

# OVERVIEW

## Mackerel Committee Meeting

**June 12, 2013**

Hutchinson Island Marriot  
555 NE Ocean Boulevard  
Stuart, FL

The Mackerel Committee will (A) receive reports from SERO on the status of commercial and recreational catches versus the respective quotas for Atlantic Group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. Following, the Committee will (B) review results from the stock assessments for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel and Atlantic group cobia (SEDAR 28) and receive the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommendations for stock status and fishing levels.

The Committee will (C) receive a summary report from the Mackerel Advisory Panel meeting on April 22, 2013. Next the Committee will discuss (D) Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Mackerel Amendment 19 and (E) Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Mackerel Amendment 20. Staff will review each amendment through the decision document. For each amendment, the Committee will make changes as needed, provide guidance to staff, and approve for public hearings.

The Mackerel Committee will continue the meeting with (F) a review of the South Atlantic Mackerel Framework Actions. The Committee will make changes as needed, provide guidance to staff, and approve for public hearings. 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 an update on the status of landings (commercial and recreational) for Atlantic Group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia.

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

### **B. SEDAR 28- Spanish Mackerel and Cobia Assessments (Attachments 3a/3b and 4)**

The SSC reviewed the results of SEDAR 28 for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and Cobia.

#### **Spanish mackerel**

*The SSC accepts this benchmark assessment as representing the best available scientific information on the current status of Spanish mackerel in South Atlantic waters and considers it appropriate for SAFMC management decisions.*

The current stock status in the base run from the Beaufort Assessment Model was estimated to be  $SSB_{2011}/MSST=2.29$ . The current level of fishing is  $F_{2009-2011}/F_{MSY} = 0.526$ , with  $F_{2011}/F_{MSY} = 0.521$ . Therefore, the stock is not overfished and is not undergoing overfishing. The qualitative results on terminal stock status were similar across presented sensitivity runs, indicating that the stock status results were robust given the provided data and can be used for management.

Since this assessment falls under Tier 1 of our ABC control rule, ABC was obtained according to a P-star value. A summary of results from applying the ABC control rule is presented below:

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Assessment Information:       | Tier 2 (2.5%) |
| Uncertainty Characterization: | Tier 2 (2.5%) |
| Stock Status:                 | Tier 1 (0%)   |
| Risk Analysis:                | Tier 2 (5%)   |
| Total adjustment              | 10%           |
| P-star value:                 | 40%           |

The SSC recommends using 5-year projections at  $P^*=50\%$  for OFL and at  $P^*=40\%$  for ABC (see tables below). These were provided following the SSC meeting. Full details on the projection results and methods are included in a revision to the SEDAR 28 Stock Assessment Report for Spanish Mackerel.

#### ABC values

| Year | F    | P*  | SSB<br>mt | Probability<br>(SSB > SSB <sub>msy</sub> ) | Total Yield<br>(landings +<br>discards)<br>1,000 pounds |
|------|------|-----|-----------|--|---|
| 2013 | 0.59 | 0.4 | 4222      | 0.89                                       | 4808  |
| 2014 | 0.58 | 0.4 | 3943      | 0.72                                       | 4508  |
| 2015 | 0.56 | 0.4 | 3919      | 0.66                                       | 4396  |

#### OFL Values

| Year | F    | P*  | SSB<br>mt | Probability<br>(SSB > SSB <sub>msy</sub> ) | Total Yield<br>(landings + discards)<br>1,000 pounds |
|------|------|-----|-----------|--|--|
| 2013 | 0.66 | 0.5 | 4198      | 0.88                                       | 5312   |
| 2014 | 0.66 | 0.5 | 3722      | 0.65                                       | 4878   |
| 2015 | 0.65 | 0.5 | 3628      | 0.58                                       | 4712   |

#### Spanish Mackerel Status and Fishing Level Recommendations

| Criteria               | Deterministic                  | Probabilistic                         |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Overfished evaluation  | No (SSB/MSST=2.29)             | 87% MCB runs above SSB <sub>msy</sub> |
| Overfishing evaluation | No (F/F <sub>msy</sub> =0.526) | 89% MCB runs below                    |

|   |          |                      |
|---|----------|----------------------|
|   |          | Fmsy                 |
| MFMT  | 0.69     | 0.67 (median)        |
| MSST  | 2,127 mt | 2,234 mt (median)    |
| MSY   | 2,750 mt | 2,732 mt (median)    |
| ABC Control Rule Adjustment                         | 10%      |                      |
| P-Star  | 40%      |                      |
| OFL   |          | P*=0.5 for 2013-2016 |
| ABC Recommendation<br>(list by year if appropriate) |          | P*=0.4 for 2013-2016 |

*The SSC recommends having the Spanish mackerel assessment updated in 2017.*

### **Cobia**

*The SSC accepts this benchmark assessment as representing the best available scientific information on the current status of cobia in South Atlantic waters and considers it appropriate for SAFMC management decisions.*

*The current stock status in the base run from the Beaufort Assessment Model was estimated to be  $SSB_{2011}/MSST=1.75$ . The current level of fishing is  $F_{2009-2011}/F_{MSY} = 0.599$ , with  $F_{2011}/F_{MSY} = 0.423$ . Therefore, the stock is not overfished and is not undergoing overfishing. The qualitative results on terminal stock status were similar across presented sensitivity runs, indicating that the stock status results were robust given the provided data and can be used for management.*

