

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee

June 9, 2009
Hutchinson Island Marriott
555 Northeast Ocean Boulevard
Stuart, Florida

At this meeting of the Mackerel Committee, the Committee needs to: (A) review the motions from the last Mackerel Committee meeting and provide guidance as necessary; (B) review and approve a scoping document for the Gulf Council's scoping process; and (C) review the options paper and provide direction to staff.

A. Motions from the March Mackerel Committee meeting

At their March 2009 meeting, the Mackerel Committee and Council approved the motions shown below. The status of each item is shown and the committee should provide guidance as necessary.

MOTION #1: OPTION 1. NO ACTION. DO NOT DEVELOP SEPARATE FMPS.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Status: This decision was provided to the Gulf Council and this is no longer an action item.

MOTION #2: DIRECT STAFF TO EVALUATE MOVING CERO AND LITTLE TUNNY AND ATLANTIC BONITO INTO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT UNIT OR REMOVING THEM FROM THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Status: This is an action item in the current options paper.

MOTION #3. OPTION 2. DEVELOP A JOINT AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR ACLS AND AMS.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Status: Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP is being developed as a joint amendment. The Gulf Council is administrative lead and Rick Leard will be the staff person with primary responsibility; Gregg Waugh will be the South Atlantic Council staff person working on the amendment.

MOTION #4: HOLD A JOINT MACKEREL COMMITTEE MEETING DURING THE SAFMC JUNE 2009 MEETING.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Status: Given that both Councils have now decided not to develop separate Mackerel FMPs, the remaining issues are not controversial. Based on discussions between the two Councils, it was decided that a joint committee meeting was not necessary at this time. The Gulf Council will take the lead in preparing a joint amendment. The SAFMC has already completed scoping through the Comprehensive ACL Amendment Scoping Process and the GMFMC will approve a scoping document at their June 2009 meeting (SAFMC will also approve the scoping document at their June 2009 meeting); scoping meetings will be held by the Gulf Council after their June 2009 meeting.

MOTION 5: DIRECT STAFF TO WORK ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE JUNE 2009 MEETING:

1. SAFMC STAFF CONTACT GULF COUNCIL STAFF TO INFORM THEM ABOUT THE SAFMC'S DECISIONS AND OFFER TO HOLD A JOINT MACKEREL COMMITTEE MEETING DURING THE SAFMC'S JUNE 2009 MEETING. **Done 3/10/09.**
2. REQUEST STAFF, WORKING WITH GULF & NMFS STAFF, PREPARE A DECISION DOCUMENT TO USE AT THE JOINT MEETING OUTLINING THE DECISIONS FOR THE JOINT AMENDMENT. **Decision Document/Options Paper & Scoping Document completed by June 2009 meeting.** A Scoping Document has been produced for use by the Gulf Council during their scoping process and an Options Paper has been prepared for the South Atlantic Council's Mackerel Committee & Council to use to develop specific actions for the Atlantic to be included in Amendment 18.
3. REQUEST CLARIFICATION ON THE COBIA ASSESSMENT. **No SEDAR Cobia assessment is currently scheduled. The SEDAR Steering Committee is meeting in May and results will be included in the 2nd Briefing Book in the SEDAR Committee Tab.**

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review the motions from the last committee meeting.
2. Provide guidance as may be necessary.

B. Status of Work with Gulf Council on Amendment 18

The Gulf Council is Administrative Lead for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan which means they are responsible for preparing the documents, etc. Rick Leard is the Gulf staff lead and Gregg Waugh is the South Atlantic staff lead. Rick will take the lead on developing Amendment 18 and Gregg will provide the input for South Atlantic Council actions; other SAFMC staff will provide input and analyses to Gregg for inclusion.

The SAFMC conducted scoping for mackerel changes as a part of scoping for the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment. The Gulf Council will approve a scoping document at their June 15-18, 2009 meeting in Tampa (Florida) and conduct scoping meetings after June; the SAFMC will approve this scoping document at their June 7-12, 2009 meeting in Stuart (Florida).

The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils, with input from the Mid-Atlantic Council through their two voting seats on the South Atlantic Council's mackerel committee, intend to complete the document so that the changes can be implemented during the 2011 fishing year. A timeline will be developed after the scoping process is completed.

Mackerel Interdisciplinary Team:

- (i) SAFMC – Gregg Waugh (SAFMC Lead) and Kate Quigley.
- (ii) GMFMC – Rick Leard, GMFMC & Council Lead.
- (iii) NMFS SERO – Sue Gerhart (NMFS Lead), John VonDruska (Economist); David Dale (HCD), Kate Michie, Karla Gore, Nik Mehta (NMFS), Otha Easley (OLE), Jennie Lee and Andy Herndon (NMFS PR), and David Keys (NEPA).
- (iv) NMFS SEFSC – Mauricio Ortiz.
- (v) NOAA GC – Monica Smit-Brunello.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review status of work.
2. Provide guidance as may be necessary.

C. GMFMC Scoping Document (Attachment 1)

Scoping meetings for the Comprehensive ACL Amendment were held January 26 – Feb 4, 2009 and comments were accepted through February 6, 2009. Scoping comments for the Comprehensive ACL Amendment addressing mackerel were presented to the Mackerel Committee during the March 2009 meeting.

The Gulf Council will conduct scoping meetings after their June 2009 meeting. Both Councils should will approve the scoping document for the Gulf scoping process at their June 2009 meetings.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review scoping document and provide recommendations as necessary.
2. Approve document for scoping.

D. Options Paper (Decision Document) (Attachment 2)

The options paper addresses items specific to the South Atlantic Council and includes decisions from the most recent review of the document by various groups (see cover for groups and dates reviewed). The South Atlantic Council's mackerel committee will review and revised these actions/alternatives at the June 9, 2009 meeting. The intent is to have all actions and a reasonable range of alternatives identified at the June 2009 meeting. These actions/alternatives will then be incorporated into the joint Mackerel Amendment 18 document. Our Mackerel AP will review and provide input during their August 18-19, 2009 meeting in Charleston, SC. A draft Amendment 18 document should be available for the September 2009 meeting.

A report on the FishSmart project is included as **Attachment 3** for the committee/Council's use in developing alternatives for Amendment 18.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review the Options Paper/Decision Document.
2. Provide guidance on actions and alternatives to include in Mackerel Amendment 18.