



GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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October 10, 2006

Tab C, No. 5(a)

Dr. Nancy Thompson, Director
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

06 OCT 10 * 005638

Dear Dr. Thompson:

Nancy

At a joint meeting of the Mackerel Management Committees of the Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils on September 18, 2006, the committees agreed to proceed with a joint amendment that would potentially establish a permanent boundary between the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel at the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line and to use this line of demarcation for establishing separate fishery management plans (FMPs) for coastal migratory pelagics in the Gulf and Atlantic. With regard to king mackerel, the councils are considering two options for mixing of the two migratory groups on either side of this boundary, as well as the status quo mixing scenario. In order for the councils to further evaluate the impacts of these options and proceed with development of the joint FMP, we respectfully request that the following analyses be conducted and provided to the councils at your earliest convenience. It would be most helpful if we could receive these analyses by Friday, November 3, 2006 so that it can be included in the briefing book for the Gulf Council's November meeting.

1. King Mackerel landings -

- A. Please provide tables with complete and updated king mackerel commercial and recreational landings separated by Atlantic and Gulf migratory group and shown by fishing year. These tables would be constructed using the current stock separations.
- B. Please provide similar tables but with a fixed stock boundary at the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line on the Florida east coast. All landings north of this line are to be counted as Atlantic migratory group and all landings south of this line are to be counted as Gulf migratory group.
- C. Please provide similar tables but with a fixed stock boundary at the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line on the Florida east coast. All landings north of this line to the Volusia/Flagler County line are to be counted as 50% Atlantic migratory group and 50% Gulf migratory group. All landings south of this line are to be counted as Gulf migratory group.

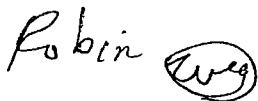
2. King Mackerel ABC -

Please re-run the ABC estimates using the SEDAR 5 assessment model with the same input data, except that the above three sets of landings data (through the same time period as used in SEDAR 5) are to be used; or use updated catches from the tables, whichever is easiest. We are not requesting that any other inputs be updated. The Councils want to have this information to compare the impacts of the two fixed alternatives on ABCs for Gulf and Atlantic group king mackerel. Using the same input parameters as SEDAR 5 with or without updated catches, but with a redistribution of catches in

accordance with the two fixed boundary alternatives would be sufficient for this purpose. It would also reduce the analytical difficulties on your staff in terms of re-running the assessment.

Thank you for your help with this request. We would like to discuss this with you or your representatives to ensure our request is clear and to discuss the timing for its completion.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robin Riechers, with the name "Robin" written in cursive and "Wey" circled in a small circle below it.

Robin Riechers, Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Handwritten signature of George Geiger, with the name "George" written in cursive and "by RLK" written in a smaller cursive font below it.

George Geiger, Chairman
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

RR:GG:RL:GW:plk

cc: Gulf Council
South Atlantic Council
Bob Mahood
Gregg Waugh
Monica Smit-Brunello
Alex Chester
Kate Quigley
Technical Staff