

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Advisory Panel Meeting

April 15, 2015

North Charleston, SC

Following approval of the agenda and April 2014 minutes, and introductions, the King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP) will receive updates on (A) recently implemented amendments and developing amendments. Next the AP will discuss (B) CMP Joint Amendment 26. The AP will review the discussion document and provide recommendations for the Council to consider at their June 2015 meeting. Council staff will next brief the AP on the (C) NMFS Southeast Region Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Implementation Plan, followed by a review of the Generic Charterboat Reporting Amendment. The AP will then receive a presentation on (D) cobia research from staff at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Following will be two items of (E) administrative business. First, Council staff will provide a presentation on term limits for AP members. Next, the AP Chair will lead the AP in election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Last, the AP will address Other Business as necessary.

A. Recently Implemented and Developing Amendments (*Attachment 1*)

- CMP Amendment 20A (bag limit sales and income requirements)
- CMP Amendment 20B (boundaries and transit provisions)
- S. Atlantic CMP Framework Action 2013 (transfer-at-sea for Spanish mackerel; Florida east coast subzone trip limits for king mackerel)
- CMP Framework Amendment 1 (Spanish Mackerel ACLs)
- CMP Framework Amendment 2 (Atlantic Spanish mackerel trip limits) – submitted for Secretarial review on November 5, 2014
- Status of CMP Amendment 24 (Atlantic Spanish mackerel allocations)
- Status of CMP Amendment 28 (Separate FMPs/Permits)

REQUIRED AP ACTION: Discuss and make recommendations as necessary.

B. Joint Amendment 26 (*Attachment 2*)

Joint Amendment 26 includes several actions for Atlantic and Gulf king mackerel. Following the recent stock assessment for king mackerel (SEDAR 38), the Councils will update the management boundary and the annual catch limits (ACLs) for Gulf and Atlantic king mackerel. Additionally, quotas for the Gulf zones and subzones will be revised based on the stock assessment. The Gulf Council may also consider revising the commercial/recreational allocation or modifying the recreational bag limit for Gulf king mackerel. Last, the South Atlantic Council is considering an incidental catch allowance of king mackerel for the shark gillnet fishery.

Items in Amendment 26 were scoped by the South Atlantic in January 2015. The South Atlantic Council reviewed public input and provided direction to staff on actions and alternatives to include. Council staff will review the actions and alternatives for Amendment 26. The AP will

provide input and recommendations that will be presented to the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils in June 2015.

REQUIRED AP ACTION: Discuss and make recommendations as necessary.

C. Electronic Technology Plan and Generic Charterboat Reporting Amendment (Attachments 3a-3d)

1. Electronic Technology (ET) Implementation Plan

Council staff will review the Electronic Technology (ET) Implementation Plan (**Attachment 3a**) released by NOAA Fisheries on February 26, 2015. This information is being provided to the AP so that they are aware of this effort and the potential impacts to their reporting.

At the June 2014 South Atlantic Council meeting, the Data Collection Committee discussed electronic reporting/monitoring and provided guidance to staff. The Council provided their input on the ET Implementation Plan in a letter dated June 30, 2014. The Gulf, Caribbean, and South Atlantic Councils' Workgroup reviewed the draft Implementation Plan on November 24, 2014, via conference call.

At the December 2014 Council meeting, Mel Bell (SAFMC Member) and Gregg Waugh (SAFMC Staff) briefed the committee on the Workgroup recommendations and the NMFS SERO provided a status update. The Council directed staff to assist in providing input on a draft ET Regional Implementation Plan (**Attachment 3b**). The Draft ET Implementation Plan was distributed for public comment on January 9, 2015 with comments due February 9, 2015. The Council's comments are included (**Attachment 3c**).

2. Joint South Atlantic & Gulf Council Generic Charterboat Reporting Amendment (Attachment 3d)

Next, Council staff will review the Generic Charterboat Reporting Amendment, which is a joint amendment with the Gulf Council. This amendment includes actions to establish a weekly electronic reporting requirement for charter vessels, a vessel or catch location reporting requirement for charter vessels, and specifications for charterboat data flow and timing for monitoring agencies. The AP will review the proposed actions and provide recommendations to the Council for the June 2015 meeting.

REQUIRED AP ACTION: Discuss and make recommendations as necessary.

D. Cobia Spawning Aggregation in South Carolina (Attachment 4)

South Carolina DNR staff will provide a presentation on the inshore cobia population in South Carolina that comes inshore to spawn in April through June. Catch data suggest that fishing effort has increased and landings have decreased. Genetic data suggests that the effective population size is reaching a critical low point and the results of mark recapture data suggest that the population is in decline.

REQUIRED AP ACTION: Discuss and make recommendations as necessary.

E. Administrative Business

Council staff will review new term limits for AP members that were implemented in 2014. Next, the AP will elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

REQUIRED AP ACTION: Elect Chair and Vice-Chair.