

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee Meeting

March 7, 2011

Sea Palms Resort and Conference Center

5445 Frederica Road

St. Simons Island, Georgia

The Mackerel Committee need to: (A) approve minutes from the December 7, 2010 SAFMC Committee meeting; (B) review Draft Mackerel Amendment 18/EA, make any necessary changes, choose preferred alternatives for all actions, and approve for public hearings; and (C) review Options for Mackerel Amendment 19 and provide guidance.

A. Approval of Minutes

The committee will review and approve the South Atlantic Committee minutes from December 7, 2010.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review and approve minutes.

B. Draft Mackerel Amendment 18/EA

Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, will provide an overview of Amendment 18/EA (**Attachment 1**; 2nd briefing book) that was prepared by the Interdisciplinary Planning Team (IPT) based on the South Atlantic's December 2010 meeting and the Gulf's February 2011 meeting. The Committee will provide any suggested changes/modifications, choose preferred alternatives for all joint and South Atlantic actions (South Atlantic Council does not need to approve separate Gulf actions), and approve the modified amendment for public hearings. The Gulf Council will be approving for public hearings at their April 2011 meeting and will conduct separate public hearings prior to their June 2011 meeting. The SAFMC hearings will cover mackerel and spiny lobster:

Public hearings will be held from 5-7 pm.

Dates (April 2011)	CMP Am 18 SAFMC	Spiny Lobster Am 10 GMFMC	Spiny Lobster Am 10 SAFMC
4/20	Key West, FL		Key West, FL
4/19	Marathon, FL	Marathon, FL	Marathon, FL
4/18	Cape Canaveral, FL		Cape Canaveral, FL
4/14	Jacksonville, FL		Jacksonville, FL
4/13	Savannah/Pooler, GA		Savannah/Pooler, GA
4/12	Charleston, SC		Charleston, SC
4/11	New Bern, NC		New Bern, NC

The SAFMC Mackerel Advisory Panel will meet in Charleston from 1pm on Wednesday, April 6th to noon on Thursday, April 7th. The SSC is meeting April 5 (9am) – April 7 (3pm) in Charleston and will provide final OFL/ABC recommendations.

A joint Gulf/South Atlantic Mackerel Committee meeting is being scheduled during the Gulf Council's June 6-10, 2011 meeting at the Marriott Beachside in Key West. We are trying to hold this meeting on Tuesday, June 7th. We are also scheduling a Joint Spiny Lobster Committee on the same day. The intent is to resolve all differences in Mackerel Amendment 18A/EA and have each committee recommend approval for formal review; same for Spiny Lobster Amendment 10/DEIS. We are also trying to schedule a joint Gulf/South Atlantic Council session on Thursday (June 9th) or Friday (June 10th) where both Councils will take final action and approve these two amendments for formal review by the Secretary of Commerce. Mackerel Amendment 18A/EA must be approved at the June 2011 meeting so that NMFS can implement the ACLs/AMs prior to the end of the 2011 statutory deadline.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss all actions in Mackerel Amendment 18/EA and modify as necessary.
2. Choose preferred alternatives for all actions.
3. Approve modified Mackerel Amendment 18/EA for public hearings.

C. Mackerel Amendment 19 (Prohibition of Bag Limit Sales)

Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, will review the options paper for Mackerel Amendment 19. The Committee/Council will provide guidance to the IPT and the document will be expanded for detailed consideration at the June 2011 meeting.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss all actions in Amendment 19/EA or EIS.
2. Provide guidance to IPT.

D. Planning/Timing Public Hearings for Joint Mackerel Amendment 18/EA

Specific steps in 2010 and 2011:

- A. √IPT meeting – 1/14/2010
- 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
√And October 25-28, 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 and September 13-17, 2010

- D. √NMFS determines whether EA or EIS and prepares appropriate notices and analyses. Currently EA.
- E. √IPT Schedule for Gulf Council's October 2010 meeting:
 - a. √Section to Rick – 9/20/10
 - b. √Compiled document to IPT – 9/24/10; done 9/27/10.
 - c. √IPT call – 10/1/10
 - d. √Comments to authors – 10/1/10
 - e. √Edited sections to Rick for Gulf briefing book – 10/8/10
- F. √Document preparation schedule for Public Hearing Approval
 - a. √Revised sections sent to Gregg – by October 22, 2010
 - b. √Revised document sent to IPT – by October 29, 2010. Done 11/3/10.
 - c. √Comments to authors – by November 5, 2010. Ext. to 11/8/10.
 - d. √Revised sections sent to Gregg – by November 12, 2010. Done 11/15/10.
 - e. √Revised document sent to IPT – by November 22, 2010. Done 11/23/10.
 - f. √Comments and additions to Gregg – by November 24, 2010. Ext. to 11/26/10.
 - g. √Document revised and included in SAFMC 2nd Briefing Book – on November 29, 2010.
- G. √Document preparation schedule for Gulf Council's February 2011 meeting
 - a. √Gregg to send abbreviated Section 2 with new alternatives for the Joint Action to IPT by COB on 12/17/10 – done on 12/17/10.
 - b. √Gregg to send revised Amendment with changes to actions/alternatives to team by 1/5/11. Done with some edits still to be done on 1/5/11.
 - c. √Team input to Rick Leard by 1/18/11.
 - d. √Rick Leard to make changes and have ready for Gulf briefing book by _____
- H. Councils review Draft Amendment/EA and approve for public hearings
 - a. √GMFMC – February 7-10, 2011 in Gulfport, MS; did not approve for hearings.
 - b. GMFMC – April 11-14, 2011 in Orange Beach, AL.
 - c. √SAFMC – December 6-10, 2010 in New Bern, NC.
- I. Public Hearings – April 2011 (Note: Hearings will be Joint SA Mackerel & GM/SA Spiny Lobster; with GMFMC in Keys). **Public hearings will be held from 5-7 pm.**
 - a. Hotel arrangements –
 - b. FR Notice –
 - i. SAFMC will do for KW, Marathon and other SA locations.
 - ii. GMFMC will do for Gulf hearings
 - c. Public Hearing Summary
 - d. Public Hearing Presentation
- J. Review public comments and provide final approval of Amendment 18/EA for formal review by SOC –
 - a. GMFMC/SAFMC Mackerel Committee – June 7th During Gulf meeting
 - b. GMFMC – June 6-9, 2011 in Key West, FL
 - c. SAFMC – June 13-17, 2011 in Key West, FL
 - d. **GMFMC/SAFMC Joint Council Session – June 9 or 10, 2011 in key West, FL?**
- K. Send Mackerel Amendment 18/EA/Proposed rule for formal review – July 2011.
- L. NMFS Declares Transmit Date as _____/11.
- M. Notice of Availability of Amendment 18 published _____/11.
 - (1) Comments due no later than 5 pm EST on _____/11.

- (2) Send to Council, AP & SSC
- (3) Post to website; Fishery Bulletin will be posted to website.
- (4) Amendment approved on _____/11.
- N. Proposed Rule published _____/11.
 - (1) Send to Council, AP & SSC
 - (2) Comments due by _____/11.
- O. Final Rule published _____/11.
 - (1) Send to Council, AP & SSC