



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel and Cobia Sub-Panel

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.

Thursday, April 18, 2018 – 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 NOON

Approval of Agenda – Ira Laks

Approval of April 2018 AP minutes – Ira Laks

1. Update on Recently Submitted CMP Amendments
 - a. Framework Amendment 6 (King mackerel trip limits)
 - b. Amendment 31 (Atlantic cobia management)
2. Atlantic king mackerel commercial trip limits in the southern zone during season two (*Attachment 1*).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
3. Atlantic Spanish mackerel commercial fishery closures (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
4. Florida east coast cobia minimum size limit (*Attachment 3*).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
5. Citizen Science Research Priorities (*Attachment 4*).
 - a. Overview – Julia Byrd

Other Business – Ira Laks

Adjourn – Ira Laks

Advisory Panel Members:

Ira Laks, Chair
Stephen Swann, Vice Chair
Stephen Donalson
Steve English
Skip Feller
Ryan Howard
Robert Olsen
Greg Peralta
Gary Robinson
Tom Roller
Keith Bowen
Dr. Chris Elkins
Rusty Hudson
Aaron Kelly
John Mallette
Brad Phillips

Cobia Sub-Panel Members:

Wes Blow
Bill Gorham
Bill Weeks
Patrick Link
Collins Doughtie

Attachments

Attachment 1: Atlantic king mackerel commercial trip limits summary

Attachment 2: Atlantic Spanish mackerel commercial fishery closures summary

Attachment 3: CMP Framework Amendment 7

Attachment 4: Citizen science PowerPoint presentation

Staff: Christina Wiegand

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel and Cobia Sub-Panel

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

1. Update on recently submitted Coastal Migratory Pelagics amendments

Description: Council staff will brief the AP and Sub-Panel on recently submitted amendments. CMP Amendment 31 (Atlantic cobia management) was submitted for formal review on July 13, 2018. The proposed rule published November 9, 2018, the final rule published February 19, 2019, and the regulations became effective March 21, 2019. CMP Framework Amendment 6 (King mackerel trip limits) was submitted for formal review on November 9, 2018. The proposed rule published March 27, 2019.

Required Advisory Panel Action: None

2. Atlantic king mackerel commercial trip limits in the southern zone during season two – (*Attachment 1*)

Description: During the April 2018 AP meeting, AP members expressed concerns about the low commercial trip limit in the Atlantic Southern Zone during season two (October to the end of February). After reviewing AP concerns at the March 2019 meeting, the Council directed staff to begin work on a framework amendment to address king mackerel commercial trip limits during season two. The Council has requested input from the AP on what trip limits may be appropriate for the fishery.

Required Advisory Panel Action: Provide input as appropriate.

3. Atlantic Spanish mackerel commercial fishery closures – (*Attachment 2*)

Description: During the April 2018 AP meeting, AP members expressed concern about increased participation in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery. Additionally, stakeholders have expressed concerns about early closures in the Atlantic northern zone (NY through NC) and the potential for closures in the southern zone. Both zones closed early during the 2018/2019 season, with the northern zone closing on November 4, 2018 and the southern zone closing on February 5, 2019. During the March 2019 Council meeting the Council reviewed AP concerns and has requested input for the AP on ways to address closures in federal waters.

Required Advisory Panel Action: Provide input as appropriate.

4. Florida east coast cobia minimum size limit (*Attachment 3*)

Description: The Gulf migratory group of cobia occurs from Texas to the Florida/Georgia state line. Each Council manages Gulf cobia within their respective jurisdictions. Anglers attending Gulf Council meetings have been reporting a decrease in the presence of cobia and asked the Gulf Council to address this as a potential problem with the status of the Gulf cobia stock. To address those concerns, the Gulf Council developed CMP Framework Amendment 7 and approved it for formal review at their October 2018 meeting. If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, CMP Framework Amendment 7 will increase the recreational and commercial minimum size limit for Gulf cobia from 33 inches fork length (FL) to 36 inches FL in the Gulf Council's jurisdictional area. Currently, the minimum size limit for Gulf cobia off the east coast of Florida (South Atlantic Council jurisdiction) is 33 inches FL. The

Council has request input from the AP regarding the minimum size limit for Florida east coast cobia.

Required Advisory Panel Action: Provide input as appropriate.

5. **Citizen Science research priorities – (*Attachment 7*)**

Description: The Citizen Science Program will be updating their Research Priorities later this year which will help guide the projects the Program pursues over the next two years. Program staff will provide an overview of the process that will be used to update the Research Priorities document. The AP will be asked to consider a representative to serve on the Citizen Science Projects Advisory Team who will help develop the draft Citizen Science Research Priorities document. This team will be comprised of a representative (chair or other designee) from each of the SAFMC's species related Advisory Panels and will meet via webinar 1-2 times per year.

Required Advisory Panel Action: Provide input as appropriate.