

# OVERVIEW

## Mackerel Advisory Panel Meeting

**April 22-23, 2013**  
North Charleston, SC

The King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP) will meet to discuss (A) Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) Joint Amendment 19, (B) CMP Joint Amendment 20, and (C) the South Atlantic CMP Framework Action. The AP will review each amendment and provide recommendations for the Council to consider at their June 2013 meeting.

### **A. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Amendment 19 (Attachment 2)**

Amendment 19 was reviewed at a joint meeting with the South Atlantic and Gulf Mackerel Committees in March 2013. The amendment will be approved for public hearing in June 2013 and reviewed for final approval in September 2013. The actions include consideration of a prohibition on bag limit sales of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel, including an exemption for tournament sales; options to reduce the number of king mackerel commercial permits by eliminating inactive permits or making inactive permits non-transferable; and modifications to income requirements for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel commercial permits.

### **B. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Amendment 20 (Attachment 3)**

Amendment 20 was reviewed but the South Atlantic Council in March 2013, and will be approved for public hearing in June 2013 and reviewed for final approval in September 2013. The actions include changes to zone and sub-zone allocations, fishing seasons and commercial trip limits for Gulf Group king mackerel. Additionally there are actions to: establish transit provisions through closed king mackerel areas; consider a commercial quota for North Carolina king mackerel and Spanish mackerel; modify the framework procedure to allow the Councils to make changes to acceptable biological catch (ABC), ABC/ACL control rules, and accountability measures (AMs) through frameworks; and adjust the cobia annual catch limit (ACL) and annual catch target (ACT).

For the cobia ACL/ACT action, the AP will review the outcomes of the stock assessment for cobia (SEDAR 28) and the recommendations for the ABC for Atlantic group cobia provided by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) at their meeting in April 9-11, 2013.

### **C. South Atlantic CMP Framework Action (Attachment 4)**

The South Atlantic CMP Framework Action was reviewed by the Council in March 2013. The amendment will be approved for public hearing in June 2013 and reviewed for final approval in September 2013. Actions include: modifying the minimum size limit for Atlantic Group king mackerel; changes to the commercial trip limit in the Florida East Coast Sub-zone for Atlantic Group king mackerel; modifications to at-sea transfer provisions for the Atlantic Group Spanish

mackerel gillnet fishery; and adjustments in the Atlantic Group Spanish mackerel commercial quota and trip limit system.

During discussion of the Framework Action, the AP will also review the stock assessment results for Spanish mackerel from SEDAR 28. At the June 2013 meeting, the Council may add an additional action to adjust the Atlantic Group Spanish mackerel ACL if the SSC provides recommendations for the Atlantic Group Spanish mackerel ABC at the April SSC meeting.