



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** via Webinar

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.

Friday, April 21, 2022 – 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of October 2022 Meeting minutes

Report from the Council's Mackerel Cobia Committee Chair – Tom Roller

1. Update on recently submitted amendments (*Attachment 1*) – Christina Wiegand
2. Citizen Science Program Update (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview – Julia Byrd and Meg Withers
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
3. Mackerel Port Meetings (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
4. South Atlantic Council Research Recommendations (*Attachment 4*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand and Dr. Chip Collier
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
5. Space Center Operations Impacts
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
6. Election of an Advisory Panel Vice-Chair

Other Business

Adjourn

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Members

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

Staff: Christina Wiegand

Attachments

Attachment 1: Active Amendments Document

Attachment 2: Citizen Science Update Presentation

Attachment 3: Mackerel Port Meetings Presentation

Attachment 4: South Atlantic Council Research Recommendations

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting

The Committee will approve of minutes from October 2022 meeting and the agenda.

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

Discussion: 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.

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 2022 Mackerel Cobia AP meeting, including upcoming FISHstory scanning nights and the Citizen Science projects and programs evaluation project.

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

3. Mackerel Port Meetings (*Attachment 3*)

Discussion: 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. The purpose of these port meetings will be to gain a comprehensive understanding of the mackerel fisheries to improve management efforts. Port meetings will tentatively be conducted in key communities along the Atlantic coast up to the southern end of Massachusetts in cooperation with other councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and state agencies. After port meetings have been conducted, staff will develop a final report that includes notes from all conducted port meetings and an analysis identifying patterns and themes among the different meetings.

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

4. South Atlantic Research Recommendations (*Attachment 4*)

Discussion: The Council revises their research and monitoring plan every two years. The research and monitoring plan is used by Council and NOAA Fisheries staff to develop research concepts that are intended for use in management, provided to NOAA Fisheries for potential inclusion in research grants as priorities, and used by other researchers during development of research proposals. The AP is provided an opportunity to review the 2023-2027 South Atlantic Research and Monitoring plan. The Council will consider the plan at its June 2023 meeting.

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

5. Effects of Kennedy Space Center Operations on Fishing Activities

Discussion: At recent meetings, the Council has acknowledged an increase in activity related to space exploration and research, including area closures and debris in the exclusive economic zone, that may be affecting fishing activity, especially off Florida.

The Council would like input from the AP on whether and how such space-related activities may be affecting fishing opportunities for Council managed species.
Advisory Panel Action: Discuss and provide input, as appropriate.