



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

Town and County Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29414

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.

Monday, October 7, 2019 – 1:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Approval of Agenda – Ira Laks

Approval of April 2019 AP minutes – Ira Laks

1. Update on recently submitted CMP Amendments
 - a. Framework Amendment 6 (king mackerel trip limits, season one)
 - b. King mackerel emergency action request
2. Framework Amendment 8 (king mackerel trip limits, season two) (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
3. Spanish mackerel commercial effort white paper (*Attachment 2a* and *2b*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
4. Limited Entry Systems for the Commercial Spanish Mackerel Fishery
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
5. Update to Fishery Performance Reports for King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, and Florida East Coast Cobia (*Attachment 3a-3d*).
 - a. Overview – Overview
 - b. Discuss and provide information to update FPRs – Ira Laks

6. Discussion of concerns in the recreational mackerel fishery.
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate – Ira Laks

7. Update on Citizen Science Program’s FISHstory Project (*Attachment 4*).
 - a. Overview – Julia Byrd and Allie Iberle
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations as appropriate – Ira Laks

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

Keith Bowen

Robert Olsen

Greg Peralta

Gary Robinson

Tom Roller

Chris Elkins

Rusty Hudson

Aaron Kelly

John Mallette

Brad Phillips

Attachments

Attachment 1: CMP Framework 8 discussion document

Attachment 2a: Commercial effort in the Spanish mackerel fishery white paper

Attachment 2b: Mackerel Cobia Committee Report – September 2019

Attachment 3a: King Mackerel Fishery Performance Report – April 2018

Attachment 3b: Spanish Mackerel Fishery Performance Report – April 2018

Attachment 3c: Florida East Coast Cobia Fishery Performance Report – April 2017

Attachment 3d: Previous FPR Questionnaires.

Attachment 4: FISHstory Presentation

Staff: Christina Wiegand

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel will approve minutes from the April 2019 meeting and agenda.

1. Recently submitted CMP Amendments and Actions

Description: Staff will brief the Advisory Panel on the status of CMP Framework Amendment 6 and the request for emergency action in the king mackerel fishery. Framework Amendment 6 was submitted for formal review on 11/9/2018 and the final rule published on 9/10/2019 with an effective date of 9/11/2019. The request for emergency action was sent to NMFS on 6/21/2019 and is currently being reviewed at NOAA Headquarters.

Advisory Panel Action: None required.

2. CMP Framework Amendment 8 (king mackerel commercial trip limits in the Atlantic southern zone during season two) (*Attachment 1*)

Description: At the June 2019 meeting, the Council requested NMFS take emergency action to increase in the commercial trip limit from 50-fish to 75-fish in the Atlantic southern zone, south of the Flagler/Volusia County line, Florida during season two of the 2019/2020 commercial fishing year. Framework Amendment 8 will permanently address season two commercial king mackerel trip limits. During their September 2018 meeting, the Council reviewed analysis and selected a preferred alternative. Staff will present a Framework 8 summary document for the Advisory Panel to review and discuss.

Advisory Panel Action: Discuss and provide recommendations on action alternatives.

3. Commercial effort in the Spanish mackerel fishery white paper (*Attachment 2a* and *2b*)

Description: During their March and June 2019 meetings the Council reviewed concerns expressed by the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel regarding increased participation in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery and recent closures. The Committee directed staff to prepare a white paper with an analysis of effort in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery and a discussion of possible avenues to control effort, including: a limited access commercial permit, a limited access gillnet endorsement in the southern zone, and collaboration with state agencies. The Council reviewed the white paper during the September 2019 Council meeting and directed staff to begin work on an amendment to address commercial Spanish mackerel accountability measures and trip limits. Staff will present the results contained in the white paper and recent Council actions for discussion.

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

4. Discussion of Limited Access Systems for Commercial Spanish Mackerel

Description: The Council recognizes the need for long-term solutions to the recent commercial Spanish mackerel closures. At past meetings the Advisory Panel has suggested a limited entry program from the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery and a limited access endorsement for the commercial Spanish mackerel gillnet fishery in the Atlantic southern zone (NC/SC line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line, Florida). The Council would like the Advisory Panel to discuss how these systems might be designed and how they might affect the Spanish mackerel fishery.

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

5. Update to Fishery Performance Reports for King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, and Florida East Coast Cobia (*Attachment 3a-3d*)

Description: The intent of Fishery Performance Reports (FPRs) is to assemble information from Advisory Panel members' experience and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPRs are provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP), and the Council to assist in their discussions. With input from the Advisory Panel, FPRs were completed for Florida East Coast cobia in 2017 and king and Spanish mackerel in 2018. During this meeting Advisory Panel members will be asked to provide updates to the previously completed FPRs.

Advisory Panel Action: Discuss and provide information to update FPRs.

6. Discussion of concerns in the recreational mackerel fishery.

Description: Recent discussions during Advisory Panel and Council meetings have been focused on the commercial king and Spanish mackerel fisheries. The Council would like the Advisory Panel to comment on the current state of the recreational mackerel fisheries and any issues that might be arising

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

7. Update on Citizen Science Program's FISHstory Project (*Attachment 4*)

Description: Staff will present a brief update on the Council's Citizen Science Program, highlighting activities that have occurred since the Spring 2019 Mackerel/Cobia Advisory Panel webinar. Additionally, staff will provide an overview and demonstration of the FISHstory pilot project that will launch in early 2020. The FISHstory project will document historic catch and length estimates from the 1940s-1970s from a headboat fleet in Daytona Beach, FL. The project uses an online crowdsourcing platform, Zooniverse, to build an interface that will allow members of the public (e.g. citizens) to be trained to identify species in the photos. A team of species ID experts will help validate the species identified by citizens. Once species are verified, one key species will be selected for length analysis. A project design team - comprised of scientists, fishermen, and outreach experts – have been developing the FISHstory project interface and training materials in Zooniverse. Staff will provide a demonstration of the FISHstory test project. The Advisory Panel will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the test project and be asked to help identify fishermen who may be interested in serving on the project validation team.

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