

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Advisory Panel Meeting

February 3, 2016

Cocoa Beach, FL

Following approval of the agenda and April 2015 minutes, the Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP) will receive updates on (A) recent actions for coastal migratory pelagics (CMP). Next the AP will discuss (B) CMP Amendment 26. The AP will review the discussion document and provide recommendations to the Councils. The AP will next review the actions and alternatives in (C) the Atlantic Headboat/Charterboat Reporting Amendment, and provide recommendations to the Council. Last, the AP will address Other Business as necessary. A public hearing for Amendment 26 will follow the AP meeting, starting at 4pm.

A. Recent CMP Actions

- CMP Framework Amendment 2 (Atlantic Spanish mackerel trip limits)
- Status of CMP Amendment 28 (Separate FMPs/Permits)
- Recreational Landings of Atlantic Cobia

REQUIRED AP ACTION: Discuss and make recommendations as necessary.

B. Joint Amendment 26 (Attachments 1, 2a and 2b)

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 Atlantic king mackerel for the shark gillnet fishery.

Items in Amendment 26 were scoped by the South Atlantic in January 2015. In April 2015, the South Atlantic Mackerel AP reviewed actions for Amendment 26 and provided recommendations to the Councils. The Gulf Mackerel AP reviewed Amendment 26 in December 2015; Gulf AP recommendations are included in the AP Discussion Document (**Attachment 2a**) and the complete Gulf AP meeting report is available online, under Tab C, No. 4b: http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/BriefingMaterials/BB-01-2016/January2016Index.php.

Council staff will review the actions and alternatives, and expected biological, economic and social effects of the actions, through the AP Discussion Document (**Attachment 2a**). Additional information and analysis for some of the actions are available in **Attachment 2b**. The AP will discuss and provide recommendations to the Councils at their next meetings.

A public hearing for Amendment 26 will be held following the AP meeting in Cocoa Beach, in addition to a webinar hearing scheduled for February 8, 2016. The public comment period closes on February 10, 2016. The South Atlantic Council is expected to take final action on Amendment 26 in March 2016.

REQUIRED AP ACTION: Discuss and make recommendations as necessary.

C. Atlantic Headboat/Charter Reporting Amendment (Attachment 3)

The Headboat/Charter Reporting Amendment includes actions that would mandate weekly electronic reporting for headboats and charter vessels with federal for-hire permits (including for-hire Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo and Coastal Migratory Pelagics). Council staff will review the actions and alternatives in the Headboat/Charter Reporting Amendment using the public hearing summary (**Attachment 3**). A full draft of the amendment is available online at: http://safmc.net/sites/default/files/meetings/pdf/Public%20Hearings%20&%20Scoping/2016/01_2016/PH_ForHire_Electronic_Reporting_AM_011516.pdf.

A public hearing for the Headboat/Charterboat Reporting Amendment will be held following the AP meeting in Cocoa Beach, in addition to a webinar hearing scheduled for February 8, 2016. The public comment period closes on February 10, 2016. The South Atlantic Council is expected to take final action in March 2016.

REQUIRED AP ACTION: Discuss and make recommendations as necessary.