

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee Meeting

September 15, 2009
Charleston Marriott
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, South Carolina

The Mackerel Committee needs to: (A) receive a status report on the Gulf Council's scoping for Joint Mackerel Amendment 18; (B) receive a presentation on cobia in South Carolina by SC DNR Staff; and (C) review the Mackerel Advisory Panel recommendations on items in the Decision Document for Amendment 18, review the allowable gear request, and then provide guidance to staff.

A. Joint Mackerel Amendment 18

The Gulf Council and the South Atlantic Council are preparing a joint amendment to address the new requirements of the Reauthorized-MSA. Rick Leard and Gregg Waugh discussed the two staffs' workloads and have proposed that Rick take the administrative lead for the Joint Mackerel Amendment and Gregg take the administrative lead for the Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment. The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils have approved this approach.

The South Atlantic Council has 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
- (5) February 4, 2009 in Cape Canaveral, FL
- (5) February 5, 2009 in Pooler, GA

The Gulf Council has scheduled scoping meetings as shown below. Gregg Waugh will be attending the Key West and Marathon, Florida meetings.

Meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end no later than 9:00 p.m.

September 21, 2009

Monroe County Govt. Center
1200 Truman Avenue
Key West, FL 33040

Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries
195 Ludwig Annex
Grand Isle, LA 70358

September 22, 2009

Banana Bay
4590 Overseas Highway

September 23, 2009

City of Madeira Beach
300 Municipal Dr
Madeira Beach, FL 33708

SpringHill Suites
7922 Mosley Rd
Houston, TX 77061

City of Orange Beach
27235 Canal Road
Orange Beach, AL 36561

Marathon, FL 33050

Best Western
7921 Lamar Poole Road
Biloxi, MS 39532

September 24, 2009

NMFS Lab
3500 Dellwood Beach Dr
Panama City, FL 32408

Holiday Inn – Emerald Beach
1102 S Shoreline Blvd
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Gregg Waugh will review the Gulf Council’s draft scoping document (**Attachment 1**).

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 – 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), Mike Jepson (Anthropologist) and David Keys (NEPA).
- D. NMFS SEFSC – Mauricio Ortiz.
- E. NOAA GC – Monica Smit-Brunello.

A very rough timeline is proposed as follows:

- A. ✓Conference call on 3/12/09. The Council chairs, mackerel committee chairs, staff and possibly NOAA GC to discuss whether there is a need to hold an in-person joint committee meeting.
- B. ✓Council staff to work on options paper for June meetings.
- C. ✓Councils review draft options paper/scoping document – SAFMC June 7-12, 2009 meeting and GMFMC June 15-18, 2009 meeting.
- D. ✓SAFMC already completed scoping.
- E. GMFMC to scope during September 2009.
- F. SSC provides OFL & ABC – Gulf SSC has provided their recommendations. The South Atlantic SSC may provide their recommendation in December 2009.
- G. Draft Amendment prepared by Gulf staff with assistance from NMFS and South Atlantic staff - _____
- H. NMFS determines whether EA or EIS and prepares appropriate notices and analyses - _____
- I. Draft Amendment/DEIS or EA ready for public hearings - _____
- J. Public Hearings - _____
- K. Review public comments and provide final guidance on document - _____
- L. Review and approve final document – by South Atlantic Council’s September or December 2011 meeting and the Gulf Councils _____.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Provide guidance to staff as necessary

B. Cobia in South Carolina

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources staff will give a presentation on cobia in South Carolina. The committee will use this information to consider alternatives for cobia management in Amendment 18.

C. Decision Document for Amendment 18 (Attachments 2-5)

The decision document (**Attachment 2**) 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 AP reviewed this document during their August 18-19, 2009 meeting and their motions (**Attachment 3**) have been incorporated.

A report on the FishSmart project is included as **Attachment 4** for the committee/Council's use in developing alternatives for Amendment 18. In addition, a request concerning allowable gear has been received (**Attachment 5**).

The Mackerel Committee should provide guidance to staff on which alternatives to include in the joint amendment.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review the Mackerel AP Recommendations/Allowable Gear Request/Decision Document.
2. Provide guidance on actions and alternatives to include in Mackerel Amendment 18.