

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee Meeting

March 6, 2014

Hilton Savannah DeSoto
15 East Liberty Street
Savannah, GA

The Mackerel Committee will (A) receive reports from SERO on the status of commercial and recreational catches versus the respective quotas for Atlantic group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. SERO will also (B) provide status updates on amendments recently submitted for formal review. The Committee will discuss (C) Joint Gulf/South Atlantic CMP Amendment 20B to review recent Gulf Council actions and approve the amendment again for submission for Secretarial approval.

Following, the Committee will review (D) CMP Framework Amendment 1. Council staff will provide a summary of public hearing comments and decisions from the February Gulf Council meeting, followed by an overview of the draft amendment with the Committee. After making any necessary changes to the amendment, the Committee will select or change preferred alternatives, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

Ben Hartig, Committee and Council Chair, will (E) brief the Committee on the Data Workshop for SEDAR 38 (Atlantic and Gulf King Mackerel) and on Gulf Council decisions from their February 2014 meeting. The Mackerel Committee will (F) review scoping comments for Joint CMP Amendment 24 and (G) Joint CMP Amendment 26. The Committee will provide guidance to staff on actions and alternatives to include, and timeline for the amendments. Lastly, the Committee will address issues under Other Business if necessary.

A. Status of Landings for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Species (*Attachments 1 and 2*)

The Committee will receive status updates on landings (commercial and recreational) for Atlantic Group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

B. Status of Amendments Approved for Secretarial Review

- Amendment 20A – sent to NMFS for formal review on 11/26/13
- South Atlantic CMP Framework Action 2013 – sent to NMFS for formal review on 12/18/13

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

C. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Amendment 20B (Attachments 3a-3c)

The South Atlantic Council approved Amendment 20B for formal review in September 2013. In October 2013, the Gulf Council changed a preferred alternative under Action 1 (trip limits for Gulf king mackerel). The South Atlantic Committee will review the changes by the Gulf Council. Upon agreement of South Atlantic and Gulf preferred alternatives, the Committee may approve revised Amendment 20B for formal review.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Select or change preferred alternatives, modify the amendment as necessary, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

D. CMP Framework Amendment 1 (Attachments 4a-4d)

Framework Amendment 1 will revise the Atlantic and Gulf group Spanish mackerel annual catch limits based on results of the recent stock assessment (SEDAR 28). This amendment was formerly titled the Joint South Atlantic and Gulf Framework Action 2014, but the title has been changed to reflect a new administrative process for framework amendments for both Councils. In October 2013, the SSC reviewed the projections provided by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and recommended an ABC value of 6,063,000 lbs for 2014-2016.

The South Atlantic public hearings for Framework Amendment 1 were held in January 2014. The Gulf Council reviewed the amendment at their February 2014 meeting.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Select or change preferred alternatives, modify the amendment as necessary, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

E. Update on SEDAR 38 Data Workshop and Gulf Council February 2014 meeting (Attachment 5)

The Data Workshop for SEDAR 38 (Atlantic and Gulf king mackerel) was held December 9-13, 2013, and the Assessment Workshop is scheduled for March 24-28, 2014. Committee Chair Ben Hartig will provide an update on the Data Workshop. Additionally, Chairman Hartig will also brief the Committee on the February 2014 Gulf Council meeting, including decisions and discussion on Amendments 24 and 26.

E. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic CMP Amendment 24 (Attachment 6)

Joint Amendment 24 was scoped in the South Atlantic region in January 2014 and would consider changes in sector allocations for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel and Gulf group king mackerel. Council staff will report to the Committee on public input from scoping meetings.

Current timing approved at the December 2013 meeting is as follows:

Proposed Timing 2013/14:

- a. ✓ Council discusses items to include – September 2013
- b. ✓ Council reviews/modifies scoping document and approves for scoping – December 2013.
- c. ✓ Scoping In-Person – January 2014
- d. Distribute to MAFMC for them to publicize and provide comments to SAFMC
- e. GMFMC scoping in _____ 2014
- f. Review scoping comments and provide guidance on actions/alternatives to be included – SAFMC in March 2014 and GMFMC in April 2014?
- g. Draft Amendment Document: review, modify & select preferred alternatives; approve for public hearings – SAFMC in June 2014 and GMFMC in June 2014?

- h. Public hearings – SAFMC in August 2014 and GMFMC in July/August 2014?
- i. Review public hearing comments and modify amendment as necessary; approve for formal review – SAFMC in September 2014 and GMFMC in August/October 2014?
- j. Document submitted to NMFS – October/November 2014

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff on content and timing.

F. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic CMP Amendment 26 (Attachment 7)

Joint Amendment 26 was scoped in the South Atlantic region in January 2014 and would consider separation of the commercial king mackerel and Spanish mackerel permits into separate Gulf and South Atlantic permits. Council staff will report to the Committee on public input from scoping meetings. Current timing approved at the December 2013 meeting is as follows:

Proposed Timing 2014:

- a. ✓Council discusses items to include – September 2013
- b. ✓Council reviews/modifies Decision Document and approves for scoping – December 2013.
- c. ✓Scoping In-Person – January 2014
- d. Distribute to MAFMC for them to publicize and provide comments to SAFMC
- e. GMFMC to discuss development of amendment.
- f. Review scoping comments and provide guidance on actions/alternatives to be included – SAFMC in March 2014
- g. Draft Amendment Document: review, modify & select preferred alternatives; approve for public hearings – SAFMC in June 2014
- h. Public hearings – SAFMC in August 2014
- i. Review public hearing comments and modify amendment as necessary; approve for formal review – SAFMC in September 2014
- j. Document submitted to NMFS – October/November 2014

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff on content and timing.