



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

Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA **Mackerel Cobia Committee**

Westin Jekyll Island
110 Ocean Way
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

Thursday, March 8, 2018 – 1:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Ben Hartig

Approval of December 2017 Committee minutes – Ben Hartig

1. Status of commercial catches vs. ACLs – NMFS SERO (*Attachment 1*)
2. King mackerel tournament sales vs. commercial ACL update – State Representatives (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Committee action: Review and provide guidance to staff – Ben Hartig
3. Update on state implementation plans for ASMFC’s Interstate Fishery Management for Atlantic cobia – Bob Beal (*Attachment 3*)
4. CMP Amendment 31 (*Attachments 4a-4d*)
 - a. Review public hearing comments – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Overview of Decision Document – Christina Wiegand
 - c. Committee Action: Review document and vote to submit for formal review – Ben Hartig
5. CMP Framework Amendment 6 (*Attachment 5*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Committee Action: Provide guidance to staff – Ben Hartig

Other Business – Ben Hartig

Adjourn – Ben Hartig

Committee Members

Ben Hartig, Chair
Doug Haymans, Vice-Chair
Robert Beal
Anna Beckwith
Mel Bell
Zack Bowen
Mark Brown
Roy Crabtree
Michelle Duval
Jessica McCawley
Charlie Phillips
Mid-Atlantic Liaison, Rob O'Reilly
Mid-Atlantic Liaison, Dewey Hemilright
Mid-Atlantic Liaison, Tony DiLernia

Attachments

Attachment 1: NMFS SERO Commercial ACL Report for CMP species

Attachment 2: King mackerel tournament landings in North Carolina

Attachment 3: State implementation plans for Atlantic cobia submitted to ASMFC

Attachment 4a: Summary of public hearing comments for CMP Amendment 31

Attachment 4b: CMP Amendment 31 Draft Document

Attachment 4c: CMP Amendment 31 Decision Document

Attachment 4d: CMP Amendment 31 Codified Text (*available at meeting*)

Attachment 5: CMP Framework Amendment 6 Options Paper

Staff: Christina Wiegand

OVERVIEW

Mackerel and Cobia Committee

The Committee will approve of minutes from December 2017 meeting and agenda.

1. **Status of commercial catches vs. ACLs – (*Attachments 1*)**

Description: The Committee will receive an update on commercial landings for Atlantic king mackerel, Atlantic Spanish mackerel, and Atlantic and Florida east coast cobia.

Required Committee Action: None.

2. **King mackerel tournament landings – (*Attachment 2*)**

Description: The ban on the sale of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit in Amendment 20A became effective on August 7, 2014. An exception was made for king or Spanish mackerel harvested or possessed under the bag limit during a fishing tournament, which may be donated to a dealer who will sell those fish and donate the proceeds to a charity. This exception is allowed only if the tournament organizers have a permit from a state to conduct that tournament. At the December 2017 meeting, the Committee discussed Atlantic king mackerel tournament sales, which are currently counted against the commercial ACL. States were requested to bring information on Atlantic king mackerel tournament sales over the last three years to the March 2018 meeting for discussion.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary.

3. **Update on state implementation plans for ASMFC’s Interstate Fishery Management for Atlantic cobia – (*Attachment 3*)**

Description: Bob Beal, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, will brief the Committee on the status of state implementation plans under ASMFC’s interstate management plan for Atlantic cobia (*Attachment 3*). State implementation plans were submitted to ASMFC in January 2018 and reviewed by the Atlantic cobia Technical Committee (TC). Implementation plans, and TC recommendations were presented to ASMFC’s South Atlantic State/Federal Management Board in February 2018 for approval. The new regulations are scheduled to go into effect April 2018.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary.

4. **CMP Amendment 31 – (*Attachments 4a-4d*)**

Description: At their June 2017 meeting, the Committee directed staff to begin work on a plan amendment to address Atlantic cobia and evaluate options for a complementary plan with ASMFC as well as removal of Atlantic cobia from the management unit. In September 2017, staff provided a summary of scoping comments related to Amendment 31 and reviewed an options paper for Amendment 31. The Committee approved the Purpose and Need and actions/alternatives. In December 2017, the Committee reviewed a draft document, chose a preferred alternative (Alternative 2: Remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP FMP) and approved the document for public hearings.

Council staff will present a summary of comments received during the public hearings and a decision document for the actions and alternatives approved by the Council. The Committee will discuss and considered approving Amendment 31 for formal review.

Status of Amendment: Scheduled for final approval.

Required Committee Action: Review preferred alternative; modify the document as needed; review codified text and approve for formal review.

5. **CMP Framework Amendment 6 – (*Attachment 5*)**

Description: The new regulations for king mackerel established in CMP Amendment 26 became effective on May 11, 2017, including a split season and updated commercial trip limits for the Atlantic Southern zone.

Some fishermen on the Florida east coast have expressed concern about the new trip limits, especially the 50-fish limit for March 1-31 from the Flagler/Volusia line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe line. Additionally, at their April 2017 meeting, the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel recommended that the Council review the March trip limit or consider a different trip limit for north of the Volusia/Brevard line. At the December 2017 meeting, the Committee reviewed a draft options paper and approved four alternatives. There was concern about moving forward with the Amendment given how recently Amendment 26 was implemented. The Committee indicated a desire to hear from fishermen after they had operated under the new trip limits established in Amendment 26 before moving forward. To achieve this, the Council approved Framework Amendment 6 for scoping at the March 2018 meeting.

Status of Amendment: Scoping

Required Committee Action: Discuss scoping comments and provide guidance to staff.

Other Business