



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

## AGENDA

### **Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting**

Town and Country  
2008 Savannah Hwy  
Charleston, SC 29407

Other than the starting and ending times of the meeting, times indicated on the agenda are approximate, and the order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated.

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment.

**Wednesday, October 5, 2022 – 1:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**Thursday, October 6, 2022 – 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of April 2021 Meeting minutes

Report from the Council's Mackerel Cobia Committee Chair – Spud Woodward

1. Update on recently submitted amendments (*Attachment 1*) – Christina Wiegand
2. Citizen Science Update (*Attachment 2*)
  - a. Overview – Julia Byrd and Meg Withers
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
3. Climate Change Scenario Planning Update (*Attachment 3*)
  - a. Overview – Roger Pugliese
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
4. Amendment 35: Commercial e-Logbook (*Attachment 4a-4c*)
  - a. Overview – Myra Brouwer
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
5. Proposed North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Speed Rule (*Attachment 5*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks

6. SEDAR 78: Atlantic Spanish Mackerel Update (*Attachment 6*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
7. Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan Objectives (*Attachment 7*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
8. Amendment 33: Gulf King Mackerel Allocations (*Attachment 8a* and *8b*)
  - a. Overview – Matt Freeman
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
9. False Albacore Mini Fishery Performance Report (*Attachment 9*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
10. Florida and Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuaries (*Attachments 10a* and *10b*)
  - a. Overview Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Overview Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary – TBD
  - c. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks

Other Business

Adjourn

**Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Members**

Ira Laks, Chair  
Stephen Donalson  
Steve English  
Keith Bowen  
Robert Olsen  
Greg Peralta  
Gary Robinson  
Rusty Hudson  
Aaron Kelly  
John Mallette  
Brad Phillips  
Thomas Newman  
Charlie Locke  
Paul Ruderhausen  
Tony Benevento  
Chuck Griffin  
William Palmer  
Benamin Shepherd, Mid-Atlantic Liaison  
Chris Ludford, Mid-Atlantic Liaison

**Staff:** Christina Wiegand

**Attachments**

**Attachment 1:** Active Amendments Document (*will be posted by 9/30*)

**Attachment 2:** Citizen Science Update Presentation

**Attachment 3:** Climate Change Scenario Planning Presentation

**Attachment 4a:** Commercial e-Logbook Update Presentation

**Attachment 4b:** Commercial e-Logbook Questions and Answers

**Attachment 4c:** Commercial e-Logbook Data Fields (*Excel Spreadsheet*)

**Attachment 5:** North Atlantic Right Whale Proposed Vessel Speed Regulations Summary

**Attachment 6:** Atlantic Spanish Mackerel Management and Stock Assessment Summary

**Attachment 7:** Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan Objectives

**Attachment 8a:** CMP Amendment 33 Presentation

**Attachment 8b:** CMP Amendment 33 Draft Amendment

**Attachment 9:** False Albacore Mini Fishery Performance Report

**Attachment 10a:** Florida Key National Marine Sanctuary Presentation (*will be posted by 9/30*)

**Attachment 10b:** Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary Proposal (*will be posted by 9/30*)

# **OVERVIEW**

## **Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting**

The Committee will approve of minutes from April 2021 meeting and the agenda.

**1. Update on recently submitted amendments (*Attachment 1*)**

**Discussion:** 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. The document was transmitted to NMFS on February 18, 2022, and the proposed rule published on July 7, 2022. 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.

**Advisory Panel Action:** None.

**2. Citizen Science Update (*Attachment 2*)**

**Discussion:** Staff will present a brief update on the Council's Citizen Science Program and pilot projects highlighting activities that have occurred since the Fall 2020 Mackerel Cobia AP meeting, including: SAFMC Release, FISHstory, and other projects.

**Advisory Panel Action:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.

**3. Climate Change Scenario Planning Update (*Attachment 3*)**

**Discussion:** Roger Pugliese, Core Team Member representing the Council, will provide an update on recent developments and an overview of the Narratives for Climate Scenarios developed during the Climate Scenario Planning Initiative. In June 2022, a group of over 70 stakeholders attended a Scenario Creation Workshop to develop an initial set of scenarios, describing several different possible futures facing East Coast fisheries out to 2042. Additionally, two Scenario Deepening webinars were held in August 2022. These webinars offered all interested stakeholders an opportunity to review, validate, and add details to the draft scenarios developed during the Scenario Creation Workshop. The Initiative is now moving into the Applications Phase to begin to identify the issues, ideas, and options that should be discussed at scenario planning conversations at Council and Commission meetings during Fall 2022, and subsequently at a Summit Meeting in early 2023.

