

Public Reporting

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Public Comment Form



Meeting

Nov. 2023 Mackerel Cobia AP Meeting

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Mackerel Cobia AP on November 7th-8th.

Submit Date	Submitted By	Location	Affiliation	Comment
11/8/2023	First Name: Robert Last Name: Harrison Email: namanut21@outlook.com	City: Hatteras State: North Carolina	Commercial	<p>The New York/Canadian markets have been impacted by tournament king mackerel sales as long as I have been in the fishery - since 1989. Back then there were 100 commercial boats here and just one or two tournaments a week back then, nothing like it is now. Now the commercial fleet is about 25 boats and the tournaments have taken off.</p> <p>Back then the tournaments effected us the same way since they had a guaranteed price set up with the dealer before the tournament so our fish were always that price, usually a \$1.00/lb. Then 4-5 days later they would go back up. We were always told the same thing, large tournament fish were flooding the market last week.</p> <p>The fish were really big back then so it messed up the market because the commercial boats target medium sized fish which is what the market wants. When a mass of large fish enter the market it really messes things up. The Northern wholesale markets want the 12 pound fish so we never targeted big fish but I used to see a 50# fish regularly, then they faded out.</p> <p>The last 10 years I fished (2004-2014) I did not see any 50# kings. Overall the fishery has massively declined in my lifetime. We went from 2,000 pound days being the best to 500 pound days being the best. It's really sad what the fishery has turned into.</p>
11/8/2023	First Name: Alana Last Name: Harrison Email: alanaharrison22@gmail.com	City: hatteras State: North Carolina	Wholesale/Dealer /Retail	<p>Hatteras is the top port in North Carolina for commercial king mackerel landings, this is our top fall/winter fishery, it used to go into the spring for us. Y'all cannot allow recreational sales of tournament fish continue, it is ruining our market. The market fell 75% the last week of October because of tournament sales. Now the king fishermen are changing over to sea mullet net and giving on on mackerel.</p> <p>We need to end king mackerel tournament sales. The tournaments can fundraise through other means similar to billfish tournaments in NC. In Hatteras, we have several billfish tournaments to fundraise for our village scholarship fund, church fund, firehouse fund, and hurricane assistance fund. There is no need to sell the fish to help the community.</p> <p>We have hundreds of boats coming from 100+ miles away to fish off Hatteras for king mackerel. It is not fair to our community who has 0 tournaments and yet we have to compete for fishing grounds and market share.</p>