



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

King and Spanish Mackerel Port Meetings Update

June 2024



Where we've been and where we're going:

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is hosting a series of port meetings along the Atlantic coast to take a focused look at the commercial and recreational king and Spanish mackerel fisheries. Input gathered during these port meetings will directly affect future management efforts for king and Spanish mackerel!

North Carolina

- Wilmington
- Morehead City
- Hatteras
- Manteo



South Carolina and Georgia

- Shellman Bluff
- Charleston
- Murrells Inlet



New England

- Connecticut
- Rhode Island
- Massachusetts



Florida

- Lake Worth
- Stuart
- Cocoa Beach
- Saint Augustine



New York

- Riverhead (Long Island)
- With the MAFMC meeting.



Mid-Atlantic

- Virginia Beach, Virginia
- TBD (Inner Chesapeake)
- Ocean City, Maryland
- Toms River, New Jersey

November

Outreach and Information

How do you envision the future of the king and Spanish mackerel fisheries?

Join the conversation at a port meeting near you!

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is hosting a series of port meetings along the Atlantic coast in order to take a focused look at the commercial and recreational king and Spanish mackerel fisheries. Input gathered during these port meetings will directly affect future management efforts for king and Spanish mackerel.



North Carolina Mackerel Port Meetings

<p>April 1st Wilmington</p> <p>North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Southern District Office</p> <p>127 Cardinal Drive Extension Wilmington, NC 28405</p> <p>6:00PM to 8:00PM</p>	<p>April 2nd Morehead City</p> <p>North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office</p> <p>5285 Highway 70 West Morehead City, NC 28557</p> <p>6:00PM to 8:00PM</p>	<p>April 3rd Hatteras</p> <p>Hatteras Village Civic Center</p> <p>56658 North Carolina Hw 12 Hatteras, NC 27943.</p> <p>6:00PM to 8:00PM</p>	<p>April 4th Manteo</p> <p>Dare County Administrative Building BOC Room</p> <p>954 Marshall C. Collins Dr. Manteo, NC 27954</p> <p>6:00PM to 8:00PM</p>
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Scan for more information and to register!



Questions?

843-302-8437 christina.wiegand@safmc.net

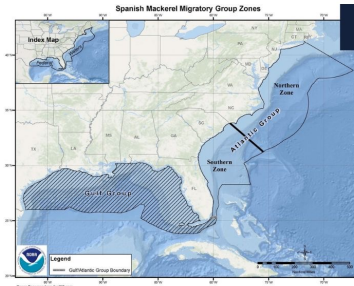
Coastal Migratory Pelagics

King mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and Gulf cobia are managed jointly by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council via the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region.

The Gulf Council and South Atlantic Council must agree on major management decisions before they may move forward. Additionally, Mid-Atlantic Council liaisons serve on the South Atlantic Council's Mackerel Cobia Committee to provide insight from that region.



Migratory Groups



The management unit for king and Spanish mackerel extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the New York/Connecticut/Rhode Island line. Both king and Spanish mackerel are managed as separate stocks: a Gulf migratory stock and an Atlantic migratory stock.

Furthermore, the Atlantic migratory groups are broken up into two separate management zones. The Northern Zone runs from the New/Connecticut/Rhode Island line to the North Carolina/South Carolina line. The Southern Zone runs from the North Carolina/South Carolina line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line, Florida.



King Mackerel Regulations



Management History



Spanish Mackerel Regulations

THE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL IN NORTH CAROLINA



STOCK STATUS ATLANTIC KING MACKEREL

Most Recent Assessment
SEDAR 38 Update (2020)

Stock Status
Not overfished or undergoing overfishing.

2024/2025 Total Annual Catch Limit*

Total: 24,130,000 lbs.
Commercial: 8,952,230 lbs. (37.1%)
Northern Zone: 2,062,594 lbs. (23.04%)
Southern Zone: 6,889,636 lbs. (76.96%)
Recreational: 15,177,770 lbs. (62.9%)

*SEDAR 38 Update included a decreasing yield stream, as a result the total annual catch limit for king mackerel changes each season. See Amendment 34 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan for more information.