**Advisory Panel Action:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.

**4. Amendment 35: Commercial e-Logbook (*Attachment 4a-4c*)**

**Discussion:** This amendment is being developed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to require commercial logbooks be submitted via electronic reporting forms instead of the currently used paper-based forms for the following FMPs: South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Gulf Reef Fish. Staff compiled a list of questions and answers for the Councils and advisory panels pertaining to program modifications and implementation and a spreadsheet to compare current data fields and modifications that would be required for implementing an electronic logbook.

**Advisory Panel Action:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.

5. **Proposed North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Speed Rule (*Attachment 5*)**  
**Discussion:** NMFS Office of Protected Resources is proposing changes to the North Atlantic right whale (NARW) vessel speed rule to reduce the likelihood of lethal vessel collisions. The changes would broaden the spatial boundaries and timing of current speed restrictions, including those that exist in south Atlantic during calving season. The rule would also expand mandatory speed restrictions of 10 knots or less to include most vessels 35–65 feet in length. The Council received a brief presentation on the proposed rule at their September 2022 meeting and directed staff to provide comments to NMFS on how the proposed regulations may affect fishermen in the South Atlantic region.  
**Advisory Panel Action:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.
  
6. **SEDAR 78: Atlantic Spanish Mackerel Update (*Attachment 6*)**  
**Discussion:** In September 2019, the Council began discussing measures to address participation in the commercial Atlantic Spanish mackerel fishery and early closures in the Atlantic northern zone (NY through NC) and southern zone (SC to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line, FL). However, in December 2019, the Council decided to hold off on modifying management of Spanish mackerel until the upcoming stock assessment has been completed. SEDAR 78 (Atlantic Spanish mackerel) was completed in July 2022. In August 2022, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the results of the updated SEDAR 78 and recommended additional work be completed before the assessment could be considered best scientific information available. Staff will provide the Advisory Panel an update on Council discussions and next steps.  
**Advisory Panel Action:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.
  
7. **Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan Objectives (*Attachment 7*)**  
**Discussion:** The Magnuson-Stevens Act national standard guidelines require fishery management councils to establish objectives in each FMP and propose management measures that will achieve the objectives. In establishing the objectives, the councils should balance the biological needs of the fish stock(s) with human need, reconcile both present and future costs and benefits, integrate both private and public interests, and provide for a comprehensive approach to addressing problems within the fishery. Also, as the needs of a fishery change over time, fishery management councils are encouraged to regularly reassess the FMP objectives. The Council has asked the Advisory Panel to review the CMP FMP objectives and comment on any modifications that may be needed.  
**Advisory Panel Action:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.
  
8. **Amendment 33: Gulf King Mackerel Allocations (*Attachment 8a* and *8b*)**  
**Discussion:** Gulf Council staff will present draft Amendment 33, which would modify sector allocations for Gulf king mackerel. The Advisory Panel should review and discuss the Purpose and Need statements and draft alternatives. The Gulf Council will review a draft of Amendment 33 at their October meeting and consider approval for public hearings.  
**Advisory Panel Action:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.

9. **False Albacore Mini Fishery Performance Report** (*Attachment 9*)

**Discussion:** On September 19, 2022, the Council received a letter from the American Saltwater Guides Association requesting the consider re-adding false albacore to the CMP FMP. The Council directed staff to develop a white paper examining if false albacore meet the Magnuson Stevens Act criteria for a species in need of conservation and management.

**Advisory Panel Action:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.

10. **Florida Keys and Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuaries** (*Attachment 10a and 10b*)

**Discussion:** The Council received a presentation on proposed regulatory changes affecting the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary as a result of NOAA's comprehensive review of the management plan, zoning plan, and regulations for the Sanctuary on September 21, 2022. Additionally, NOAA has initiated a scoping process to consider designating a national marine sanctuary in the Hudson Canyon area approximately 100 miles offshore southeast of New York City based on the area's diverse qualities, the natural and cultural resources in the region, and the potential benefits of national marine sanctuary designation. The Council has requested discussion and comment from the AP on both proposals.

**Advisory Panel Action:** Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate.