

SUMMARY OF THE MACKEREL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

January 30, 2012

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel

Mobile, Alabama

Committee members present:

Myron Fischer, Chair

John Greene, V. Chair

Larry Abele

Kevin Anson

Roy Crabtree/Phil Steele/Steve Branstetter

Pamela Dana

Robin Riechers

Corky Perret

The agenda was adopted as written. The minutes of the October 26, 2011, meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana were adopted as written.

Review of the Scoping Document for Amendment 19

Mr. Fischer explained that there were a number of potential management actions that had been discussed over a number of years, but had been deferred due to higher priorities. Dr. Leard stated that based on the Council's request to develop scoping documents to address issues deferred in the past, the IPT developed two Scoping Documents for Amendments 19 and 20 based on staff interpretations of the most appropriate methods of splitting the issues. He stated that the SAFMC had reviewed these documents at their December 2011 meeting and made recommendations for changes. Dr. Leard stated that these changes were identified as "new" (highlighted) or "to be removed" (strike through). He then began a review of the document.

With regard to Action 1 (Permits for Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) species Permits for Coastal Migratory Pelagic [CMP] species), the Committee recommends and I so move to accept the South Atlantic Council's deletions.

With regard to Action 2 (Potential No Sale Provisions), the Committee recommends and I so move to accept the South Atlantic Council's additions and changes as highlighted.

With regard to Action 3 (Future participation in the commercial king and Spanish mackerel fisheries), the Committee recommends and I so move to have staff revise sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 to include a broader range of years, poundage, and level of participation.

With regard to Section 3.1.3, **the Committee recommends and I so move that section 3.1.3 be removed from the scoping document.** The Committee noted that this action would have no effect unless and until a moratorium was instituted.

With regard to Section 3.2, **(Do not renew commercial permits that were obtained after the 2009 and 2010 control dates), the Committee recommends and I so move to accept the South Atlantic Council's deletion of this section.**

With regard to Section 3.3, **the Committee recommends and I so move that staff reword the language such that the 2 for 1 permit reductions apply to transfers, not renewals.**

With regard to Action 4, **(Federal Regulatory Compliance), the Committee recommends and I so move that cohiba be added to alternatives.**

With regard to Action 5 **(Modify or Eliminate Income Requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic Commercial Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permits), the Committee recommends and I so move to accept the South Atlantic Council's addition as highlighted.**

With regard to Action 6 **(Spanish mackerel gillnet endorsement)** and Action 7 **(Dealer Permits), the Committee recommends and I so move to accept the South Atlantic Council's proposed modifications in Action 6 and the deletion of Action 7.**

Review of the Scoping Document for Amendment 20

With regard to Action 1 **(Consider modifications to the existing commercial fishery boundary line between the Gulf group king mackerel eastern zone and western zone (currently set at the Alabama - Florida border [87°31'06"]), with potential corresponding changes to the commercial allocations and trip limits), the Committee had no recommendations for changes.**

With regard to Action 2 **(Consider changing the opening date of the Gulf group king mackerel season for the western zone), the Committee had no recommendations for changes.**

With regard to Action 3 **(Establish a transit provision for fish harvested in the EEZ off Monroe County when the rest of the west coast of Florida is closed), the Committee had no recommendations for changes.**

With regard to Action 4 **(Requirement to identify commercial Gulf group king mackerel fishing zone(s) in which a vessel will be fishing), the Committee had no recommendations for changes; however, the Committee further recommended and I so move, that staff develop a separate action to include alternatives for endorsements by subregions.**

With regard to Action 5 (**Establish state by state or regional quotas for Atlantic Migratory Group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia**), the Committee had no recommendations for changes.

With regard to Action 6 (**Establish an eastern subzone within the Gulf migratory group of cobia and modify the framework to provide that the SAFMC is to set regulations within this subzone. In addition, establish a southern subzone within the Atlantic migratory group of cobia**), the Committee had no recommendations for changes. The Committee did, however note that this action may be difficult to address until the new stock assessments for Gulf and Atlantic group cobia are completed.

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The Committee then recommended and I so move, to send the Scoping Documents for CMP Amendments 19 and 20 to the scoping process.

The Committee also recommends and I so move, to hold scoping meetings for CMP Amendments 19 and 20 in the following locations:

Galveston, TX
Port Aransas, TX
Grand Isle, LA
Biloxi area, MS
Mobile, AL
Destin, FL
Key West, FL
Fort Myers, FL

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.