

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
MACKEREL COBIA COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Webinar
December 9, 2020

The Committee approved minutes from the June 2020 meeting and the agenda.

CMP Framework Amendment 10 - King mackerel catch levels

At the June 2020 meeting the Council directed staff to begin work on an options paper that would include consideration of sector allocations and catch level adjustments based on SSC recommendations the recent stock assessment update. The Committee reviewed a draft options paper, Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel recommendations, and considered potential topics to include in the amendment.

The following motion was approved:

**MOTION #1: APPROVE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FRAMEWORK
AMENDMENT 10 FOR SCOPING.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

- PROVIDE LANDINGS FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION. INCLUDE ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER 5%, 10%, 15%, AND 20% BUFFER BETWEEN ABC AND ACL.
- REVIEW SECTOR ALLOCATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE REVISED MRIP NUMBERS. INCLUDE ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD MAINTAIN THE CURRENT POUNDAGE FOR THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR. FEEDBACK FROM THE IPT ON OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS.
- CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN BAG LIMIT FOR FLORIDA (3PP), CONSIDER MODIFYING THE SIZE LIMIT (INCLUDING REMOVAL), CONSIDER CUT FISH REGULATIONS FOR THE REC SECTOR INCLUDING STATE AND LE CONCERNS.

CMP Amendment 32 – Gulf cobia catch levels

Gulf Council staff presented draft management measures to end overfishing of Gulf cobia. The options include updating the Gulf cobia OFL, ABC, and ACL to incorporate the adjustment of recreational catch to the MRIP-FES. Additional management measures for consideration include modifications to bag limits, vessel limits, and size limits. Since Gulf Cobia is jointly managed with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, options also include updating the CMP framework procedures to clarify the language about the responsibilities of each Council. The Committee reviewed the draft options and provide the following guidance on the range of alternatives to include in CMP Amendment 32:

- It would be beneficial to have consistency in regulations between the Gulf zone and the Florida east coast zone.
 - Include alternatives that would allow the Florida east coast zone and Gulf zone regulations to be consistent with regulations currently in place in Gulf state waters off Florida.
- A minimum size limit above 36-in FL may not be ideal because larger cobia can be challenging to handle once caught and are often gaffed which may have an impact on mortality.
- A minimum size limit of 33-in FL may be ideal because fish have reached reproductive maturity. Alternatively, a minimum size limit of 36-in FL may increase spawning potential.
- The alternatives addressing modifications to the framework procedure are unclear. The document should include more detail on each council's responsibility and examples.

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report

The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel met on November 2, 2020 in Charleston, SC. Ira Laks, AP Chair, provided a summary of the Advisory Panel discussion and recommendations on CMP Framework Amendment 10, CMP Amendment 32, the Citizen Science Program, Spanish mackerel, and advisory panel membership.

 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. Continue work on CMP Framework Amendment 10 and prepare a draft for discussion and scoping at the March 2021 meeting.
2. Continue working with Gulf Council staff to develop CMP Amendment 32 for additional review at the March 2021 meeting.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL