

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee Meeting

September 13, 2010
Charleston Marriott Hotel
Charleston, SC

The Mackerel Committee need to: (A) approve minutes from the March 1st SAFMC Committee and the June 7th Joint Committee; (B) review previous council actions on Draft Mackerel Amendment 18/EA; and (C) review management measures/accountability measures necessary to ensure Atlantic king & Spanish mackerel and cobia ACLs are not exceeded and provide guidance to staff/team.

A. Approval of Minutes

The committee will review and approve the South Atlantic Committee minutes from March 1, 2010 and the Joint SA/GM Committee minutes from June 7, 2010.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review and approve minutes.

B. Previous Council Actions on Draft Mackerel Amendment 18/EA

Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, will provide an overview of actions from the June Joint Committee meeting (**Attachment 1**). The Gulf Council addressed the committee recommendations for joint and Gulf items and took action (**Attachment 2**). The South Atlantic Council addressed the joint items and some of the items for South Atlantic items (**Attachment 3**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss these actions.

C. Joint Mackerel (CMP) Amendment 18/EA

The joint items and most of the other items in Mackerel Amendment 18/EA have been addressed; SAFMC separate actions shown in **Attachment 4**. The South Atlantic Committee and Council need to review the large number of actions/alternatives included as management measures for king & Spanish mackerel and Atlantic cobia and determine which management measures are to be used as accountability measures to ensure total mortality does not exceed our ACLs for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. The Mackerel IPT Team has recommended that the management measures be addressed in a future amendment. However, we need to ensure that sufficient regulations are in place to prevent the ACLs from being exceeded.

In **Attachment 4**, all management measures have been moved to Appendix B. The SAFMC Committee/Council will need to determine which of these items are included in Amendment 18 (e.g., modifications to bag limits, trip limits, etc.) and which are more complex and will require

more time than is available for Amendment 18 and should be addressed in a future amendment (e.g., limited entry, etc.).

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. Planning/Timing Public Hearings for Joint Mackerel Amendment 18

2010 Activities:

(King & Spanish Mackerel & Cobia MSA Requirements & Framework) – GREGG (RICK LEARD, GMFMC STAFF LEAD)

- A. Scope Commercial Quota Issue – February 2008.
- B. Review scoping comments and options – June, September & December 2008.
- C. 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.
- D. 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
- E. NMFS determines whether EA or EIS and prepares appropriate notices and analyses - _____. Currently EA.
- F. 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 December 6-10, 2010 in New Bern, NC
- G. Public Hearings – ~~October/November 2010~~ January/February 2011
- H. Review public comments and provide final guidance on document –
 - a. GMFMC – February 7-10, 2011 in TX February 7-10, 2011 in Gulfport, MS
 - b. SAFMC – December 6-10, 2010 in New Bern, NC March 7-11, 2011 in St. Simons Island, GA
- I. Review and approve final document – if necessary
 - a. GMFMC – April 11-4, 2011 in Orange Beach, AL April 11-14, 2011 in Orange Beach, AL
 - b. SAFMC – March 7-11, 2011 in GA June 13-17, 2011 in Key West, FL
- J. Send Mackerel Amendment 18/EA or EIS/Proposed rule for formal review – April 2011 or June 2011.
- K. Final regulations effective _____.

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.