STOCK STATUS ATLANTIC SPANISH MACKEREL

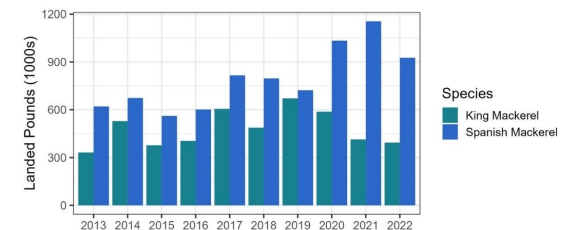
Most Recent Assessment
SEDAR 78 (2022)

Stock Status
Not overfished or undergoing overfishing.

2024/2025 Total Annual Catch Limit**

Total: 6,057,000 lbs.
Commercial: 3,330,000 lbs. (55%)
Northern Zone: 662,670 lbs. (20%)
Southern Zone: 2,667,330 lbs. (80%)
Recreational: 2,727,000 lbs. (45%)

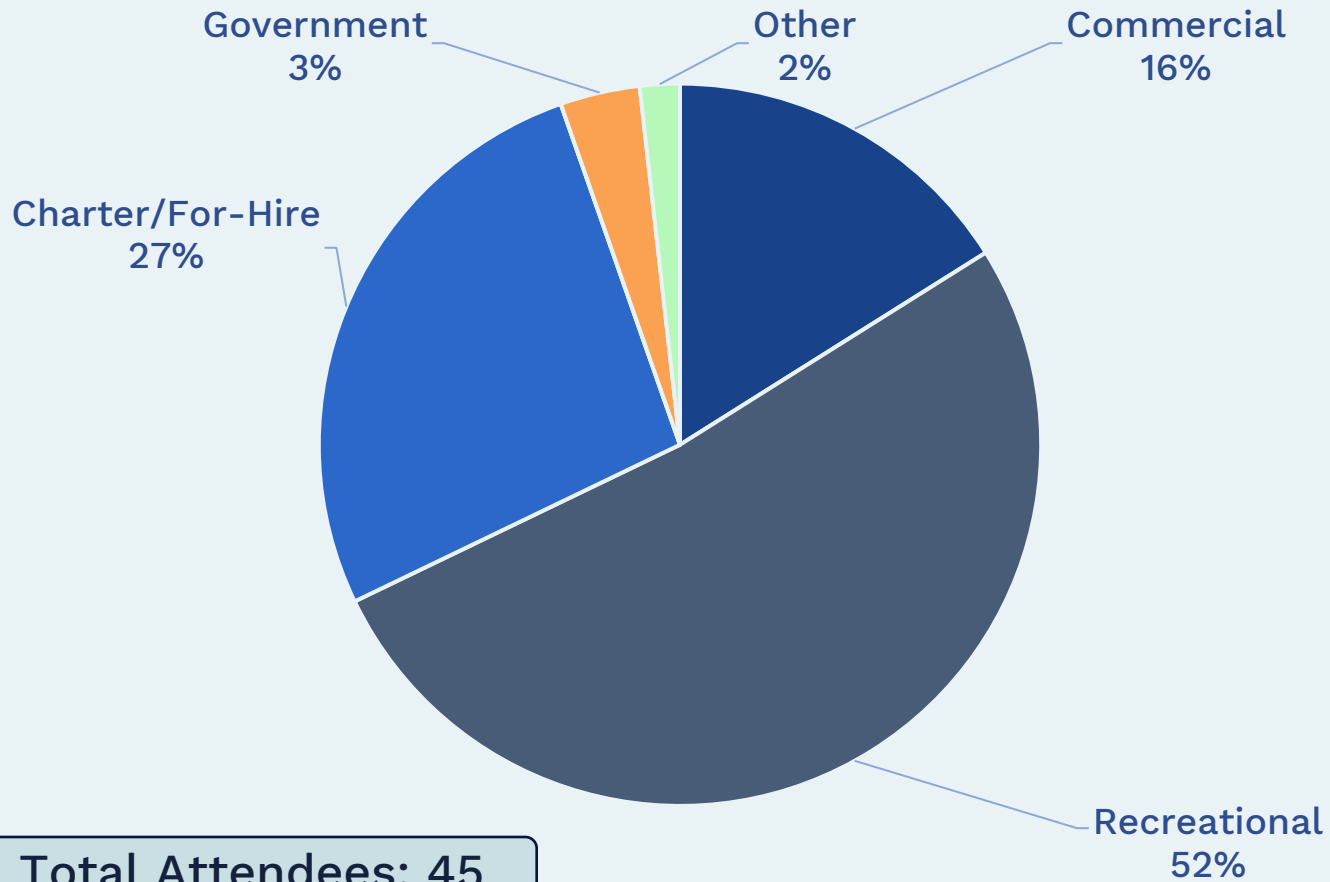
**SEDAR 78 included revised recreational landings based on the newer Fishing Effort Survey method. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee proposed an Acceptable Biological Catch of 8,024,000 lbs. The South Atlantic Council will consider implementation of the results of SEDAR 78 after the port meetings.



