



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

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

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 in person or on the webinar.

Photo scanning event for FISHstory project: Staff will be ready to scan historic photos contributed to the project throughout the advisory panel meeting.

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 – 1:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda – Ira Laks

Approval of April 2023 Meeting Minutes – Ira Laks

Public Comment

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

1. Update on recently submitted amendments (*Attachments 1a-1c*) – 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. ‘What It Means to Me’ Outreach Project (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
 - a. Overview – Ashley Oliver
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
4. Framework Amendment 13: Atlantic Spanish Mackerel Catch Levels (*Attachment 4*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
5. Mackerel Port Meetings Planning Update (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)

- a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
6. Offshore Wind Activities in the Southeast Region (*Attachment 6*)
 - a. Overview – TBD
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
 7. King and Spanish Mackerel Fishing Tournaments (*Attachment 7*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
 8. Atlantic King Mackerel Fishery Performance Report (*Attachment 8*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks

Other Business

Adjourn

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Members

Ira Laks, Chair
Stephen Donalson, Vice-Chair
Steve English
Keith Bowen
Rusty Hudson
Aaron Kelly
John Mallette
Brad Phillips
Thomas Newman
Charlie Locke
Tony Benevento
Chuck Griffin
William Jones
Charles Proudfoot
William Palmer
Butch Olson
Kevin Aman
Benjamin Shepherd, Mid-Atlantic Liaison
Chris Ludford, Mid-Atlantic Liaison

Staff: Christina Wiegand

Attachments

Attachment 1a: Active Amendments Document

Attachment 1b: Mackerel Cobia Committee Report – June 2023

Attachment 1c: Mackerel Cobia Committee Report – September 2023

Attachment 2: Citizen Science Update Presentation

Attachment 3a: What It Means to Me Project Presentation

Attachment 3b: What It Means to Me Project Proposal

Attachment 4: Framework Amendment 13 Discussion Document

Attachment 5a: Mackerel Port Meetings Presentation

Attachment 5b: Mackerel Port Meetings Summary Document

Attachment 6: Offshore Wind Activities in the Southeast Region Presentation

Attachment 7: King and Spanish Mackerel Fishing Tournaments

Attachment 8: Atlantic King Mackerel Fishery Performance Report

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting

The Committee will approve minutes from April 2023 meeting and the agenda.

- 1. Update on recently submitted amendments (*Attachment 1a-1c*)**
Discussion: Staff will provide an update on recently submitted amendments relevant to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan.
Advisory Panel Action: None.
- 2. Citizen Science Update (*Attachment 2*)**
Discussion: Council staff will provide information on Citizen Science Program activities. Updates will be given on the Citizen Science Program advisory groups, the Citizen Science Program’s Project Idea Portal, Program evaluation and the SMILE and SAFMC Release projects. Additionally, staff will share information on the efforts underway to collect additional historic fishing photos for the FISHstory project.
Advisory Panel Action: Discuss and provide input, as appropriate.
- 3. ‘What It Means to Me’ Outreach Project (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)**
Discussion: Council staff will present recent updates on Best Fishing Practices outreach, including details on “What It Means to Me,” a recently approved outreach initiative.
Advisory Panel Action: Discuss and provide input, as appropriate.
- 4. CMP FMP Framework Amendment 13: Atlantic Spanish Mackerel Catch Levels (*Attachment 4*)**
Discussion: The SSC met in April 2023 and determined that the stock assessment for Atlantic Spanish mackerel (SEDAR 78) was sufficient for providing stock status and for providing catch level recommendations using model output (but not projections). In June 2023, the SSC chair provided the Council details of the SSC discussion and associated catch level recommendations. The Council directed staff to begin work on a framework amendment to update catch levels, but to hold off on development of a full plan amendment to address management measures until after mackerel port meetings have been completed. Council Staff will present a discussion document with draft actions and alternatives for AP discussion.
Advisory Panel Action: Review the discussion document and provide input on the action being considered.
- 5. Mackerel Port Meetings Planning Update (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)**
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 to gain a comprehensive understanding of the fisheries to improve management efforts. At the June 2023 meeting, the Council discussed goals and objectives for port meetings and approved the development of a planning team. Staff will provide the AP with an update on recent discussions and next steps, including draft meeting structure and locations.

Advisory Panel Action: Provide input on the proposed port meeting structure and possible meeting locations.

6. Wind Energy Activities in the Southeast Region (*Attachment 6*)

Discussion: At the request of the Council, the AP will receive a presentation intended to provide information about offshore wind development in the South Atlantic region

Advisory Panel Action: None.

7. King and Spanish Mackerel Fishing Tournaments (*Attachment 7*)

Discussion: At their December 2022 meeting the Council requested NMFS provide information on king and Spanish mackerel tournament landings over the last ten years and how those landings were accounted for against the annual catch limit. The SEFSC worked with the state agencies to provide these landings to the Council at their June 2023 meeting. The Council requested this information also go to the AP for discussion.

Advisory Panel Action: Provide input on the role king and Spanish mackerel tournaments play in the coastal migratory pelagics fishery.

8. Atlantic King Mackerel Fishery Performance Report (*Attachment 8*)

Discussion: With input from the AP, Fishery Performance Reports (FPRs) have been developed for all Atlantic king mackerel, Atlantic Spanish mackerel, and Florida East Coast Zone Gulf cobia. The intent of the FPRs is to assemble information from AP members' experience and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPRs will be provided to the SSC, the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP), and the Council to assist in their discussions. Recently, the Council has received public input expressing concerns about the Atlantic king mackerel stock. In response, the Council has requested the AP update their FPR for Atlantic king mackerel.

Advisory Panel Action: Complete an updated Fishery Performance Report for Atlantic king mackerel.