



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

AGENDA

Mackerel Cobia Committee Meeting

Double Tree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront
2717 W. Fort Macon Road
Atlantic Beach, NC

Thursday, December 7, 2017 – 9:30A.M. – 12:00 NOON (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Ben Hartig

Approval of June 2017 Committee minutes – Ben Hartig

1. Status of commercial and recreational catches vs. ACLs (**Attachments 1a and 1b**) – NMFS SERO
2. Update on the ASMFC Interstate Plan for Atlantic Cobia (**Attachment 2**) – Robert Beal
3. Requested timeline for MRIP recalculation of 2015 and 2016 recreational landings for Atlantic cobia (**Attachments 3**) – NMFS
4. CMP Framework Amendment 6 (King Mackerel Trip Limits) (**Attachment 4**)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Review draft options paper – Christina Wiegand
 - c. Committee Action: discussion and approve for scoping – Ben Hartig
5. CMP Amendment 31 (Cobia Management) (**Attachments 5a and 5b**)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Review draft amendment – Christina Wiegand
 - c. Committee Action: discussion and approve for public hearings – 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 1a: NMFS SERO Commercial ACL Report for CMP species

Attachment 1b: NMFS SERO Recreational ACL Report for CMP species

Attachment 2: ASMFC Atlantic cobia interstate FMP

Attachment 3: Letter to NMFS requesting a timeline for recalculation of Atlantic cobia recreational landings

Attachment 4: CMP Framework Amendment 6 Options Paper

Attachment 5a: CMP Amendment 31 Decision Document

Attachment 5b: Draft CMP Amendment 31

Staff: Christina Wiegand

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Cobia Committee

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

1. **Status of commercial and recreational catches vs. ACLs – (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)**
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. **Update on the ASMFC Interstate Plan for Atlantic Cobia – (*Attachment 2*)**
Bob Beal, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will brief the Committee on the status for the interstate management plan for cobia (*Attachment 2*). At their October 2017 meeting, the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board approved management measures for their interstate FMP. The plan establishes state by state quotas based on the federal ACL for Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, as well as 1% reserved for de minimis states.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary.

3. **Requested timeline for MRIP recalculation of 2015 and 2016 recreational landings for Atlantic cobia – (*Attachment 3*)**
Description: In September 2017, the Committee received an update on their request that MRIP re-calculate the 2015 and 2016 Atlantic cobia recreational harvest using alternative annual estimates of catch and effort. Dr. David Van Voorhees indicated that that they were unable to complete a thorough evaluation of alternative estimation approaches for Atlantic cobia within the requested time frame. As directed by the Committee, on October 11, 2017 a letter was sent to Dr. Van Voorhees requesting an expected timeline for the recalculated estimates (*Attachment 3a*). A response has not been received.

Required Committee Action: Discuss and take action as necessary.

4. **CMP Framework Amendment 6 (King Mackerel Trip Limits) – (*Attachment 4*)**
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.

Each Atlantic Southern Zone season now has a quota and specified trip limits:

- SC/NC line to the Flagler/Volusia county line: 3,500 lbs year-round
- Flagler/Volusia county line to Miami-Dade/Monroe county line:
 - Season 1 (March 1- September 30): 50 fish for March 1-31; 75 fish for April 1-September 30
 - Season 2 (October 1 – end of February): 50 fish until February 1, then will increase to 75 fish if <70% of the Season 2 quota has been landed.

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 September 2017 meeting, the Committee reviewed a draft options paper and approved three alternatives, and requested an additional alternative with an option for 75 fish from March 1-31 south of the Flagler/Volusia line.

Council staff will review an updated options paper for CMP Framework Amendment 6. A framework amendment would not require action by the Gulf Council.

Status of Amendment: Draft Options Paper

Required Committee Action: Discuss and approve for scoping.

5. **CMP Amendment 31 (Atlantic Cobia Management) – (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)**

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.

Council staff will present the discussion document for the actions and alternatives approved by the Council. The Committee will discuss and approve draft CMP Amendment 31 for public hearings.

Status of Amendment: Draft Public Hearing Document

Required Committee Action: Discuss and approve for public hearings.

Other Business