

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

MACKEREL COBIA COMMITTEE

**Villas by the Sea Resort
Jekyll Island, Georgia**

March 5, 2024

Transcript

Committee Members

Tom Roller, Chair
Spud Woodward, Vice Chair
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Amy Dukes
Tim Griner
Judy Helmey
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Attendees and Invited Participants

Shep Grimes
Clay Porch
Monica Smit-Brunello
Dale Diaz

Rick DeVictor
Sonny Gwin
Dr. Jack McGovern

Observers and Participants

Other observers and participants attached.

The Mackerel Cobia Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at The Villas by the Sea Resort, Jekyll Island, Georgia, on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, and was called to order by Chairman Tom Roller.

MR. ROLLER: All right, everybody. Let's get started, and so I'm going to convene the Tuesday, March 5 meeting of the Mackerel Cobia Committee. For all those listening, my name is Tom Roller, and I am a council member from North Carolina, in my first term, and, in my regular life, I'm a fulltime for-hire operator. As I like to start these committees, I just want to remind everybody here that our king and Spanish mackerel, while they may not be the most Hollywood of our managed species, they are of the most important commercial and recreational finfish managed by this council, both in directed trips as well as pounds landed.

The first order of business we have is Approval of the Agenda. Does anybody have any changes to the agenda, or anything they would like to do? Do I need a motion to approve the agenda, or I can just approve by consensus? Any objections? Seeing no objections, the motion is -- Approval of the agenda is approved. The next order of business is Approval of the Minutes from our December 2023 Meeting. Does anybody have any corrections or additions that they would like to add? Is there any objections to the minutes, as presented? Seeing none, the minutes are approved. Our first order of business is the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel Report, and I believe we have Captain Scott Pearce here to present that.

CAPTAIN PEARCE: Good morning, everybody. At our January advisory panel meeting, you all asked us to take a look at the tournament sales of king and Spanish mackerel, and so the following are the notes from our advisory panel meeting and discussion that took place. In North Carolina, tournament activity has remained consistent, whereas, in Georgia and Florida, the number of tournaments has increased in recent years.

Tournaments that extend beyond a few days, for example month-long tournaments with a declared fish day, are more challenging for law enforcement officers to monitor. In some states, such as Georgia, law enforcement officers attend the tournament captain's meeting to note relevant regulations. Vessel traffic associated with tournaments can affect fishing activity in some areas, with user conflicts seen between recreational fishermen, commercial fishermen, and tournament participants.

Dealers in some areas do not purchase fish from tournaments, to avoid diminishing market price and due to food safety concerns. Market price for king mackerel can drop overnight, due to tournament sales, from six-dollars a pound to one-dollar a pound, and may take weeks to rebound. There are issues with fishermen obtaining tournament fish and selling them to dealers under their own commercial permit. This practice can diminish the quality of the product and ultimately harm the commercial fishery. This practice may also increase the risk to consumers from histamine poisoning. It's important to note that the liability for HACCP regulations usually falls with the dealer receiving the fish. It's their responsibility to validate that the fish are fresh.

There is also no way to ascertain whether the money from tournament sales goes to charity, as the law requires, and the trail ends with the dealer reports. Consider placing more responsibility on the tournament organizers and stronger penalties to discourage bad behavior. Consider whether tournament-caught fish can be donated directly to food banks, thus keeping the responsibility with the tournament organizer and removing the fish from commerce.

It's important to note that monitoring tournament sales will take up a significant amount of enforcement time. Consider ending the sale of tournament-caught fish to avoid shifting enforcement resources from other priority areas. Any questions?

MR. ROLLER: Just more of a comment, and I just want to say how much I appreciated your discussion on this. I thought it was very all-consuming, and I really appreciated the comments by Mr. Freeman on the AP. He's very well-respected in his industry, and he had a lot to say on it. That's it for questions. Any more? Carolyn.

DR. BELCHER: Did you all discuss -- I know you said the trend was flat for North Carolina and South Carolina, and Florida and Georgia it was increasing, but did you talk magnitude, because Georgia really -- It may be up, but we're still talking fewer than fifteen tournaments, and so, I mean, I just want to make sure that people are understanding the scale of this, and we're not talking hundreds of events, and we're talking fewer than twenty events in Georgia, or probably fewer than ten, really, if I had to put it on there. Spud.

MR. WOODWARD: Also, I think it's important to note that, at least in Georgia, and I think in Florida, the actual number of participants in tournaments has gone way down from what it was in the 1990s. I mean, I chaired our Golden Isles King Mackerel Tournament when we had 175 boats, and that tournament is a forty-boat, or maybe a fifty-boat, tournament now, and so there may be a rebound back to the number of events, but, if you look at the total number of fish that are being landed, and a lot of it --

It's also important to know that a lot of these tournaments have gone to you weigh one fish for the boat, and it counts in multiple categories, and so the number of fish that are actually being brought to the dock, at least in our tournaments, has really gone down, you know, in terms of the number of fish that are going into the market from a tournament. You know, say, if you've got fifty boats, and you get one fish, and so that's fifty fish, and sometimes that's not even enough for a dealer to even be willing to handle, and so I think that's the thing, is it's highly variable, depending on where you're at, and the impact that it has.

MR. ROLLER: So, before I make a comment, does anybody have any questions? I was just going to say that I appreciate George's comments on this, but I think a lot of it is directed towards North Carolina, right, which is having considerable tournament landings, and we're seeing a big change of behavior in the tournaments, and how they encourage people to land more fish, right, and, in addition, I think those were some of the comments at the Law Enforcement AP, which I heard, was that there are people selling sort of around the tournament parameters, right, that they just sell them because they're fishing in a tournament, and they have a king mackerel permit, and so -- Any other questions for Captain Pearce? Okay. I think we're good.

CAPTAIN PEARCE: If I could just add one more thing for Florida, and I would say this, and it's not an overwhelming amount of tournaments that we have in Florida, but I do want to reiterate that, if there was significant issues with these tournaments, and it required -- If it ultimately was required to apply more law enforcement to the issue, then that's when you strongly need to consider whether the act should be allowed, because that does pull law enforcement away from more higher-priority conservation issues, and it puts them into the tournament category, and so that's it. Thank you.

MR. ROLLER: So we're concluding with the Law Enforcement AP report, and we're going to move into our mackerel port meetings discussion document, and I'm going to hand it over to Christina.

MS. WIEGAND: All right. Mackerel port meetings, we have reached the final preparation leg, and I'm not going to spend much time on the background, but what we really want to do today is review the overall port meeting plan and provide input, as needed, and so I'm going to very briefly sort of pause over the goals and objectives, and the discussion points, to make sure sort of -- This is the last time you will see them before we're actually out in the public conducting these port meetings, and so to confirm, one last time, that you're comfortable with them, and then what I'm going to do is try to sort of paint a picture of what one of these port meetings will look like, and see if you guys have any comments on that, and then we'll move on to a couple of discussion points on the New England meetings and the Mid-Atlantic meetings.

With that, here are your goals and objectives on the screen, and we've talked about these at-length, but I sort of just wanted to pause quickly and make sure that there were no other adjustments that you would like to see made to the goals and objectives.

MR. ROLLER: Any comments? Seeing none -- Spud, did you -- Spud says it's looks good, and you get a thumbs-up.

MS. WIEGAND: All right, and so next is your port meeting discussion topics, and, again, we've talked about these at-length. Both the goals and objectives and the discussion topics have been reviewed and updated, based on advisory panel input. By and large, they sort of fall into a couple of different categories, looking at, you know, species movement and expansion, changing environmental conditions, looking at the current management structure and how it's affected by that, talking about things like tournaments, and then sort of looking at commercial and recreational fishery dynamics and how each sector values the fishery, and then some EEJ concerns.

I will note that, once we get into the sort of -- Into the picture of what these port meetings will look like, not all of these topics are addressed sort of outright in the, you know, title of a section, but they will all be addressed in the discussions that we intend to have with fishermen. All of the discussion questions we use will be based on these discussion topics that have been identified by the council and the AP, and so, again, these have been reviewed at-length, but I just wanted to pause and make sure no one had any comments about them, before we moved on.

MR. ROLLER: Trish.

