

**Mackerel Committee Report
June 8, 2015
Pam Dana-Chair**

CMP Framework Amendment 3

Staff reviewed CMP Framework Amendment 3 (**Tab C, No. 4a**), which addresses changes to the gillnet component of the commercial king mackerel fishery in the Gulf. The committee heard public comments from an industry representative and a gillnet fisherman who outlined their preferred outcomes, including a 45,000 lb trip limit, no additional accountability measures, no change to electronic monitoring practices, and ideas for the elimination of latent permits. Committee members thought that a higher trip limit was feasible if paired with strict accountability measures and improved and more appropriate monitoring methods.

The committee recommends, and I so move, to recommend to the Council that the preferred alternative in Action 1 be Alternative 3.

Alternative 3: Increase the trip limit to 45,000 lbs.

Motion carried 6-1.

The committee recommends, and I so move, to recommend to the Council that the preferred alternative in Action 2 be Alternative 3, Option a.

Alternative 3: If the Florida West Coast Southern Subzone gillnet ACL is exceeded in a year, NMFS would reduce the Florida West Coast Southern Subzone gillnet ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT (if established) will also be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

Option a: Payback regardless of stock status

Motion carried unanimously.

The committee recommends, and I so move, to recommend that the Council add a new alternative (4) to Action 2:

New Alternative 4: If the Florida West Coast Southern Subzone gillnet ACL is exceeded in a year, NMFS will reduce the gillnet trip limit for subsequent seasons until that trip

limit is modified by the Council.

Option a: 35,000 lbs

Option b: 25,000 lbs

Motion carried 5-1.

Committee members discussed including a buffer into the previous motion to add a new alternative (4) to Action 2; however, some committee members thought that adding any sort of buffer would simply allow fishermen to fish up to that buffer, effectively acting as an ACL increase. Accuracy of landings data was also discussed, and NMFS staff assured the committee that the landings were accurate to the pound. Committee members asked how preferred Alternative 3 in Action 3 would change the existing electronic reporting requirements, and staff indicated that Alternative 3 would codify the current practice of industry cooperation combined with weekly electronic reporting.

The committee considered latent permits in the gillnet fishery. Committee members thought it important to protect historical fishermen, but didn't want to remove permits which may have gone a few years without landings.

The committee recommends, and I so move, to recommend to the Council that the preferred alternative in Action 4 be Alternative 3, Option a.

Alternative 3: Allow commercial king mackerel gillnet permits to be renewed only if *landings for a single year* during 2006-2015 were greater than one of the options listed below. Gillnet permits that do not qualify will be non-renewable and non-transferable.

Option a: 1 pound

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.