



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

Blockade Runner

275 Waynick Boulevard

Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

Thursday, December 8, 2022 – 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of transcript (September 2022)

- Update on amendments recently submitted to NMFS – Rick DeVictor
CMP Amendment 32 (Gulf cobia catch levels and management)
CMP Amendment 34 (Atlantic king mackerel catch levels and management)
- 1. Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report (*Attachment 1*) – Ira Laks, AP Chair
- 2. CMP Amendment 33 – Updates to Gulf king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 (*Attachments 2a* and *2b*).
 - a. Overview – Matt Freeman, GMFMC Staff
 - b. **Committee Action:** review draft document and provide guidance to staff.
- 3. Spanish Mackerel Management (*SSC Report*)
 - a. SSC Recommendations – Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair
 - b. Spanish Mackerel Allocation Decision Trees – Christina Wiegand
 - c. **Committee Action:** review documents and provide guidance to staff.
- 4. Little Tunny White Paper (*Attachment 3*).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** review white paper and provide guidance to staff.
- 5. Mackerel Port Meetings Discussion (*Attachment 4*).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** review white paper and provide guidance to staff.

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

Chester Brewer

Laurilee Thompson

Andy Strelcheck

Robert Beal

Lt. Cameron Box

Mid-Atlantic Members: Dewey Hemilright and Joe Cimino

Attachments

Attachment 1: Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report

Attachment 2a: CMP Amendment 33 Presentation

Attachment 2b: CMP Amendment 33 Draft

Attachment 3. Little Tunny White Paper

Attachment 4: Mackerel Port Meetings Discussion Document

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

OVERVIEW

Mackerel and Cobia Committee

The Committee will approve the transcript from the September 2022 meeting and the agenda for the December 2022 Committee meeting.

- **Update on amendments recently submitted to NMFS**
Description: At the December 2021 meeting, the Council approved CMP Amendment 32 (Gulf cobia catch levels and management measures) for formal review. The Gulf Council approved CMP Amendment 32 for final action at their October 2021 meeting. The document was transmitted to NMFS on February 18, 2022, and the proposed rule published on July 7, 2022. At the March 2022 meeting the Council approved CMP Amendment 34 (Atlantic king mackerel catch levels and management measures) for formal review. The document was transmitted to NMFS on August 5, 2022.
Committee Action: none.
- **Mackerel Advisory Panel Report (*Attachment 1*)**
Description: The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel met on October 5th and 6th, 2022 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.
- **CMP Amendment 33 – Updates to Gulf king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 (*Attachments 2a* and *2b*)**
Description: Gulf Council staff will present draft Amendment 33, which would modify sector allocations for Gulf king mackerel. At their October meeting, the Gulf Council passed a motion to stop work on Amendment 33. Additionally, the Gulf Council recommended additional modifications to CMP Fishery Management Plan Objectives. Both councils must concur on the goals and objectives of the CMP FMP before any modifications can be adopted.
Committee Action: review Gulf Council action and provide direction to staff.
- **Spanish Mackerel Management (*SSC Report*).**
Description: At the September 2022 meeting, the Council requested the SEFSC rerun the SEDAR 78 assessment model with new landings to address uncertainty with MRIP estimate in the terminal year. The SSC reviewed the changes at their October 2022 meeting. SSC Chair, Jeff Buckel, will present the SSC's recommendations. Additionally, in September 2022, the Council requested staff apply the allocation decision tool to the Atlantic Spanish mackerel fishery, considering both sector and regional commercial allocations. Staff will present the [fishery overview](#) for Atlantic Spanish mackerel and walk through the decision tool with Council members for discussion.
Committee Action: review SSC recommendations and allocation decision tree results, provide direction to staff.

- **Little Tunny White Paper (*Attachment 3*).**
Description: On September 19, 2022, the Council received a letter from the American Saltwater Guides Association requesting the consider re-adding little tunny to the CMP FMP. In response to the letter, the Council directed staff to develop a white paper examining false albacore with respect to the Magnuson Stevens Act criteria for conservation and management. Data used to complete the white paper can be found in the [fishery overview](#) for little tunny.
Committee Action: review white paper and provide direction to staff.
- **Mackerel Port Meetings (*Attachment 4*).**
Description: During their October 2022 meeting, the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel requested the Council conduct port meetings to gain a comprehensive understanding of the commercial and recreational king and Spanish mackerel fisheries to improve management efforts for these fisheries. Council staff will present a draft plan for conducting port meetings for discussion.
Committee Action: review port meetings proposal and provide direction to staff.

Other Business