punishment that the Atlantic people come the Gulf to fish. It would likely make the fishery

easier if there were less traveling fishermen. ***In Action 8, it not necessary to reallocate at the moment; he supports No Action.*** For Action 9, he believes that the recreational fishermen should have the opportunity to catch their fish. The Councils should raise the limit to whatever it takes to ensure they harvest their share.

Bubba Cochran – Commercial Fisherman

He supports the preferred Alternative 3 in Action 1. Give the mixing zone to the Gulf Council. Reallocating fish from the recreational sector isn't a good idea. ***He supports Action 8, Alternative 1- No Action.*** Let recreational fishermen harvest their fish by ***increasing the bag limit to 4 fish in Action 9.***

Johnny Walker – Commercial Fisherman

For Action 9, increase the recreational bag limit to 4 fish (Alternative 3) and allow them to catch their fish. Let the South Atlantic make their own regulations.

Bill Wright – Commercial Fisherman

For Action 8, he supports the No Action Alternative; keep the current recreational and commercial allocation as is. ***In Action 9, increase the recreational bag limit.***

**Orange Beach, Alabama
February 23, 2016**

Council/Staff

Johnny Greene
Ryan Rindone
Karen Hoak

No members of the public attended.

**Kenner, Louisiana
February 24, 2016**

Council/Staff

Myron Fisher
Emily Muehlstein
Charlotte Schiaffo

1 member of the public attended. No comments were given.

**Destin, Florida
February 24, 2016**

Council/Staff

Pam Dana
Ryan Rindone
Karen Hoak

10 members of the public attended.

Jack Conzelman – Commercial Fisherman

Gulf Southern Zone kingfish fishermen historically didn't fish the Gulf Northern Zone. When the commercial zone allocations were being decided, a representative for the Florida Keys commercial fishermen brought a number of Gulf Southern Zone kingfish fishermen to the Gulf Council meeting, arguing that the historical fishermen were all from the Gulf Southern Zone and that the fishermen in the Gulf Northern Zone were all part-time kingfish fishermen. This resulted in the current commercial zone allocations for kingfish, which unfairly discounted the historical landings from the Gulf Northern Zone fishermen.

The Gulf Northern Zone needs to be allocated more of the commercial ACL. The current ACL could be caught by traveling fishermen alone in only a few weeks. *I prefer Alternative 2 in Action 6 and Alternative 4 in Action 7.* Also, with the October opening of the Gulf Northern Zone, fishermen in that zone can find kingfish into December.

Jeff Lassiter – Commercial Fisherman

We need more fish in the Gulf Northern Zone to deal with the traveling fishermen problem. *I prefer Alternative 2 in Action 6, Alternative 4 in Action 7, and Alternative 1 in Action 9.*

Mike Whitfield – Commercial Fisherman, Gulf CMP Advisory Panel Member

We need to divorce management of king mackerel from the South Atlantic Council. We also need to limit the number of zones in which commercial fishermen can fish for king mackerel. *I prefer Alternative 2 in Action 6, Alternative 4 in Action 7, and Alternative 1 in Action 8.*

Joseph Krawczynski – Commercial Fisherman

I prefer Alternative 4 in Action 7.

Austin Golden – Commercial and Charter Fisherman

King mackerel make up a large component of my annual income. Changing the start date of the season opening to October 1st for the Gulf Northern Zone has been great for charter guys, but not so great for commercial guys. The commercial kingfish fishermen are still struggling to deal

with the traveling fishermen. Increasing the Gulf Northern Zone quota would help everybody. *I prefer Alternative 2 in Action 6, Alternative 4 in Action 7, and Alternative 1 in Action 8.*

Mark Kelley – Commercial and Charter Fisherman

Undersized king mackerel are being wasted when they are released dead or near dead. We should have some provision which lets us keep those fish if they are just going to die. We don't want to waste the resource. *I prefer Alternative 2 in Action 6, Alternative 4 in Action 7, Alternative 1 in Action 8, and Alternative 1 in Action 9.*

Johnathan Akins – Commercial and Charter Fisherman

The October 1st opening in the Gulf Northern Zone helped the dually permitted kingfish fishermen. *I prefer Alternative 2 in Action 6, Alternative 4 in Action 7, and Alternative 1 in Action 8.*

**Key West, Florida
February 29, 2016**

Council/Staff

John Sanchez
Ryan Rindone
Emily Muehlstein

8 members of the public attended.

George Niles- Commercial Fisherman (**spoke on behalf of everyone in attendance**).

For Action 1 the fishermen support the preferred Alternative 3. They are in favor of changing the Gulf jurisdiction to the Dade/Monroe county line. It would solve many problems like not being able to net fish in the South Atlantic.

For Action 3, the Mackerel Advisory Panel did discuss the shark boats keeping bycatch. Similarly, the Spanish mackerel fishery in the Gulf catches a by catch of kingfish and the Advisory Panel asked to be allowed to retain a recreational bag limit similar to this request in Action 3. He would like to see that provision included in a future amendment.

Regarding Action 6, there are 40 million pounds of recreational fish left over from the past 15 years of under-fishing the annual catch limit. Despite that huge surplus the ABC continues to ratchet down. There should be an annual review of the ABC and ACL because this decline should not happen. *The fishermen support the Action 6, Alternative 2 rather than a constant catch.*

In Action 7 the Northern Zone should not have a 200% quota increase. There used to only be two zones but, because the Southern Zone kept reaching their quota, they allowed the Northern

Zone to have their own quota. Now, the Northern Zone wants more and it doesn't make sense. The Mackerel Advisory Panel only has two representatives from the Southern Zone, and that is why the motion to increase the Northern Zone quota passed. ***The fishermen support Alternative 3 in Action 7.***

For Action 8 the fishermen support Alternative 3 and either sub-option is fine. It is silly to leave fish in the water so we should do what we can to catch what we're allowed. The recreational sector hasn't complained that they don't have enough fish. He was told by recreational members of the Advisory Panel, 10 years ago, that they don't really need more kingfish.

In Action 9 the fishermen support Alternative 2. The study showed this would possibly increase mortality less than 20% and the recreational sector would still under fish their ACL. This also serves as evidence that the allocation shift is appropriate.

The makeup of the Mackerel AP needs to be addressed. It's unbelievable that the zone with the most fish has the least representation. It seems like there should be proportional membership on the AP from each component of the fishery.

Mr. Niles spoke for these members of the audience:

William Roche

Santiago Arencibia Jr.

Carlos Arencibia

Frank Arencibia

**Webinar
March 3, 2016**

Council/Staff

Emily Muehlstein

Bernie Roy

1 member of the public attended. Comments were submitted for the yellowtail snapper framework.