

# Overview

## Mackerel Cobia Committee

DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront  
2717 W. Fort Macon Road  
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

December 8, 2016

Following approval of the agenda and the September 2016 minutes, the Mackerel Cobia Committee will receive an update on (A) the status of commercial and recreational catches versus the respective ACLs/quotas for Atlantic king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. This report will include the 2016 recreational landings for cobia, which exceeded the 2016 annual catch limit. Next, SERO staff will provide (B) a status update on the review of Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) Amendment 26, Framework Amendment 4, and Framework Amendment 5.

Next, Council staff will review the reports and decisions regarding Atlantic king mackerel and Atlantic cobia from (D) the Gulf Council meeting in October 2016.

The Committee will discuss (E) Amendment 30 (Atlantic cobia recreational fishing year). Council staff will review public comments and the decision document, and the Committee will consider approval of the amendment and codified text for formal review.

Following, Council staff will review (F) the meeting report from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting in October 2016. The South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board approved the Public Information Document (PID) for cobia management. Dr. Louis Daniel will present the PID to the Committee for review and comment.

The Committee will next review CMP Amendment 29, which includes actions to establish a quota share system for Gulf king mackerel. The Gulf Council selected preferred alternatives and approved the amendment for public hearings at their October 2016 meeting. The public hearings will be held in November/ December 2016 and the comments will be provided to the South Atlantic Council at the Committee meeting. The Committee will review (G) Amendment 29/codified text and consider approval for formal review.

Lastly, the Committee will address issues under (H) Other Business if necessary.

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

The Committee will receive status updates on commercial and recreational landings for Atlantic king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. The report on recreational landings for Atlantic cobia will also include additional details about the number of MRIP intercepts, catch, and PSE by wave by state for 2015 and 2016.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Discuss and take action as necessary.

## **B. Status of Amendments Approved for Secretarial Review**

- CMP Amendment 26 (king mackerel ACLs, allocations, stock boundary, incidental catch)
  - sent for formal review on July 7, 2016
- Framework Amendment 4 (Atlantic cobia management measures)
  - sent for formal review on October 28, 2016
- Framework Amendment 5 (modify permit restrictions)
  - in preparation by Council staff

## **D. Gulf Council Meeting Report (Attachment 3)**

The Mackerel Committee of the Gulf Council met in October 2016. Council staff will provide an overview of Gulf Council decisions for Framework Amendment 5, Amendment 29, and Amendment 30.

## **E. CMP Amendment 30 (Attachments 4a-4e)**

Amendment 30 (**Attachment 4a**) includes one action to modify the recreational fishing year for Atlantic cobia. This action was previously included in Framework Amendment 4 but was moved to Amendment 30 in September 2016, because changes to the fishing year cannot be made via framework under the current CMP framework procedure. The Gulf Council reviewed the amendment at their October 2016 meeting, selected a preferred alternative, and approved the amendment for formal review. Council staff will provide a summary of public comments (**Attachments 4b/4c**). Comments submitted via the online comment form can be viewed by [clicking here](#). Staff will next present the decision document for Amendment 30 (**Attachment 4d**). The Committee will review the preferred alternative, review the codified text (**Attachment 4e**), and consider approval for formal review.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Review, modify document if necessary, and approve for formal review.

## **F. ASMFC Public Information Document for Cobia (Attachment 5a/5b)**

In October 2016, the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board of the ASMFC reviewed the public information document (PID) for an interstate cobia management plan. Council staff will provide an overview of the ASMFC decisions (**Attachment 5a** - excerpt from the meeting report that includes only the summary and motions from the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board). Dr. Louis Daniel will next review the PID for the ASMFC cobia plan (**Attachment 5b**).

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Review and provide comment on PID.

## **G. CMP Amendment 29 (Attachments 6a-6d)**

Amendment 29 (**Attachment 6a**) includes actions to establish a quota sharing system for Gulf king mackerel and modify Gulf king mackerel recreational accountability measures to apply under the potential quota sharing system. The Gulf Council is administrative lead on the amendment and is conducting hearings in November 30 through December 7, 2016. The public hearing summary (**Attachment 6b**) will be available at the Committee meeting. Council staff will present the decision document for Amendment 29 (**Attachment 6c**). The Committee will

select preferred alternatives, review the codified text (**Attachment 6d**), and consider approval for formal review.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Review, modify document if necessary, and approve for formal review.

**H. Other Business**

The Committee will address items under Other Business as appropriate.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Discuss and take action as necessary