



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

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Steve Poland

Approval of December 2020 Committee minutes – Steve Poland

1. CMP Framework Amendment 10 – Updates to king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 (*Attachment 1*).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** discuss and consider approval of actions and alternatives for analysis – Steve Poland
2. CMP Amendment 32 – Updates to Gulf cobia management based on the SEDAR 28 Update 2020 and the CMP Framework Procedure (*Attachment 2a* and *2b*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** discuss and provide guidance to staff – Steve Poland
3. Structure of the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** discuss and provide guidance to staff – Steve Poland
4. Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Agenda Items
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** discuss and provide guidance to staff – Steve Poland

Other Business – Steve Poland

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 Liaisons:
Tony DiLernia and Dewey Hemilright

Attachments

Attachment 1: CMP Framework Amendment 10 Decision Document
Attachment 2a: CMP Amendment 32 Decision Document
Attachment 2b: CMP Amendment 32 Draft
Attachment 3: Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Structure White Paper

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

OVERVIEW

Mackerel and Cobia Committee

The Committee will approve minutes from December 2020 meeting and the agenda for the March 2021 Committee meeting.

1. **CMP Framework Amendment 10 – Updates to king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 – (Attachment 1)**

Description: An update to SEDAR 38 was completed in April 2020 and included assessments for Gulf and Atlantic king mackerel. In April 2020, the SSC reviewed the results of the updated SEDAR 38 and provided recommendations for new ABCs for Atlantic king mackerel. At their June 2020 meeting the Council received presentations from the SEFSC and the SSC chair regarding the completed assessment. 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 the recent stock assessment update. In December 2020, the Council reviewed input from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel and provided guidance on management needs to be considered for inclusion in the amendment. The Committee will review a draft options paper and consider approving actions and alternatives to be included in the amendment. Scoping for the amendment will be held during the public comment period associated with the Council meeting.

Committee Action: review a draft options paper and consider approval of actions and alternatives for analysis.

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

Description: Council staff will present draft management measures to end overfishing of Gulf cobia. The options include updating the Gulf cobia OFL, ABC, and ACL to incorporate the adjustment of recreational catch to the MRIP-FES. Additional management measures for consideration include modifications to bag limits, vessel limits, and size limits.

Since Gulf Cobia is jointly managed with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, staff will present options to update the CMP framework procedures. Additionally, the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils may want to consider revising the Florida East Coast Zone allocation based on the updated recreational estimates. The Committee should review the draft options and provide guidance on the range of alternatives.

Committee Action: provide guidance to staff.

4. **Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Structure – (Attachment 3)**

Description: During its September 2020 meeting the Council reviewed appointments to the Mackerel Cobia AP and decided to further discuss the structure of the advisory panel during its December meeting. Additionally, during the November 2020 Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel meeting, the AP also discussed the need to have representatives on the AP from the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions as participation in the fishery for king mackerel and Spanish Mackerel increases further north. In December, the Council directed staff to put together a white paper detailing how the Advisory Panel structure can be modified to better work with different regions and management organizations, such as the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Committee Action: provide guidance to staff.

5. Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Agenda Items

Description: The next Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel will be held this spring via webinar. To optimize the level of input the Council desires from its advisory panels, the Committee is asked to provide guidance on items to include on the next Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel agenda. Proposed topics include:

- CMP Framework Amendment 10 (Atlantic king mackerel)
- CMP Amendment 32 (Gulf cobia)
- Updated FPRs

Committee Action: provide guidance to staff.

Other Business