

# OVERVIEW

## Joint SA/GM Mackerel Committee Meeting

June 8, 2010

Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel

Orlando, Florida

The Joint Mackerel Committees need to: (A) receive a report on the Gulf & South Atlantic Councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees; (B) review actions in Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) Amendment 18 and provide guidance to staff/team; (C) review actions in the SAFMC Actions document and provide guidance to staff/team; (D) discuss the potential King Mackerel Catch Share Program and provide guidance to staff/team; and (E) discuss public hearing dates/locations and provide guidance to staff.

**Each Council's Committee will vote separately. George Geiger, SAFMC Mackerel Committee Chair, will conduct the voting for the South Atlantic Council's Committee, and Myron Fischer, GMFMC Mackerel Committee Chair, will conduct the voting for the Gulf Council's Committee. Recommendations from the SAFMC Mackerel Committee will be addressed by the South Atlantic Council during their Council meeting on June 11, 2010. The Gulf Council will consider their Mackerel Committee's recommendations during their June 14-16, 2010 Council meeting.**

### **A. Gulf & South Atlantic Councils' SSC Reports**

The South Atlantic Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) has provided their recommendations on an ABC control rule and OFL/ABC values for Atlantic king and Spanish mackerel and cobia (**Attachment 1**). The Gulf Council's SSC has provided their recommendations for ACL and is currently considering ABC Control Rule recommendations. This material will be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Briefing Book if their recommendations are ready for Committee/Council action.

Dr. Carolyn Belcher will review the SAFMC SSC recommendations (**Attachment 1**) and the Gulf Council's SSC input will be reviewed by Rick Leard (**Attachment 2**). The Councils will address the SSC input as they make decisions for Mackerel Amendment 18.

### **REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

1. Discuss the SSC recommendations as actions are addressed for Mackerel Amendment 18.
2. Provide guidance to staff/team as necessary

**B. Joint Mackerel (CMP) Amendment 18**

The Gulf Council Committee and the South Atlantic Council Committee will review the first three actions in Mackerel Amendment 18 (**Attachment 3**). These are joint actions and must be approved by both Committees and both Councils.

Rick Leard, GMFMC Staff, will review **Action 1. Changes to the Fishery Management Unit** and **Action 2. Changes to the Framework**. The committees will discuss and vote on both of these actions.

Then, Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, will review **Action 3. Consideration of Separate Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups of Cobia**. The committees will discuss and vote on this action.

Rich Leard will then review the actions that apply only to the Gulf Council. Only the Gulf Mackerel Committee will vote on these actions; these actions are up to the Gulf Council alone and do not require any action by the South Atlantic Council.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

1. Discuss these actions.
2. Provide guidance to staff/team to finalize the range of alternatives and provide guidance on any preferred alternatives if possible.

**C. SAMFC Action Document for Amendment 18**

Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, will review actions that apply only to the South Atlantic Council (**Attachment 4**). Only the South Atlantic Mackerel Committee will vote on these actions; these actions are up to the South Atlantic Council alone and do not require any action by the Gulf Council.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

1. Discuss these actions.
2. Provide guidance to staff/team to finalize the range of alternatives and provide guidance on any preferred alternatives if possible.

**D. South Atlantic Council's Participation in Gulf Council's Mackerel LAPP**

The Gulf Council is evaluating a LAPP for Gulf king mackerel. Such a program would impact fishermen on Florida's east coast. Rick Leard, GMFMC Staff, will give an overview of the timing for this work.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

1. Discuss the potential LAPP program for king mackerel.
2. Provide guidance to staff/team as necessary

## E. Planning/Timing Public Hearings for Joint Mackerel Amendment 18

### 2010 Activities:

An Inter-Disciplinary Team (IPT) has been formed:

- A. SAFMC – Gregg Waugh (SAFMC Lead) and Kate Quigley.
- B. GMFMC – Rick Leard, GMFMC & Council Lead.
- C. NMFS SERO – Susan Gerhart (NMFS Lead), Steve Branstetter, John Vondruska (Economist); David Dale (HCD), Kate Michie, Karla Gore, Nikhil Mehta, Tracy Dunn (OLE), Jennifer Lee and Andy Herndon (NMFS PR), Karen Burns, and David Keys (NEPA).
- D. NMFS SEFSC – Mauricio Ortiz.
- E. NOAA GC – Shepherd Grimes.

### Timing:

1. √IPT Meetings January 14, 2010 and May 6, 2010.
2. Options Paper/Draft Amendment – March & June 2010
3. Approve for public hearings – August/September 2010
4. Hearings – October/November 2010
5. Currently EA. If EIS, NMFS Files DEIS – October; comment period ends prior to December 2010
6. Review public hearing input and approve actions – December 2010 and January 2011
7. Final review of complete document and final approval – March and April 2011
8. Send to Secretary of Commerce – April 2011

### Specific steps in 2010 and 2011:

- A. √IPT meeting – 1/14/2010 and 5/6/2010.
- B. SSC provides OFL & ABC – Gulf SSC has provided their recommendations. The South Atlantic SSC will provide their recommendations after their April 20-22, 2010 meeting.
- C. Draft Amendment prepared by Gulf staff with assistance from NMFS and South Atlantic staff - \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. GMFMC reviews and provides input – February 1-4, April 12-15, and June 14-17, 2010
  - b. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Committee meeting – June 8, 2010 from 8:30 am – 3 pm
  - c. SAFMC reviews and provides input – March 1-5 and June 7-11, 2010
- D. NMFS determines whether EA or EIS and prepares appropriate notices and analyses - \_\_\_\_\_. Currently EA.
- E. Councils review Draft Amendment/DEIS or EA and approve for public hearings –
  - a. GMFMC – August 16-19, 2010 in Pensacola, FL – October 25-28, 2010 in Baton Rouge, LA
  - b. SAFMC – September 13-17, 2010 in Charleston, SC
- F. Public Hearings – October/November/December 2010
- G. Review public comments and provide final guidance on document –
  - a. GMFMC – February 7-10, 2011 in TX
  - b. SAFMC – December 6-10, 2010 in New Bern, NC
- H. Review and approve final document –

- a. GMFMC – April 11-4, 2011 in Orange Beach, AL
- b. SAFMC – March 7-11, 2011 in GA
- I. Send Mackerel Amendment 18/EA or EIS/Proposed rule for formal review – April 2011.
- E. NMFS Declares Transmit Date as \_\_\_\_\_.
- F. Notice of Availability of Amendment 17B published \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) Comments due no later than 5 pm EST on \_\_\_\_/10.
- (2) Send to Council, AP & SSC
- (3) Post to website; Fishery Bulletin will be posted to website.
- (4) Amendment approved on \_\_\_\_\_.
- G. Proposed Rule published \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) Send to Council, AP & SSC
- (2) Comments due by \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Final Rule published \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) Send to Council, AP & SSC

The South Atlantic Council completed scoping as a part of the Comprehensive ACL Amendment scoping process. Scoping meetings were held 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
- (4) February 4, 2009 in Cape Canaveral, FL
- (5) February 5, 2009 in Pooler, GA

The Gulf Council held scoping meetings as shown below.

- (1) September 21, 2009 in Key West, FL and Grand Isle, LA
- (2) September 22, 2009 in Marathon, FL; Biloxi, MS; and Corpus Christi, TX
- (3) September 23, 2009 in Madeira Beach, FL; Houston, TX; and Orange Beach, AL
- (4) September 24, 2009 in Panama City, FL

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

- 1. Discuss the potential public hearing locations and potential dates.
- 2. Provide guidance to staff.