

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Advisory Panel Meeting

April 7-8, 2014
North Charleston, SC

The King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP) will receive updates on (A) amendments under formal review and (B) amendments under development. Next the AP will discuss (C) the stock assessment for king mackerel (SEDAR 38); (D) Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) Joint Amendment 24, (E) CMP Joint Amendment 26, and (F) CMP Framework Amendment 2. The AP will review discussion documents for each of the amendments and provide recommendations for the Council to consider at their June 2014 meeting.

A. Status of Amendments Under Formal Review

Council staff will provide an update on Joint Amendment 20A and South Atlantic Framework Action 2013. Amendment 20A includes actions on bag limit sales of king and Spanish mackerel, and elimination of income requirements for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel commercial permits. The amendment was submitted for Secretarial review on December 2, 2013. The proposed rule was published March 19, 2014, and the public comment period closes on May 5, 2014. Detailed information is available in the NMFS Fishery Bulletin: <http://tinyurl.com/FB-CMP20A>.

The South Atlantic Framework Action 2013 includes actions for transfer at sea for Spanish mackerel gillnets and modifications to the king mackerel trip limit in the Florida East Coast subzone. The amendment was submitted for Secretarial review in December 2013. The proposed rule was published March 19, 2014, and the public comment period closes on April 18, 2014. Detailed information is available in the NMFS Fishery Bulletin: <http://tinyurl.com/FBCMPFW>.

B. Status of Amendments Under Development

The AP will receive an update from Council staff on two amendments currently under development: Joint Amendment 20B and Framework Amendment 1. Amendment 20B includes actions to change the hook and line trip limits and fishing year for some of the Gulf group king mackerel zones/subzones, a transit provision, regional commercial allocations of the Atlantic group king mackerel and the Atlantic group Spanish mackerel, framework procedure changes, and updated cobia ACLs and ACT. Currently the Councils have different preferred alternatives for an action, but the amendment cannot be submitted unless the Councils agree on the preferred alternatives. The South Atlantic Council took final action in March 2014 and the Gulf Council will discuss the amendment in April 2014. Framework Amendment 1 will update the ACLs for Atlantic group and Gulf group Spanish mackerel, and was previously titled Joint Framework Action 2014. The South Atlantic Council took final action in March 2014, and the Gulf Council is scheduled to take final action in April 2014.

C. SEDAR 38 Update

The Data Workshop for SEDAR 38 (Atlantic and Gulf king mackerel) was held December 9-13, 2013, and the Assessment Workshop is scheduled for March 24-28, 2014. Council staff will provide an update to the AP on the Data Workshop and Assessment Workshop, and possible outcomes of the assessment that could affect management decisions. Detailed information about the workshops and assessment documents are available online:

http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/Sedar_Workshops.jsp?WorkshopNum=38.

D. Joint Amendment 24 (Attachment 2)

Amendment 24 will include actions to consider ways to improve the opportunity to reach the total ACL for Atlantic Spanish mackerel and Gulf king mackerel. The amendment was scoped in January 2014. The South Atlantic Council is considering an in-season “ACL shift” for Atlantic Spanish mackerel and the Gulf Council is interested in reallocation between the recreational and commercial sectors for Gulf king mackerel. The AP will review scoping comments and current ideas for an options paper, which will be reviewed by the South Atlantic Council in June 2014.

E. Joint Amendment 26 (Attachment 3)

Amendment 26 will consider ways to separate the commercial permits for king and Spanish mackerel into designated permits for each region. The amendment was scoped in January 2014 and the South Atlantic Council will review a white paper on possible methods to split the permits in June or September 2014. The AP will review scoping comments and current ideas for the white paper, which will be reviewed by the South Atlantic Council in June or September 2014.

F. Framework Amendment 2 (Attachment 4)

In March 2014, the South Atlantic Council approved development of Framework Amendment 2 to consider changes to the Atlantic Spanish mackerel commercial trip limit system in Florida waters. The action and alternatives were previously in South Atlantic Framework Action 2013, but in June 2013 the Council approved a motion to move the action to a future amendment after the Spanish mackerel stock assessment was complete. The AP will review the proposed alternatives and provide recommendations for the South Atlantic Council meeting in June 2014.