*Since this assessment falls under Tier 1 of our ABC control rule, ABC was obtained according to a P-star value. The SSC had an extensive discussion over application of dimension IV of the ABC Control Rule (Risk Analysis) since the PSA evaluation was done for the entire range of the stock, whereas SEDAR 28 was done with a range starting at the GA-FL line and north—which is a very small portion of the landings and may have different biological parameters than for considering the entire population as a whole.*

*After much discussion, the group consensus was to change the age at maturity category in the PSA analysis for Cobia from high to low. The new PSA score puts Cobia at a medium risk.*

*A summary of results from applying the ABC control rule is presented below:*

|                                      |                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Assessment Information:</i>       | <i>Tier 2 (2.5%)</i> |
| <i>Uncertainty Characterization:</i> | <i>Tier 2 (2.5%)</i> |
| <i>Stock Status:</i>                 | <i>Tier 1 (0%)</i>   |
| <i>Risk Analysis:</i>                | <i>Tier 2 (5%)</i>   |
| <i>Total adjustment</i>              | <i>10%</i>           |
| <i>P-star value:</i>                 | <i>40%</i>           |

*The SSC agreed this assessment thoroughly characterized uncertainty.*

The Committee recommends using 3-year projections at  $P^*=50\%$  for OFL and at  $P^*=40\%$  for ABC (see tables below). These results are based on the probabilistic projections provided following the SSC meeting, and documented in Addendum 2.

**ABC values**

| Year | F     | P*  | SSB<br>mt | Probability<br>(SSB > SSBmsy) | Total Yield<br>(landings +<br>discards)<br>1,000 pounds |
|------|-------|-----|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2013 | 0.412 | 0.4 | 587.2     | 0.57                          | 815.1   |
| 2014 | 0.404 | 0.4 | 567.5     | 0.54                          | 768.6   |
| 2015 | 0.388 | 0.4 | 561.4     | 0.53                          | 726.7   |
| 2016 | 0.379 | 0.4 | 563.5     | 0.53                          | 706.5   |

**OFL Values**

| Year | F     | P*  | SSB<br>mt | Probability<br>(SSB > SSBmsy) | Total Yield<br>(landings + discards)<br>1,000 pounds |
|------|-------|-----|-----------|-------------------------------|--|
| 2013 | 0.478 | 0.5 | 575.0     | 0.55                          | 922.7  |
| 2014 | 0.478 | 0.5 | 536.4     | 0.50                          | 845.5  |
| 2015 | 0.472 | 0.5 | 517.3     | 0.48                          | 792.8  |
| 2016 | 0.469 | 0.5 | 508.1     | 0.47                          | 766.7  |

**Cobia Status and Fishing Level Recommendations**

| Criteria  | Deterministic        | Probabilistic                |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Overfished evaluation                               | No (SSB/SSBmsy=1.75) | SSB>MSST for 90% of MCB runs |
| Overfishing evaluation                              | No (F/Fmsy=0.599)    | F<MFMT for 94% of MCB runs   |
| MFMT  | 0.461                | 0.480                        |
| MSST  | 397.2 mt             | 379.2 mt                     |
| MSY   | 808,000 lb           | 772,600                      |
| ABC Control Rule Adjustment                         | 10%                  |                              |
| P-Star  | 40%                  |                              |
| OFL   |                      | $P^*=0.5$ for 2013-2016      |
| ABC Recommendation<br>(list by year if appropriate) |                      | $P^*=0.4$ for 2013-2016      |

Finally, the SSC recommended updating the assessment in 2017, but consider Cobia a low priority stock (i.e., not overfished and not undergoing overfishing).

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Discuss and take action as necessary, specifically on changes to the ACLs in developing or future amendments.

**C. Mackerel Advisory Panel Report (Attachments 5a/5b)**

The Mackerel Advisory Panel met in Charleston, SC, on April 22, 2013. The AP discussed several items including results of the SEDAR 28 assessment of Atlantic group Spanish mackerel and cobia, and the three mackerel amendments under development. Council staff will present an overview of the AP's recommendations to the Committee, which are also included in the decision document for each amendment to be reviewed by the Committee.

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

**D. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Amendment 19 (Sale and Permit Provisions) (Attachments 6a/6b)**

The Committee will review the amendment through the decision document, select or change preferred alternatives, and make changes to the amendment as needed.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Select or change preferred alternatives, modify the amendment as appropriate, provide guidance to staff, and approve for public hearings.

**E. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Amendment 20 (Modifications to CMP Zones) (Attachments 7a/7b)**

The Committee will review the amendment through the decision document, select or change preferred alternatives, and make changes to the amendment as needed.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Select or change preferred alternatives, modify the amendment as appropriate, provide guidance to staff, and approve for public hearings.

**F. South Atlantic Mackerel Framework Actions (Attachments 8a/8b)**

The Committee will review the amendment through the decision document, select or change preferred alternatives, and make changes to the amendment as needed.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Select or change preferred alternatives, modify the amendment as appropriate, provide guidance to staff, and approve for public hearings.