

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee Meeting

September 18, 2014

Charleston Marriott
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC

The Mackerel Committee will receive reports from SERO on (A) the status of commercial and recreational catches versus the respective quotas for Atlantic group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. SERO will also provide (B) status updates on amendments recently submitted for formal review. Council staff will next provide (C) a summary of comments received during public hearings in August 2014.

Next, the Committee will review (D) CMP Framework Amendment 2. Council staff will provide an overview of the draft amendment and public comments. After making any necessary changes to the amendment, the Committee will select a preferred alternative and approve the amendment for formal review.

The Mackerel Committee will then review (E) a discussion paper for CMP Amendment 26. The Committee will provide guidance to staff on next steps and a timeline for the amendment. Next, staff from South Carolina Department of Natural Resources will provide (F) a presentation on cobia spawning aggregations in South Carolina waters, followed by a discussion with the Committee. Lastly, the Committee will address issues under Other Business if necessary.

A. Status of Landings for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Species (Attachments 1 and 2)

The Committee will receive status updates on landings (commercial and recreational) for Atlantic Group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

B. Status of Amendments Approved for Secretarial Review

- Amendment 20A – final rule published on June 16, 2014; implemented on July 16, 2014
- Amendment 20B – submitted for Secretarial review on May 22, 2014
- S. Atlantic CMP Framework Action 2013 – proposed rule published on March 19, 2014
- CMP Framework Amendment 1– proposed rule published on July 31, 2014; comment period closes on September 2, 2014.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

C. Public Hearings Report (Attachment 3)

Public hearings were held in August 2014 to receive public input on Framework Amendment 2. Council staff will review a summary of comments received during hearings.

D. CMP Framework Amendment 2 (Attachments 4a-4c)

Framework Amendment 2 will modify the trip limit and quota system in place for commercial harvest of Atlantic group Spanish mackerel in the Southern Zone (South Carolina, Georgia and Florida). Council staff will provide an overview of the action and alternatives, and all public input and AP recommendations. The Committee will select a preferred alternative and approve the amendment for formal review.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Modify the amendment as necessary, select a preferred alternative, and approve for formal review.

E. CMP Amendment 26 Discussion Paper (Attachment 5)

Amendment 26 would include actions to separate king mackerel and Spanish mackerel commercial permits by region, and was scoped in the South Atlantic region in January 2014. In March 2014, the South Atlantic Council directed staff to develop a discussion paper on methods and considerations to separate the permits. Council staff will review the discussion paper prepared by Council and SERO staff. The Committee will provide guidance to staff on next steps and a timeline for the amendment.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide direction to staff on content and timing.

E. Cobia Spawning Aggregation in South Carolina (Attachment 6)

South Carolina DNR staff will provide a presentation on the cobia fishery in South Carolina and cobia spawning aggregations in the Pt Royal/St Helena area in southern South Carolina. There has been some concern expressed by fishermen related to effort and harvest during known and probable spawning aggregations in both inshore and offshore waters.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.