



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Stephen J. Poland, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## AGENDA Mackerel Cobia Committee (Via Webinar)

**Thursday, June 17, 2021 – 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of March 2021 Committee Minutes

1. Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting Report (*Attachment 1*)
  - a. Overview – Ira Laks, AP Chair
  - b. **Committee Action:** discuss and provide guidance to staff.
2. CMP Amendment 34 – Updates to king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 (*Attachment 2*).
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee Action:** discuss, select preferred alternatives, and consider approval for public hearings.
3. CMP Amendment 32 – Updates to Gulf cobia management based on the SEDAR 28 Update 2020 and the CMP Framework Procedure (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee Action:** discuss and select preferred alternatives.

Other Business

Adjourn

**Committee Members**

Steve Poland, Chair

Art Sapp, Vice Chair

Tim Griner

Anna Beckwith

Mel Bell

Kerry Marhefka

Chris Conklin

Carolyn Belcher

Spud Woodward

Kyle Christensen

Jessica McCawley

Chester Brewer

Andy Strelcheck

Robert Beal

Lt. Robert Copeland

Mid-Atlantic Members: Tony DiLernia and Dewey Hemilright

**Attachments**

**Attachment 1:** Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting Report

**Attachment 2:** CMP Amendment 34 Decision Document

**Attachment 3a:** CMP Amendment 32 Decision Document

**Attachment 3b:** CMP Amendment 32 Draft

**Staff Lead:** Christina Wiegand ([christina.wiegand@safmc.net](mailto:christina.wiegand@safmc.net))

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Mackerel and Cobia Committee**

The Committee will approve minutes from March 2021 meeting and the agenda for the June 2021 Committee meeting.

3. **Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report – (Attachment 1)**

**Description:** The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel met on April 6, 2021 via webinar. The AP Chair, Ira Laks, will provide a summary of Advisory Panel discussion and recommendations on amendments being discussed at this meeting as well as other items relevant to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics fishery.

**Committee Action:** provide guidance to staff.

1. **CMP Amendment 34 – Updates to king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 – (Attachment 2)**

**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. At the March 2021 meeting, the Council approved actions and alternatives to be included in CMP Amendment 34 for analysis. Scoping for the amendment was also held during the public comment period associated with the March 2021 Council meeting. Additionally, the Council direct staff to revise the alternatives under Action 3 (sector allocations) to consider various time periods. Council staff will review a decision document for CMP Amendment 34 with analyses and updated action/alternative language.

**Committee Action:** review draft document, select preferred alternatives, and consider approval for public hearings.

4. **CMP Amendment 32 – Updates to Gulf cobia management based on the SEDAR 28 Update 2020 and the CMP Framework Procedure – (Attachments 3a and 3b)**

**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. At the March 2021 meeting, the Council reviewed actions and alternatives, selected preferred alternatives, and requested an additional action be added to the amendment to address sector allocations in the Florida east coast (FLEC) zone. The Gulf Council reviewed this amendment at their April meeting, modified their preferred alternatives and discussed the implications of proposed catch limits and in-season closures. Council staff will review a decision document and a draft updated draft document for CMP Amendment 32 with analyses and updated action/alternative language.

**Committee Action:** review draft document and select preferred alternatives.

### **Other Business**