MS. MURPHEY: Thank you. My only comment was just -- And it's just been a concern that we do -- If we're going to discuss tournaments, that we make sure that we have some outreach to tournament organizers, so they can also participate, and so thank you.

MS. WIEGAND: All right, and so we've got this timeline. We'll be conducting port meetings throughout the rest of this year, and we will sort of update you as we go along, and so, in June, you'll get an update on the port meetings that we've held thus far, and then you'll be getting a final report, that sort of summarizes all of the port meetings, has a thematic analysis in it, in March of next year.

With that, I'm going to sort of go over the port meeting structure, and we intend for port meetings to last approximately two hours, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and lasting until 8:00 p.m. There are a couple of different materials that we intend to provide to attendees. The first will be sort of a general flyer that we'll use for all of the meetings, that has got just basic information on how king and Spanish mackerel are managed, and the next will be a flyer with information that's specific to the focus state, and so we're getting ready to go out to North Carolina in April, and so we're putting together information that will just have, you know, landings in North Carolina, overall landings compared to the ACL, information like that that fishermen can have on-hand while they're having their discussions.

We'll have some of the more general information as well, that we take to all outreach events, information on the council and the council process, and then, because king mackerel has been such a key part of the FISHstory project, we'll have information about that too, just available at sort of the welcome table, as fishermen come in.

As they're arriving at the port meetings, you know, between 5:30 and 6:00, the goal will be sort of to greet attendees and learn why they decided to attend the night's port meeting, and so there will be a welcome table at the front of the room, where we'll have fishermen sign-in, similar to how -- You know, many of you have been to our in-person public hearings, and it will be similar to that process, but we're also going to have sort of two flip charts available throughout the room, one with a question of, you know, what is one thing you hope comes out of port meetings, and then what is one key thing that the council needs to know about king and Spanish mackerel, and part of the reason to do this is, one, to get people engaged off the bat, but, two, so staff can look at those, and, if there are sort of key things that are coming up in an area, we can adjust some of the questions that we may ask, to make sure we're getting at what attendees really wanted to provide to the council.

After that, we'll just have a very brief introduction, starting at 6:00, lasting only ten to fifteen minutes, and, again, the goal is for this to not be presentation-heavy, but to be much more discussion-oriented, and so it will be just a brief presentation talking about the council's goals and objectives, and some ground rules detailing how the rest of the night is going to operate.

Next, we will jump into breakout groups, and so we'll split the attendees into two separate groups, and staff will sort of facilitate each group, and take notes on a flipchart for everyone to see, walking through sort of a predetermined list of questions, and this won't be a lengthy list of questions, and, again, it will be based on the discussion topics that you will have identified, but just some questions to sort of get conversation flowing with the breakout groups.

There will be one breakout group that focuses on environmental conditions and one that focuses on addressing management changes, and they will talk for about fifteen minutes, and then they will switch, and so each group will get to talk about both of those topics, and then, again, like I noted earlier, while things like the CMP FMP goals and objectives, and environmental justice concerns, aren't explicit topics, they will be addressed through some of the questions that staff will ask about each of those, the environmental conditions and management changes topics, and so they are being addressed.

Then we'll have sort of what I'm calling a working break, and it will be twenty minutes for people to mill around, and we're going to put new interactive charts up, and one will be a list of the current CMP FMP goals and objectives, and we'll have attendees sort of put keep, delete, or modify, using different notes, so we can gather than information, and then, based on the recommendation of the Outreach and Communications AP, we're going to put sort of a timeline of the fishery up, and allow fishermen with post-it notes to sort of note when they got into the fishery, good years and bad years, or sort of other noteworthy events on that timeline from their perspective.

Sort of after that break, then we'll dive into sector dynamics, and we'll sort of separate out recreational fishermen and commercial fishermen, to talk about different, you know, sector dynamics, how they value the fishery, things like that, and, again, a facilitator will work with them and walk through questions. Anyone who is there that's a member of both sectors, or is maybe part of an eNGO, will sort of be allowed to self-select which group they feel their input would be most valuable, and they will discuss for twenty-five minutes, after which one of the group members, or a staff member, if there's no volunteer, will sort of report out to the full group on what was discussed.

