

**DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT - MACKEREL COMMITTEE**  
**December 4, 2014**  
**New Bern, NC**

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the September 2014 meeting.

NMFS staff reported on the status of commercial catch and recreational catch, in addition to updates on amendments under review. The proposed rule for Amendment 20B published on October 31, 2014, and the comment period closes on December 16, 2014. The final rule for South Atlantic CMP Framework Action 2013 published on November 19, 2014, and the regulations will be effective on December 19, 2014. Next, the final rule for Framework Amendment 1 published on November 20, 2014, with an effective date of December 22, 2014. Last, Framework Amendment 2 was submitted to NMFS on November 5, 2014, and the proposed rule package is under review at the Region.

Committee Chair Ben Hartig provided a report from the October 2014 meeting of the Gulf Council. The Gulf Council approved Framework Amendment 2 for formal review. Additionally, the Gulf Council discussed possible changes to the trip limit for the king mackerel gillnet fishery in the Keys. There will be a workshop with the fishermen to explore options for the trip limit on January 12, 2015.

**SEDAR 38 (Atlantic and Gulf King Mackerel Stock Assessment)**

SSC Vice-Chair Dr. Marcel Reichert provided a report on the SSC review of the Atlantic king mackerel stock assessment, and recommendations from the SSC. The SSC accepted the stock assessment as the best available science and adequate for use in management decisions. Atlantic king mackerel is not overfished and is not undergoing overfishing. The Committee reviewed the options for setting the ACL for king mackerel based on the SSC recommendations that consider high, low and medium recruitment.

**Amendment 26 (King mackerel ACLs and stock boundary)**

Council staff reviewed the decision document for Amendment 26 and the Committee directed staff on which actions and alternatives to include in the amendment. The Committee also indicated what information should be included in the document in March 2015. The Committee approved the following motions:

**MOTION: ADD AN ACTION TO REVISE KING MACKEREL ACLS WITH ALL 6 ALTERNATIVES.**

**Approved by Committee.**

**MOTION: ADD AN ACTION TO ADJUST THE STOCK BOUNDARY FOR KING MACKEREL.**

**Approved by Committee.**

**MOTION:** ADD AN ACTION FOR ALLOWING SALE OF KING MACKEREL BYCATCH IN THE SHARK GILLNET FISHERY.

**Approved by Committee.**

**MOTION:** ADD AN ACTION TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A SUBQUOTA SPECIFIC FOR THE [NEW] MIXING ZONE.

**Approved by Committee.**

**MOTION:** APPROVE AM 26 FOR SCOPING.

**Approved by Committee.**

The Committee also discussed separating the FMP in Amendment 28. The Committee is interested in more information about how the FMP separation would work and all the components that would need to be addressed. Council and SERO staff will put together information for the March 2015 meeting.

Amendment 24 (Atlantic Spanish mackerel allocations/quota shift)

The Committee discussed if they should move forward with Amendment 24 and discussed how work done on the amendment could be helpful during allocation discussions for other species. The Committee decided to postpone work on Amendment 24 through the following motion:

**MOTION:** POSTPONE WORK ON AMENDMENT 24 UNTIL 2016.

**Approved by Committee.**

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**Task and Timing Motion Suggested Language:**

**MOTION: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED:**

1. PREPARE SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR AMENDMENT 26 AND SCOPE THE AMENDMENT IN JANUARY 2015.
2. PREPARE DRAFT AMENDMENT 26 FOR THE MARCH 2015 MEETING, INCLUDING INFORMATION REQUESTED DURING THE DISCUSSION.
3. PREPARE A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON OPTIONS AND COMPONENTS OF SEPARATING THE FMP FOR MARCH 2015.