



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Mackerel Cobia Committee

The Beaufort Hotel
2440 Lennoxville Road
Beaufort, North Carolina

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 –8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (September 2023)

1. Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report (*Attachment 1*) – Ira Laks
2. CMP Framework Amendment 13 (Spanish Mackerel) (*Attachment 2*)
 - Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - **Committee Action:** review scoping comments and decision document and approve action and alternatives.
3. Mackerel Port Meetings Discussion (*Attachment 3*).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** review document and provide guidance to staff.
4. Topics for Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Tom Roller, Chair
Spud Woodward, Vice Chair
Tim Griner
Trish Murphey
Mel Bell
Kerry Marhefka
Gary Borland
Carolyn Belcher
Judy Helmey
Jessica McCawley
Robert Spotswood, Jr.
Laurilee Thompson

Andy Strelcheck
Robert Beal
Lt. Cameron Box
Mid-Atlantic Members: Skip Feller and Joe Grist

Attachments

Attachment 1: Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report (November 2023)

Attachment 2: CMP Framework Amendment 13 Decision Document

Attachment 3: Mackerel Port Meetings Discussion Document

Staff Lead: Christina Wiegand (christina.wiegand@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Mackerel and Cobia Committee

The Committee will approve the minutes from the September 2023 meeting and the agenda for the December 2023 Committee meeting.

1. Mackerel Advisory Panel Report (*Attachment 1*)

Description: The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel met on November 7 and 8, 2023 in Charleston, South Carolina. The AP Chair, Ira Laks, will provide a summary of Advisory Panel discussion and recommendations on items being discussed at this meeting as well as other items relevant to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics fishery.

Committee Action: review Advisory Panel input and provide guidance to staff.

2. CMP Framework Amendment 13 (Spanish Mackerel) (*Attachment 2*)

Description: The SSC met in April 2023 and determined that the stock assessment for Atlantic Spanish mackerel (SEDAR 78) was sufficient for providing stock status and for providing catch level recommendations using model output but not projections. In June 2023, the SSC chair provided the Council details of the SSC discussion and associated catch level recommendations. At the September 2023 meeting, the Council discussed findings of a pilot study to evaluate potential sources of bias in the recreational Fishing Effort Survey questionnaire design and ultimately chose to move forward with development of Framework Amendment 13, approving it for scoping. Scoping hearings were conducted on October 30th and November 1st, 2023. Staff will present an updated decision document for Council discussion.

Committee Action: Review scoping comments and decision document and approve action and alternatives.

3. Mackerel Port Meetings (*Attachment 2*)

Description: Based on recommendations from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel, the Council directed staff to begin work on a plan to conduct port meetings for king and Spanish mackerel to gain a comprehensive understanding of the fisheries to improve management efforts. At the September 2023 meeting, the Council received an update on recent discussions with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Staff will present an updated discussion document that includes details on port meeting structure and possible locations.

Committee Action: review document and provide input on the proposed structure of port meetings and meeting locations.

Other Business