Then, finally, we will wrap-up, with just a quick thank you to the attendees recapping the council's goals and objectives and talking about sort of what the next steps are for port meetings and how attendees can stay involved in the management process, and so I guess I will quickly pause there, to see if there's any questions or comments, and then I will note that we do have some adjustments, based on what happens if there is really low attendance, what happens if there's really high attendance, so that we're sort of prepared for those scenarios, but, before I get into that, I will just quickly stop and see if there's questions, concerns, thoughts, on sort of the overall structure of what we're going to be doing for these port meetings.

MR. ROLLER: Any questions? Spud.

MR. WOODWARD: I'm just curious, and how many staff are you planning to have at each one of them?

MS. WIEGAND: So the plan is to have three staff at each of these and then two council members.

MR. ROLLER: Jessica.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I thought we were also going to be relying on state agency folks to help at the meetings as well? Okay. Thank you.

MR. ROLLER: Bob.

MR. BEAL: Thanks, Tom. For the northern meetings, you know, the Mid-Atlantic and southern New England meetings, are two of the council members from this council going to attend those meetings, or are you going to tap into the other councils, or just state representatives?

MS. WIEGAND: We'll definitely want sort of -- We have budgeted for two of our council members to come. We would certainly want state representation, especially through the Mid-Atlantic and New England, to also be in attendance.

MR. ROLLER: Any other questions? Laurilee.

MS. THOMPSON: I just wanted to say what a great job you've done putting this together. It's really impressive, and are you going to send out an email for us to volunteer to attend the meetings, or -- So we can get it on our calendars?

MS. WIEGAND: Sort of what we'll get into, a little bit later on in the document, are the dates for each state, or area, port meetings, and one of the things -- Sort of I've done this with North Carolina already, but reaching out to the three council members, and saying these are the dates for the meeting, and which ones would you be able to attend and help with.

MR. ROLLER: I'm looking for more questions before we move on. I think we can go.

MS. WIEGAND: All right, and so then just a quick note about how we intend to make adjustments, understanding that there are always situations where, unfortunately, there is not really high attendance, or, incredibly, there's a ton of attendance, and so, if there's really low attendance, I'm thinking less than ten attendees, we just won't do breakout groups anymore, and each topic will just be discussed with the full group. The timing remains approximately the same as I talked about above.

If there's a really high attendance, breakout groups won't really rotate throughout the room anymore, and each group, with just one person, will talk about all of the topics, and we'll shorten the break to five minutes, and so it sort of looks structured a little bit like this, where we'll separate them into two groups, and the first group will talk about environmental conditions, and then we'll move to some of those interactive activities that I talked about during the break, and then we'll talk about management changes. Group B will do a similar thing, just at different times, and then we'll have that sort break of just five minutes.

Otherwise, timing remains the same as above, and so the only other concern we had is there's always a chance, for those sector breakout groups, that we'll have say a ton of commercial fishermen, and only two recreational fishermen, or vice versa, and the thought is to still have breakout groups, because it can still be beneficial to have a conversation, even if it's just a smaller group of recreational fishermen, or a smaller group of commercial fishermen, depending on the situation, and so that's how we intend to sort of adjust what I just talked about in those different scenarios.

All right, and so the next thing I want to talk about, before I give a little detail about the outreach plan, are the port meeting locations, and these have been updated based on the feedback you guys provided in December. We've got the North Carolina ones on the books ready to go, and we've got locations. Sort of as soon as you guys approve this plan at this meeting, we'll start a big outreach campaign.

Next up would be New England, and we would be looking to hold those sometime in May. However, I do sort of want to pause here. In talking to the commission, we've been -- You guys set up a port meetings planning team, with representation from all the states and the commission, and Emily has been incredibly helpful in reaching out to commissioners from New England and the Mid-Atlantic, and one of the things the commissioners from New England have noted is that they're pretty concerned about in-person meetings up in that area and getting, you know,

attendance at these meetings, because king and Spanish mackerel -- While they are being seen up there, and people are certainly fishing for them up there, it's not sort of a prime species up in that area yet, and so they had asked if the council had considered doing virtual meetings for the New England area.

