

Mackerel Committee Report
August 17, 2016
Pam Dana – Chair

CMP Amendment 29

Staff reviewed the purpose and need for CMP 29, which addresses Gulf king mackerel allocation sharing and a recreational accountability measure. The Committee chose to go through the IPT version of CMP 29 (**Tab C, No. 4b**), as opposed to the Council’s previous version (**Tab C, No. 4a**).

Action 1

Staff reviewed Action 1, which examines options for allocation sharing strategies between the recreational and commercial sectors for Gulf king mackerel. The IPT recommended removing Alternatives 2 and 3, and replacing them with Alternative X. The proposed alternative achieves the same goals as Alternatives 2 and 3. One difference is that the conditional transfer of allocation in Alternative X largely relies on the recreational sector’s landings, rather than the commercial sector’s, to determine whether a transfer will occur. Another difference is the use of two year old data to determine whether a transfer should occur: under this circumstance, the landings data will be known and vetted prior to use in determining conditional transfers, as opposed to estimating MRIP waves (e.g., 2016 data will determine whether a transfer occurs in 2018). The IPT also proposed eliminating Alternative 5, which would sunset any allocation sharing action after a certain amount of time. Eliminating Alternative 5 was proposed because of the protections built into the remaining alternatives, which prevent an allocation transfer in the event that the recreational sector’s landings reach a certain threshold.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, in Action 1, to accept the IPT-Proposed changes to remove Alternatives 2, 3, and 5 and add Alternative X.

IPT-Proposed Alternative X: Conditionally transfer a certain percentage (*Options Xa-Xd*) of the allocation to the commercial sector in the next fishing year, if the minimum recreational landings threshold is not met (*Options Xe-Xg*). If the commercial sector does not land at least 90% of its ACL, this transfer will not occur. Landings data from two years prior will be used to determine allocation transfers.

Conditional Quota Transfer (MUST CHOOSE ONE):

Option Xa: Conditionally transfer 5% from the stock allocation to the commercial allocation.

Option Xb: Conditionally transfer 10% from the stock allocation to the commercial allocation.

Option Xc: Conditionally transfer 15% from the stock allocation to the commercial allocation.

Option Xd: Conditionally transfer 20% from the stock allocation to the commercial allocation.

Recreational ACL Minimum Threshold (MUST CHOOSE ONE), if the recreational sector landings are:

Option Xe: less than 50% of its ACL.

Option Xf: less than 65% of its ACL.

Option Xg: less than 75% of its ACL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Action 2

Staff reviewed the proposed modifications to the recreational accountability measures (AMs) for king mackerel. Because of the Council's desire to keep the recreational sector open year round, the IPT recommended changing the current in-season AM to a post-season AM. The change to a post-season AM allows for the safeguards built into Action 1 to return any shared allocation to the recreational sector before the AM is applied, thereby safeguarding the current year round recreational season from any risks related to an allocation sharing strategy. The IPT recommended eliminating Alternative 2, since the Council just recommended increasing the bag limit in CMP 26. The IPT also recommended adding a new Alternative 4, which would institute a post-season AM, whereby the recreational fishing season for the *following* year would be reduced only if both the recreational ACL and the stock ACL had been met. NMFS staff noted that although the recreational fishing season follows the calendar year, the ACL is monitored in tandem with the commercial fishing season for the Western and Southern zones (July 1 – June 30). A committee member added that the increase in the recreational bag limit preferred in CMP 26 may result in additional recreational landings in successive years.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, in Action 2, to accept the IPT-Proposed changes to add Alternative 4 and remove Alternative 2.

IPT-Proposed Alternative 4: Replace the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If both the recreational ACL *and* the stock ACL are exceeded in a fishing year, the length of the following recreational fishing season will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure the landings do not exceed the recreational ACL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Staff informed the Committee that a public hearing draft would be completed and brought before the Committee at the next Council meeting. The Council will need to determine appropriate locations for public hearings.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.