



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Mackerel Cobia Committee

The Beaufort Hotel
2440 Lennoxville Road
Beaufort, NC 28516

Monday, December 6, 2021 – 1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of September 2021 Committee Minutes

1. CMP Amendment 34 – Updates to Atlantic king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 (*Attachments 1a-1c*).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** review public hearing comments, discuss draft amendment, modify as necessary.
2. CMP Amendment 32 – Updates to Gulf cobia management based on the SEDAR 28 Update 2020 and the CMP Framework Procedure (*Attachments 2a-2d*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** review public hearing comments, discuss, and consider approval for formal review.
3. CMP Amendment 33 – Updates to Gulf king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 (*Attachments 3a and 3b*).
 - c. Overview – Ryan Rindone
 - d. **Committee Action:** review draft document and provide guidance to staff.

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Spud Woodward, Chair

Tom Roller, Vice Chair

Tim Griner

Trish Murphey

Mel Bell

Kerry Marhefka

Chris Conklin

Carolyn Belcher

Judy Helmey

Jessica McCawley

Chester Brewer

Laurilee Thompson

Andy Strelcheck

Robert Beal

Lt. Robert Copeland

Mid-Atlantic Members: Dewey Hemilright and Joe Cimino

Attachments

Attachment 1a: CMP Amendment 34 Decision Document

Attachment 1b: CMP Amendment 34 Public Comment Summary

Attachment 1c: CMP Amendment 34 Draft

Attachment 2a: CMP Amendment 32 Decision Document

Attachment 2b: CMP Amendment 32 Public Comment Summary

Attachment 2c: CMP Amendment 32 Draft

Attachment 2d: CMP Amendment 32 Codified Text

Attachment 3a: CMP Amendment 33 Presentation

Attachment 3b: CMP Amendment 33 Draft

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

OVERVIEW

Mackerel and Cobia Committee

The Committee will approve minutes from September 2021 meeting and the agenda for the December 2021 Committee meeting.

1. **CMP Amendment 34 – Updates to Atlantic king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 – (*Attachments 1a-1c*)**

Description: At the June 2020 meeting the Council directed staff to begin work on an options paper that would include consideration of sector allocations and catch level adjustments based on SSC recommendations and the recent stock assessment update. This amendment will update catch levels based on the SSC recommendations and make modifications to management measures aimed at increasing interest in the king mackerel fishery. Scoping was held in March 2021, actions and alternatives were approved in March 2021, and preferred alternatives were selected in June and September 2021. Public hearings were held via webinar on November 15th and 16th. Staff will review the comments received during public hearings and a decision document for Council discussion.

Committee Action: review public hearing comments, discuss, and modify as necessary.

2. **CMP Amendment 32 – Updates to Gulf cobia management based on the SEDAR 28 Update 2020 and the CMP Framework Procedure – (*Attachments 2a-2d*)**

Description: An update to SEDAR 28 assessment for Gulf cobia was completed in July 2020. The results indicate that Gulf cobia is undergoing overfishing, which puts the stock at risk of becoming overfished without management action. The Gulf SSC reviewed the results of the updated SEDAR 28 assessment and provided recommendations for new ABCs for Gulf cobia. This amendment includes actions to end overfishing of Gulf cobia and update the CMP framework procedures to clarify the language about the responsibilities of each Council. The Mackerel Cobia AP reviewed this amendment in April 2021, preferred alternatives were selected in June 2021. Public hearings were held in-person from October 18th through 21st. Staff will review the comments received during public hearings, a decision document and codified text for Council discussion and consideration for formal review.

Committee Action: review public hearing comments, discuss, and consider approval for formal review.

3. **CMP Amendment 33 – Updates to Gulf king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 – (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)**

Description: Council staff will present draft options to be considered in Amendment 33, which proposes modifications to catch limits and sector allocations for Gulf king mackerel based on the results of the SEDAR 38 Update stock assessment. The stock assessment found that Gulf king mackerel was not overfished or undergoing overfishing. However, recruitment has been low over the last 10 years, and the spawning stock biomass (SSB) is below the SSB at maximum sustainable yield. The Committee should review the proposed actions and alternatives and provide feedback for Council consideration as appropriate.

Committee Action: review draft document and provide guidance to staff.

Other Business