

Fishery Performance Report Questionnaire

Spanish Mackerel

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel
April 2018



The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel (AP) is being asked to provide information to develop a fishery performance report (FPR) for Atlantic Spanish mackerel. The purpose of the FPR is to assemble information from AP members' experience and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPR for Spanish mackerel will be provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) to complement material being used in assessments and to inform future South Atlantic Council management.

The AP is asked to provide the following information about Spanish mackerel based on their expertise, as appropriate:

1. Catch levels over the past 5 years:
 - When/where are the fish available, and has this changed?
 - Has the size of the fish changed?
 - Have there been effort shifts to/from Spanish mackerel?
2. Current management measures:
 - Is the 12-inch minimum size limit for the commercial and recreational sectors appropriate?
 - Are the current ACLs for each sector appropriate? If not, why?
 - Are the quotas for each zone appropriate? If not, why?
 - Are there new management measures that the Council should consider?
 - Are there existing management measures that should be changed?
3. Environmental conditions and ecology:
 - Have you noticed any unique effects of environmental conditions on Spanish mackerel?
 - What are your observations concerning the timing and length of the Spanish mackerel spawning season in your area?
 - Have you noticed a change in abundance of Spanish mackerel over the past 5 years?
 - What do you see now in terms of recruitment? Where are the small fish?
4. Social and economic influences:
 - For the commercial sector, how has price and demand for Spanish mackerel changed?
 - How has demand for charter/headboat trips targeting Spanish mackerel changed?
 - What communities are dependent on the Spanish mackerel fishery?
 - Have changes in infrastructure (docks, marinas, fish houses) affected fishing opportunities for Spanish mackerel?
 - How have fishermen and communities adapted to changes in the Spanish mackerel fishery?
5. Other:
 - What else is important for the Council to know about Spanish mackerel?