I will sort of note that -- I say New England, and we do have New York included in this trip, and I understand that New York is not technically New England, but we do have it included in that leg, and so I wanted to get thoughts from the council on how you feel about doing the New England meetings virtual, versus doing them in-person.

MR. ROLLER: I'm going to look at Bob. I did volun-tell you a little bit, and so go ahead.

MR. BEAL: I don't want to, you know, steer the group, but, you know, we've been doing a lot of meetings in New England virtually, and folks are really getting used to them, and our participation, and attendance, is a lot better, up in that area, with virtual meetings, rather than in-person, and the reason that I asked my question earlier about, you know, participation and attendance is, if there's three staffers, two council members, and then a state rep or two from that corner of the world, I can almost guarantee you that that management group outnumbers the folks that show up in the room, and so, you know, I think, as you saw in the comments, and I think you shared the comments, Christina, from the commissioners up in the Northeast.

You know, this is a hit-or-miss fishery, and I think these hearings are hit-or-miss, and I just don't -- I just feel kind of guilty if there's a whole lot of travel, and expenditure, to head up that way, and then, you know, one or two people show up, and you don't get much out of it, but so, you know, the virtual meetings have been working well up in that corner of the world. You know, since COVID, they got really used to it, and I think we're getting better participation doing virtual hearings. All the hearings we do now, we at least have a couple that are hybrid meetings, or solely virtual, just to make sure we get all the folks involved, and so they're used to it, and you may get a little bit better participation.

MR. ROLLER: Thank you, Bob. A question I have for you on that note, since you're more familiar with it, and do you believe the time of year would be good for virtual meetings, if we were to stick with May? That's the question that I have. If we were to move it to virtual, and do something like just have a virtual meeting for every state, is that a good time of year to do that?

MR. BEAL: In May, they're starting to ramp-up, and come out of the winter freeze up there, and they're starting to start fishing, and so it would be a little bit lower participation in May than now, for example, because folks are looking for stuff to do. One of the commissioners commented that it's -- You know, everything starts ramping-up in May up there, and kids sports, and fishing, and people just get busy, but I think, if someone can just log onto their computer for an hour, it's a lot easier than, you know, driving forty-five minutes, or whatever it might be, to the meeting location, spending a couple of hours there, and driving home, and so it's a full evening commitment, versus an hour, and so you might -- Even that time of year, I think you would do okay with virtual hearings.

MR. ROLLER: Thank you for that. Do we have any other comments on any of the meeting locations or New England? Trish.

MS. MURPHEY: I just want to just bring up the meeting location for Wilmington. I know some of our staff had concerns about that particular meeting place, which is our regional office, and that room would probably comfortably hold thirty to forty, and I did note that thirty seemed to be your high number, and, I mean, it sounds like we're probably okay, but I just kind of wanted to bring up that, you know, that's kind of an awkward room anyway, because it's kind of divided into two, and I think, with a small group, you'll be fine, but maybe another place to consider is the Cape Fear Community College. We did some meetings there, and that was good, and traffic wasn't so bad to get there, and so, anyway, I just wanted to throw that out there for you.

MS. WIEGAND: Thanks, Trish, and one of the things I will note is that, similar to what they did for the dolphin wahoo meetings, we're going to have, once the website is sort of up and running, a registration form for each of the meetings, to hopefully get a sense of the number of attendees in advance, understanding that registration is not mandatory, and there might be more or less, but trying to get a ballpark number.

MR. ROLLER: Joe, go ahead.

MR. GRIST: Heathsville, that one caught my attention very quickly, and I would like to know a little bit more of what the plan is there, because that's pretty remote.

MS. WIEGAND: Yes, and so that's actually the next thing I had to talk about, in terms of these, were the Mid-Atlantic meetings, and so one of the things we heard, from the commissioners, was that they wanted to see a meeting on the inside of the Chesapeake, as opposed to along the coast, and so they didn't sort of provide, necessarily, any suggestions. I don't know that area very well, and we'll certainly be working with the commission to identify a location for that, and so that was just a sort of placeholder, and that's why it's in italics, just to note that we -- Because we can only do four meetings in a week, and so one of the things that I wanted to be clear about here is that we removed the Delaware location, to then do one sort of on the internal side of the Chesapeake, and so Heathsville probably won't be where we end up, and we'll be working with the commissioners and, of course, the state agencies to determine where the best location would be for that one, but I wanted to note, to this council, that that means we're removing the Delaware location.

MR. GRIST: I will just note that -- I will work, obviously, with Bob too, because I'm the Virginia representative, and, if you want to reach out to me directly, I can help you find some locations up there, and talk to a couple of the anglers, to find out what would be best, so you can get a good turnout, because that is -- That's a very remote area up there to be working, and so we want to get the word out, to actually make it worth your time.

MR. ROLLER: Thank you, Joe. I've got Bob.

MR. BEAL: Thanks again. I think omitting the Delaware hearing, or meeting, makes sense. You know, you can get to Ocean City, Maryland, from any of the Delaware ports, in half-an-hour. You know, the states are pretty small up that way, and so you can get around pretty easily, and so I think that makes a lot of sense, and including something inside the bay, in Virginia, will get probably a better turnout, and the Delaware folks can move around pretty easily.

One thing is, back to the New England meetings, and I guess I was mostly commenting on Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. If New York -- That one seems like there may be

enough people there to justify it, and so that one might be worthwhile to have in-person, but I know the three, sort of north and east of there, may be the ones that you should consider virtual.

MR. ROLLER: Christina, did you want to comment on the New York meeting?

MS. WIEGAND: Yes, and so that's something I would like for the council to have a little bit of discussion on, and so, if the intent now is to move the New England meetings, specifically New England, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, to virtual, then we -- That's outside of our jurisdiction as the council, but New York is not, and we do manage king and Spanish mackerel in New York, as well as the rest of the Mid-Atlantic states, and so, again, we can only sort of do four meetings in a week, and one of the things that staff can work on, especially since the Mid-Atlantic meetings are scheduled sort of so late in the year, we've got a little bit of time, and we could, if this is something the council is interested in, sort of work to break it up into two shorter trips, sort of the southern Mid-Atlantic region and then the northern Mid-Atlantic region, to make sure we're still capturing New York, should you decide to do those three New England states virtual.

MR. ROLLER: Joe.

MR. GRIST: Sonny and I were just talking about it, and our council meeting in June is in New York, and so maybe, as an alternative, because we don't usually have anything going on in the evenings, and, if you reach out to the Mid-Atlantic Council staff, you might be able to pair up and just do it in -- I think it's the first week in June, in New York, and that might be something that helps you out, and we already have a location, but we'll be up there in early June for our council, and so you might just pair up with us. It's an option, and you will have a lot of attendance, probably, with us all there.

MR. ROLLER: That's a great idea, and I much appreciate that, and it's my understanding that this fishery is more reliable, year-to-year, in the Long Island, New York area, and I'm correct, right, and a lot of my associates in the fishing industry -- This is a much more important fishery to them, and they're talking about it a lot more, and so I would be hopeful that we might get more attendance, and do you believe that June would be a good time to get fishermen in attendance there? I mean, I know you already answered it, but --

MR. GRIST: I mean, it's hard to say, but we are going to be right there in the heart of the area you're talking about, and that's where we're meeting, and so we're already going to get a draw anyway, and so it may work out to an advantage, for logistics if nothing else, to be right there. Sonny was just pointing out that, if you do this from 6:00 to 8:00, and we don't go past 5:00, typically, and so easily that would work out.

MR. ROLLER: Thank you, Joe. Do we have any more questions or comments on locations? Do you have anything, Christina?

MS. WIEGAND: I just want to make sure that I understand, and so the direction from the committee is to move the three New England meetings to virtual webinars, that would still be held in May, and then look at doing New York, maybe in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Council meeting, and then sort of keep the Mid-Atlantic list in November as-is, working with the commission, and state agencies, to identify that fourth city.

MR. ROLLER: I'm not hearing any objection to that, and I'm seeing some nodding heads. Christina, is that good, a lot of nodding heads? All right. I think that sounds like a good plan, and we can move forward with that.

MS. WIEGAND: All right. Then, next up, I just wanted to give you guys a heads-up on some of the outreach that we're planning to do. Nick is currently drafting what I'm sure will be a beautiful website that's going to include background on the port meetings, the goals and objectives we talked about, dates, locations, registration links, links to the outreach flyers that we've prepared, a brief blurb on the Gulf Council's complementary effort, and sort of logos for all of the state agencies that have been involved in the planning team, and I do just sort of want to briefly pause here and give a shoutout to everyone that is on the planning team.

All of the states provided staff, and the commission provided staff, and we've got Gulf Council staff on the planning team, and their input on this process has been invaluable, and it's one of the reasons that it looks the way it does, and a special shoutout to Amanda and Kevin, who have already been helpful in getting locations for North Carolina, and starting to do outreach, and so we couldn't have done a lot of what we've done without the staff that you all put on the planning team, and so a thank you to them.

So then we've got, you know, the outreach flyers that will go out to everyone. We will email those out to the specific shops that we know within the council's tackle shop database, and they will be sent with staff, when they happen to be already conducting outreach in the area, and they will be provided to Mackerel Cobia AP members, tournament organizers, as well as a list of outreach contacts that has, again, been curated by that planning team.

We'll be working on a feature article, and then, of course, news releases from the council, the commission, and the relevant state agencies, and then, if we can organize it in time, possibly postcards mailed out to permitted fishermen, and so that's it. The next step will be to finalize meeting venues for North Carolina, which we've done, and then work on that New England webinar, and we'll be getting the port meeting team to review some stuff, and then just outreach, outreach, outreach. Sort of the last thing I need from the committee is a motion to approve the plan for implementation.

MR. ROLLER: So I am looking for a motion, and, Spud, would you like to make that motion?

MR. WOODWARD: My pleasure, Mr. Chairman. **I will move to approve the king and Spanish mackerel port meetings plan for implementation.**

MR. ROLLER: Thank you, Spud. Do we have a second for that motion? Trish, a second?

MS. MURPHEY: Second.

MR. ROLLER: Thank you, Trish, and so we have a motion on the floor. Do we have any discussion about this motion, any comments? Not seeing any discussion, I think we can go ahead and try to vote on this motion. **Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing no objection, the motion passes. It's approved.** Thank you.

MS. WIEGAND: That's all I had.

MR. ROLLER: All right, and so, now that we are done, the last item of business is Other Business. Does anybody have anything else they would like to bring before the committee? Seeing no other business, I will now adjourn the March meeting of the Mackerel Cobia Committee.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on March 5, 2024.)

- - -

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

Transcribed By
Amanda Thomas
April 24, 2024

MACKEREL COBIA

- ✓ Tom Roller, Chair
- ✓ Spud Woodward, Vice Chair
- ✓ Robert Beal
- ✓ Carolyn Belcher
- ✓ Gary Borland
- LT Cameron Box
- ✓ Tim Griner
- ✓ Judy Helmey (online)
- ✓ Kerry Marhefka
- ✓ Jessica McCawley
- ✓ Trish Murphey
- ✓ Robert Spottswood, Jr.
- ✓ Andy Strelcheck
- ✓ Laurilee Thompson
- Mid-Atlantic: Skip Feller; Joe Grist
- ✓ Staff contact: Christina Wiegand

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Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
Robert Beal
Tim Griner
Kerry Marhefka
Jessica McCawley
Andy Strelcheck
Staff contact: Chip Collier

SHRIMP

Laurilee Thompson, Chair
Trish Murphy, Vice Chair
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Kerry Marhefka, Vice Chair
Robert Beal
Carolyn Belcher
Gary Borland
LT Cameron Box
Tim Griner
Judy Helmey
Trish Murphey
Tom Roller
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Andy Strelcheck
Laurilee Thompson
Spud Woodward
Mid-Atlantic: Michele Duval;
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Tue., March 5, 2024

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Clay Porch

Scott Pearce

Jack McGovern

Kristin Foss

Attendee Report: SAFMC March 2024 Council Meeting (3/5/24)

Report Generated:

03/05/2024 05:56 PM EST

Webinar ID	Actual Start Date/Time	Duration	# Registered	# Attended
785-631-531	03/05/2024 08:00 AM EST	9 hours 40 minutes	156	116

Staff Details

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