

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
MACKEREL COBIA COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Charleston, SC
October 3, 2018

The Committee approved minutes from the June 2018 meeting and the agenda.

Status of Commercial Catches versus Quota for Species under ACLs

The Committee received an update on commercial landings for Atlantic king mackerel, Atlantic Spanish mackerel and Atlantic and Florida east coast cobia from SERO staff.

Status of Amendments Under Formal Review

The Committee received an update on CMP Amendment 31, which was transmitted for formal review on July 13, 2018. The proposed rule is anticipated to publish in December 2018.

CMP Framework Amendment 6 (Atlantic King Mackerel Trip Limits)

The new regulations for king mackerel established in CMP Amendment 26 became effective on May 11, 2017, including updated commercial trip limits for the Atlantic Southern Zone. Comments from stakeholders have indicated that fishermen operating out of Volusia County travel farther offshore to target king mackerel and often complete trips lasting two or three days. The 50-fish trip limit in March makes it challenging for fishermen to make enough money to pay for a trip, causing undue hardship to fishermen and communities. Additionally, at their April 2017 meeting, the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel recommended that the Council review the March trip limit and consider a different trip limit for north of the Volusia/Brevard line that would support those multiday trips while still allowing year-round access to the king mackerel fishery.

MOTION #1: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 6 FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Other Business

The Committee does not plan to meet in December 2018. At the March 2019 meeting the Committee intends to discuss stakeholder comments on the future of CMP fisheries and topics for the spring Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel meeting.

Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION #2: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

1. Prepare CMP Framework Amendment 6 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL