

DRAFT
Summary of the SAFMC Mackerel Committee
March 6, 2012
Savannah Hilton DeSoto Hotel
Savannah, GA

Members:

Ben Hartig, Chair	David Cupka, Vice Chair
Tom Burgess	Mac Currin
Michelle Duval	Duane Harris
John Jolley	Jessica McCawley
Charlie Phillips	Tom Swatzel
Red Munden, Mid-Atlantic Representative	

The agenda was adopted without any additions and the minutes of the December 2011 committee meeting were approved.

The committee received the following presentations:

- A. Status of Commercial Catches – Dr. Jack McGovern, NMFS SERO
- B. Status of Recreational Catches – Dr. Bonnie Ponwith, NMFS SEFSC
- C. North Carolina’s Experience with State by State Quotas – Don Hesselman, NC Division of Marine Fisheries
- D. Importance of Tournament Sales of Fish – Jack Holmes, Managing Partner, Southern Kingfish Association
- E. Mackerel Tournament – Terry Adkins, Bluewater Promotions

The State Directors prepared data on the numbers of tournaments and catches in their state for use in Amendment 19. Doug Haymans reviewed the Georgia data and Michelle Duval gave a brief overview of the North Carolina Data. Jessica McCawley said they have very little data on sales by tournaments. The South Carolina data is being consolidated to avoid showing confidential data and will be provided.

The committee reviewed the scoping document for CMP Amendment 19 (Permits & Sale) and added/modified alternatives as shown below:

Action 1. Permits for Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) species

- Option 1. No Action. Retain a single commercial king mackerel permit and a single commercial Spanish mackerel permit. Retain Gulf and South Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) charter/headboat permits.
- Option 2. Create a single commercial cobia permit.

Added Options 3 & 4:

- Option 3. Modify the Spanish mackerel permit to be a Spanish mackerel/cobia permit.**
- OPTION 4. ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WITH THE FOLLOWING PERMITS TO SELL COBIA: KING & SPANISH MACKEREL/REEFFISH/SNAPPER GROUPER/DOLPHIN WAHOO**

Directed staff to clarify whether the income requirements would be used.

Action 2. Potential No Sale Provisions

Modified Options 4 & 5 to read:

Option 4. For a person aboard a vessel to be eligible to sell cobia in or from the EEZ of the Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico, a commercial vessel cobia permit must have been issued to the vessel and must be on board

Option 5. Allow commercial sale of cobia with either a king mackerel or Spanish mackerel commercial permit

Action 3. Future participation in the commercial king and Spanish mackerel fisheries

3.1 Elimination of latent permits

3.1.1 In the Gulf group king mackerel gillnet sector – no change

3.1.2 In the king mackerel hook-and-line sector – no change

Action 4. Federal Regulatory Compliance – no change

Action 5. Modify or Eliminate Income Requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic Commercial Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permits – no change

Action 6. Spanish mackerel gillnet endorsement:

Directed staff to add the No Action alternative

I so move to approve Amendment 19 Scoping Document, with the changes, for scoping:

MOTION: APPROVE AMENDMENT 19 SCOPING DOCUMENT, WITH THE CHANGES, FOR SCOPING APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

The committee reviewed the scoping document for CMP Amendment 20 (Boundaries & Transit Provisions) and added/modified alternatives that affect South Atlantic fishermen as shown below (the committee was presented the suggested IPT changes but did not propose changes to actions only affecting the Gulf Council area):

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. NO CHANGES PROPOSED

Option 1. No action – do not establish a transit provision

Option 2. Establish a transit provision for fish harvested in the EEZ off Monroe County when the rest of the west coast of Florida is closed

Action 6. Establish state-by-state or regional quotas for Atlantic Migratory Group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia.

Option 1. No Action – retain one commercial quota each for Atlantic migratory group of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia

Option 2. Establish commercial quotas for each South Atlantic state for Atlantic migratory group of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia.

Option 3. Establish commercial quotas for two regions: North Carolina/South Carolina and Georgia/Florida for Atlantic migratory group of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia

Add a new Option 4

OPTION 4. ESTABLISH A COMMERCIAL QUOTA FOR NC AND ONE FOR SC/GA/FL COMBINED FOR KING & SPANISH MACKEREL AND COBIA

Add a new Option 5 and I so move to add Option 5. Establish a commercial quota for the Mid-Atlantic Council area for King & Spanish Mackerel and Cobia

MOTION: ADD OPTION 5. ESTABLISH A COMMERCIAL QUOTA FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL AREA FOR KING & SPANISH MACKEREL AND COBIA APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 7. Establish an eastern zone within the Gulf migratory group of cobia and modify the framework to provide that the SAFMC is to set regulations within this zone. In addition, establish a southern subzone within the Atlantic migratory group of cobia.

Option 1. No Action. The boundary between migratory groups of cobia is the Council boundary.

Option 2. Establish an eastern zone within the Gulf migratory group of cobia to include the Florida east coast south of Cape Canaveral and the Atlantic side of the Keys. Establish a southern subzone within the Atlantic migratory group of cobia to include Georgia and northeast Florida.

Option 3. Establish an eastern subzone within the Gulf migratory group of cobia to include the entire Florida east coast and the Atlantic side of the Keys. Establish a southern subzone within the Atlantic migratory group of cobia to include Georgia.

The committee directed the staff and IPT to work on the wording for describing the modifications needed for the Atlantic Migratory Group under Action 7.

I so move to approve the Amendment 20 Scoping Document, with the changes, for scoping:

MOTION: APPROVE THE AMENDMENT 20 SCOPING DOCUMENT, AS MODIFIED, FOR SCOPING APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.