

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee Meeting

March 6, 2012

Savannah Hilton DeSoto, 15 East Liberty Street
Savannah, GA

The Mackerel Committee need to: (A) approve minutes from the December 2011 Committee meeting; (B) receive status reports on commercial and recreational catches versus quotas; (C) receive a status report on Mackerel Amendment 18/EA; (D) receive a presentation on state by state quotas; (E) receive a presentation on the importance of tournament sales of fish; and (F) review and develop recommendations on Scoping Documents for Mackerel (CMP) Amendment 19 and 20.

A. Approval of Minutes

The committee will review and approve the December 2011 mackerel committee meeting minutes.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review and approve minutes.

B. Status of Commercial and Recreational Catches versus Quotas for King & Spanish Mackerel

The committee will receive briefings on the commercial catches versus quotas (**Attachment 1**) from the NMFS SERO and on the recreational catches (**Attachment 2**) versus quotas from the NMFS SEFSC. The committee will discuss the quota monitoring programs and take action as necessary.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss commercial and recreational quota monitoring programs and current status.
2. Take action as may be necessary.

C. Status of Mackerel Amendment 18/EA

NMFS SERO staff will provide a status report on Mackerel Amendment 18/EA. The Councils approved the amendment for formal review and implementation at their August meetings. The package was sent to NMFS on 9/26/11; the notice of availability published on 9/29/11 with the comment period ending on 11/28/11, and the proposed rule published on 10/24/11 with the comment period ending on 11/28/11. Amendment 18 was approved on December 15, 2011 and the Final Rule published on 12/29/11 with the regulations effective on 1/30/12.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss status of Mackerel Amendment 18/EA.
2. Take action as may be necessary.

D. State by State Quotas

Don Hesselman, NC Division of Marine Fisheries, will give a presentation on North Carolina’s Experience with State by State Quotas.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

- 1. Discuss state by state quotas.
- 2. Take action as may be necessary for inclusion in Scoping Document for CMP Amendment 20.

E. Tournaments and Sale of Fish

Jack Holmes, Managing Partner, Southern Kingfish Association, will give a presentation on the Importance of Tournament Sales of Fish.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

- 1. Discuss tournament sales of fish.
- 2. Take action as may be necessary for inclusion in Scoping Document for CMP Amendment 19.

F. Scoping Document for Mackerel (CMP) Amendments 19 & 20

Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, will review the scoping documents for Mackerel (CMP) Amendment 19 (**Attachment 3b**) and 20 (**Attachment 4b**). The South Atlantic Council provided guidance at the December 2011 meeting; these recommendations were included in the Gulf Council Briefing Book (**Attachments 3a & 4a**). The Gulf Council approved (**Attachment 5**) the South Atlantic changes, made some modifications, and approved the two documents for scoping at their January/February 2012 meeting. The Committee will develop recommendations on timing and locations for scoping these two amendments.

The Gulf Council is planning to scope Mackerel (CMP) Amendments 19 & 20 (and the Generic Dealer Amendment) at the following sites during the weeks of March 12th and March 19th:

GMFMC Motion: To hold scoping meetings for Mackerel Amendments 19 and 20 in the following locations:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Galveston, TX | Mobile, AL |
| Port Aransas, TX | Destin, FL |
| Grand Isle, LA | Key West, FL |
| Biloxi area, MS | Fort Myers, FL |

Motion carried with no opposition.