



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405  
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)

Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## AGENDA

### **Mackerel Cobia Committee**

Westin Jekyll Island  
110 Ocean Way  
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 2:30 P.M. – 3:45 P.M. (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of transcript (December 2022)

- Update on amendments recently submitted to NMFS – Rick DeVictor
  - CMP Amendment 34 (Atlantic king mackerel catch levels and management)
- Spanish Mackerel Assessment (SEDAR 78) (**SSC Report**)
  - a. SSC Update – Dr. Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair
- 1. Mackerel Port Meetings Discussion (**Attachment 1**).
  - b. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - c. **Committee Action:** review white paper and provide guidance to staff.
- 2. Topics for the Spring Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel

Other Business

- King and Spanish mackerel tournament landings.

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 Port Meetings Discussion Document

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

## **OVERVIEW**

### Mackerel and Cobia Committee

The Committee will approve the transcript from the December 2022 meeting and the agenda for the March 2023 Committee meeting.

- **Update on amendments recently submitted to NMFS**  
**Description:** 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. The request for comments posted on January 30, 2023 with comments due by March 31, 2023.  
**Committee Action:** none.
  
- **Spanish Mackerel Management (*SSC Report*).**  
**Description:** At their December 2023 meeting, the Council expressed their frustration with the Atlantic Spanish mackerel assessment (SEDAR 78) and the importance of having accurate catch level recommendations to move forward with needed management discussions. To that end, the Council passed a motion directing the SSC to provide catch level recommendations for Atlantic Spanish mackerel at their April 2023 meeting, either from the updated assessment or using a data-limit approach. SSC Chair Dr. Jeff Buckel will update the Council on discussions had during the January 2023 SSC meeting.  
**Committee Action:** none.
  
- 1. **Mackerel Port Meetings (*Attachment 1*).**  
**Description:** Based on recommendations from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel, the Council directed staff to begin work on a plan to conduct port meetings for king and Spanish mackerel to gain a comprehensive understanding of the fisheries to improve management efforts. Council staff will present a planning document for Council discussion.  
**Committee Action:** review port meetings proposal and provide direction to staff, as requested.
  
- 2. **Topics for the Spring Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting**  
**Description:** The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel is scheduled to meeting this spring for a half day webinar.
  - Mackerel Port Meetings
  - Council Research Recommendations
  - Space Center Operation ImpactsNote: the AP is also scheduled meet in-person this summer, after the June Council meeting, once results from the Spanish mackerel assessment are available.  
**Committee Action:** review and approve Advisory Panel agenda topics.

#### Other Business

- **King and Spanish mackerel tournament landings.**
  - At their December 2022 meeting the Council requested NMFS provide information on king and Spanish mackerel tournament landings over the last ten years and how those landings were accounted for against the annual catch limit.