

# OVERVIEW

## **Mackerel Committee Meeting**

**September 15, 2015**

The Beach House Hilton Head Island

1 South Forest Beach Drive

Hilton Head Island, SC

The Mackerel Committee will receive reports from SERO on (A) the status of commercial and recreational catches versus the respective ACLs/quotas for Atlantic group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. SERO will also provide (B) status updates on amendments submitted for formal review.

Council staff will update the Committee on (C) the Gulf Council Mackerel Committee meeting in August 2015. This will include the Gulf Council Committee report and the Gulf Council options paper for Amendment 28. Next, the Committee will review the (D) decision document for Amendment 26. The Committee will provide guidance to staff, modify the amendment as necessary, and select preferred alternatives.

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**

- CMP Framework Amendment 2 (Atlantic Spanish mackerel trip limits) – final rule published on July 14, 2015; regulations became effective on August 13, 2015.

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

### **C. Gulf Council Mackerel Committee Meeting Report (Attachments 3a/3b)**

Council staff will provide a report on recommendations and discussion from the Gulf Council Mackerel Committee meeting in August 2015 (**Attachment 3a**). In June 2015, the Gulf Council directed their staff to continue work on Amendment 28, which could separate the fishery management plans and/or the commercial permits for king and Spanish mackerel. The South Atlantic Council has decided not to move forward with Amendment 28 at this time. The Gulf Council reviewed an options paper for Amendment 28 (**Attachment 3b**) and reviewed the draft document for Amendment 26.

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

**D. CMP Amendment 26 (Attachments 4a/4b)**

Amendment 26 includes several actions for king mackerel, including updated annual catch limits (ACLs), stock boundary, allocations, incidental catch allowance in the shark fishery, and Florida East Coast management measures. Council staff will review the actions and alternatives, including recommendations from the AP and the IPT, in the decision document (**Attachment 4b**).

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Modify the amendment as necessary and select preferred alternatives.