

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee Meeting

December 2, 2008

Hilton Wilmington Riverside

301 N. Water Street, Wilmington, North Carolina

The Mackerel Committee needs to: (A) receive a report from the SSC on the SEDAR 16 (king mackerel) assessment; (B) receive a report from the SSC on the SEDAR 17 (Spanish mackerel) assessment; and (C) discuss and approve items for scoping.

A. SEDAR 16 (King Mackerel) Assessment (Attachments 1 & 2)

Dr. Carolyn Belcher, SSC Chair, will present the SSC recommendations on the king mackerel SEDAR assessment.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Take action as necessary.

B. SEDAR 17 (Spanish Mackerel) Assessment (Attachment 3)

Dr. Carolyn Belcher, SSC Chair, will present the SSC recommendations on the Spanish mackerel SEDAR assessment.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Take action as necessary.

C. Draft List of Items to Be Including In the ACL Comprehensive Amendment

The following list of items, as they apply to species not undergoing overfishing, will be in the ACL Comprehensive Amendment. Annual crops that are not in an overfished state are exempt from these requirements.

1. Annual Catch Limits
2. Annual Catch Target
3. Accountability Measures
4. Allocations between the commercial, for-hire, and recreational sectors
5. Regulations to limit total mortality (landings and discards) to the Annual Catch Target. Management regulations may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a) Commercial quotas and recreational allocations
 - b) Trip limits
 - c) Vessel limits
 - d) Size limits
 - e) Bag limits
 - f) Closed areas
 - g) Closed seasons
 - h) Permit endorsements

Comprehensive ACL Amendment Timeline

The following is the timeline specified in Version 2 of the SAFMC/NMFS SERO Regional Operations Schedules/Deliverables:

1. Scoping – approve for scoping at the December 2008 meeting; scoping January/February 2009
2. Appoint Team Members
3. Committee/Council review scoping comments and options paper at March and June 2009 meetings.
4. Approve document for public hearings – September 2009.
5. Public Hearings – November (1st & 2nd weeks) 2009.
6. Review Public Hearing Input & Approve – December 2009.
7. Final Approval (if necessary) – March 2010.
8. Send for Secretarial Review – March 2010.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide staff guidance on items to include and on suggested timing. Approve items for scoping.

Public hearings/scoping meetings are scheduled as follows:

- (1) January 26, 2009 in Charleston, SC
- (2) January 27, 2009 in New Bern, NC
- (3) February 3, 2009 in Key Largo, FL
- (5) February 4, 2009 in Cape Canaveral, FL
- (5) February 5, 2009 in Pooler, GA