



# 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**

Westin Jekyll Island  
110 Ocean Way  
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of December 2021 Committee Minutes

1. Update on amendments recently submitted to NMFS – Rick DeVictor
  - a. CMP Amendment 32 (Gulf cobia management based on SEDAR 28 Update)
2. 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 Law Enforcement AP comments, discuss draft amendment, and consider for formal review.
3. CMP Amendment 33 – Updates to Gulf king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 (*Attachments 2a and 2b*).
  - a. Overview – Ryan Rindone
  - b. **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 Draft

**Attachment 1c:** CMP Amendment 34 Codified Text

**Attachment 2a:** CMP Amendment 33 Presentation

**Attachment 2b:** CMP Amendment 33 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 December 2021 meeting and the agenda for the March 2022 Committee meeting.

**1. 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. Council staff will transmit the document to NMFS in the coming weeks.

**2. 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 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The Law Enforcement Advisory Panel reviewed this amendment and provided input on the cut-fish/damaged action at their February 10, 2022, meeting. The LE AP Chair will provide the AP's recommendations. Staff will review current Council rationale for preferred alternatives, a final document, and codified text. The Committee should consider the amendment for formal review.

**Committee Action:** review Law Enforcement AP comments, discuss draft amendment, and consider for formal review.

**3. CMP Amendment 33 – Updates to Gulf king mackerel management based on SEDAR 38 Update 2020 – (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)**

**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. At their January 2022 meeting, the Gulf Council chose to move the action updating catch limits to a framework amendment while retaining the action addressing allocations within CMP Amendment 33. 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**