

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
MACKEREL COBIA COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Jekyll Island, Georgia
March 5, 2024

The Committee approved the minutes from the December 2023 meeting and the agenda.

Law Enforcement Advisory Panel Report

The Law Enforcement Advisory Panel met on January 29 and 30, 2024 in Charleston, South Carolina. The AP Chair, Captain Scott Pearce, provided a summary of Advisory Panel discussion and recommendations related to king and Spanish mackerel tournament sales. The Committee expressed their appreciation of the advisory panels' in-depth discussions and recommendations.

Mackerel Port Meetings

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 an in-depth understanding of the fisheries to improve management efforts. The Committee reviewed the goals and objectives and discussion topics for port meetings. Staff presented the Committee with the final meeting structure and locations.

The Committee provided the following input:

- Based on comments from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), move the Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts port meetings to a virtual format. Hold the virtual meetings during the month of May, as originally planned.
- Consider holding the New York port meeting in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's June 2024 Council meeting in Riverhead, New York.
- Work with ASMFC and state agency staff to identify a location along the inside of Chesapeake Bay to hold a port meeting.

MOTION 1: APPROVE THE KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL PORT MEETINGS PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Other Business

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. Begin conducting port meetings for king and Spanish mackerel. Update the Council on North Carolina and New England port meetings at the June 2024 Council meeting.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL