



# 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**

Bahia Mar Doubletree by Hilton  
801 Seabreeze Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

**Thursday, June 14, 2018 – 1:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda – Ben Hartig

Approval of March 2018 Committee minutes – Ben Hartig

1. Status of commercial and recreational catches vs. ACLs – NMFS SERO (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
2. Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report – Ira Laks (*Attachment 2*)
3. MRIP catch and effort estimates for tournaments – Christina Wiegand
4. CMP Framework Amendment 6 (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee Action:** Review draft document, confirm preferred alternative, and approve for public hearings– Ben Hartig
5. CMP Amendment 31 (*Attachments 4a-4e*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Request for details on ASMFC’s plan for federal waters upon removal of Atlantic cobia from the CMP FMP – Bob Beal
  - c. Cobia Stock ID Workshop Update – Christina Wiegand
  - d. Committee Action: Review document and vote to submit for formal review – 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:** Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting Report

**Attachment 3a:** CMP Framework Amendment 6 Public Hearing Draft

**Attachment 3b:** CMP Framework Amendment 6 Decision Document

**Attachment 4a:** Correspondence between SAFMC, NMFS, and ASMFC

**Attachment 4b:** Cobia Stock ID Workshop Report

**Attachment 4c:** CMP Amendment 31 Draft Document

**Attachment 4d:** CMP Amendment 31 Decision Document

**Attachment 4e:** CMP Amendment 31 Codified Text

**Staff:** Christina Wiegand

# **OVERVIEW**

## **Mackerel and Cobia Committee**

The Committee will approve of minutes from March 2018 meeting and agenda.

1. **Status of commercial and recreational catches vs. ACLs – (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)**

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

**Required Committee Action:** None.

2. **Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report – (*Attachment 2*)**

**Description:** The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel and Cobia Sub-Panel on April 16-17, 2018. Ira Laks, AP Chair, will provide a summary of the Advisory Panel and Sub-Panel's discussion and recommendations.

**Required Committee Action:** None.

3. **MRIP landing and effort estimates for tournaments**

**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. At the March 2018 meeting, the Committee reviewed king mackerel tournament sales over the last three years relative to the commercial and recreational Atlantic king mackerel ACLs. The Committee requested staff looking into how the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) accounts for tournament landings.

**Required Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary.

4. **CMP Framework Amendment 6 – (*Attachment 3a and 3b*)**

**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 trip limits in place during Season 1 (March through September) from the Flagler/Volusia County line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line. Additionally, the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel recommended that the Council review the March trip limit or consider a different trip limit for Season 1 north of the Volusia/Brevard line. At the March 2018 meeting, the Committee reviewed scoping comments, approved four alternatives, and selected a preferred alternative, which includes a 75-fish trip limit from the Flagler/Volusia County line to Miami-Dade/Monroe County line during the month of March and a 3,500-pound trip limit from the Flagler/Volusia County line to the Volusia/Brevard County line from April through September. Staff will present a public hearing draft for consideration and approval for public hearings. If approved, public hearings would be held prior to or during the September meeting.

**Status of Amendment:** Public hearing draft

**Required Committee Action:** Review draft document, confirm preferred alternative, and approve for public hearings.

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

**Description:** In December 2017, the Committee reviewed a draft document for Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 31 and selected a preferred alternative (Alternative 2: Remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP FMP) and approved the document for public hearings. In March 2018, Council staff presented a summary of comments received during the public hearings. Majority of comments supported removing Atlantic cobia from the federal management unit. There were a few comments expressing concern about timing related to the upcoming stock ID workshop. The Council discussed future management of Atlantic cobia in federal waters under the preferred alternative, and the timing for Amendment 31. The Council decided to delay taking final action on the amendment until the June 2018 meeting when preliminary results from the Cobia Stock ID Workshop and comments from the Advisory Panel will be available for consideration. Additionally, the Council requested more information on how ASMFC intends to address regulations in federal waters under the preferred alternative before the amendment's approval. Council staff will provide an update on future ASMFC management in federals, preliminary results from the Cobia Stock ID Workshop, and a decision document for the actions and alternatives approved by the Council. The Committee will discuss and consider 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.

**Other Business**