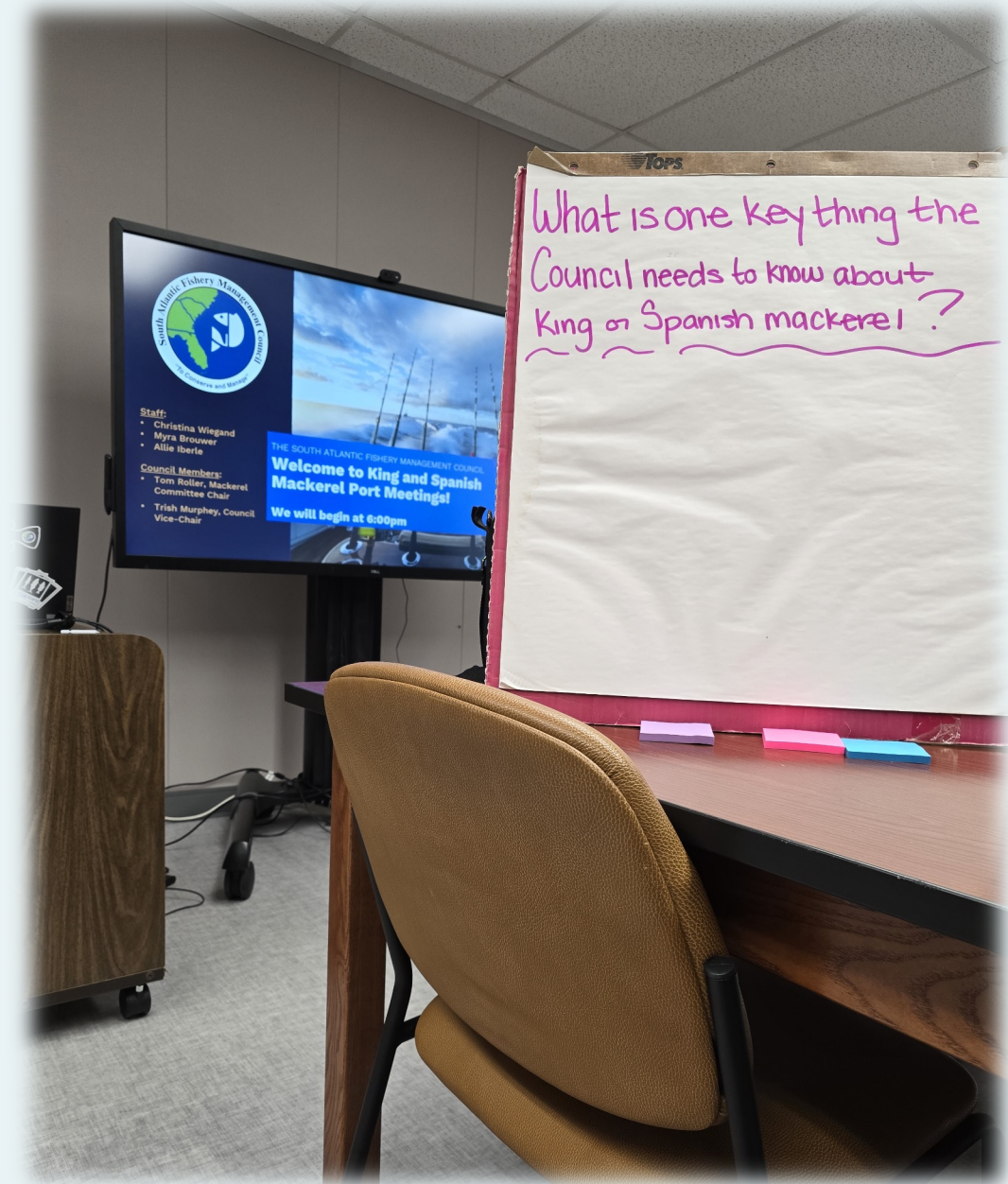
Commercial landings of Atlantic king mackerel and Atlantic Spanish mackerel in North Carolina from the 2013/2014 fishing season through the 2022/2023 fishing season.



Wilmington North Carolina

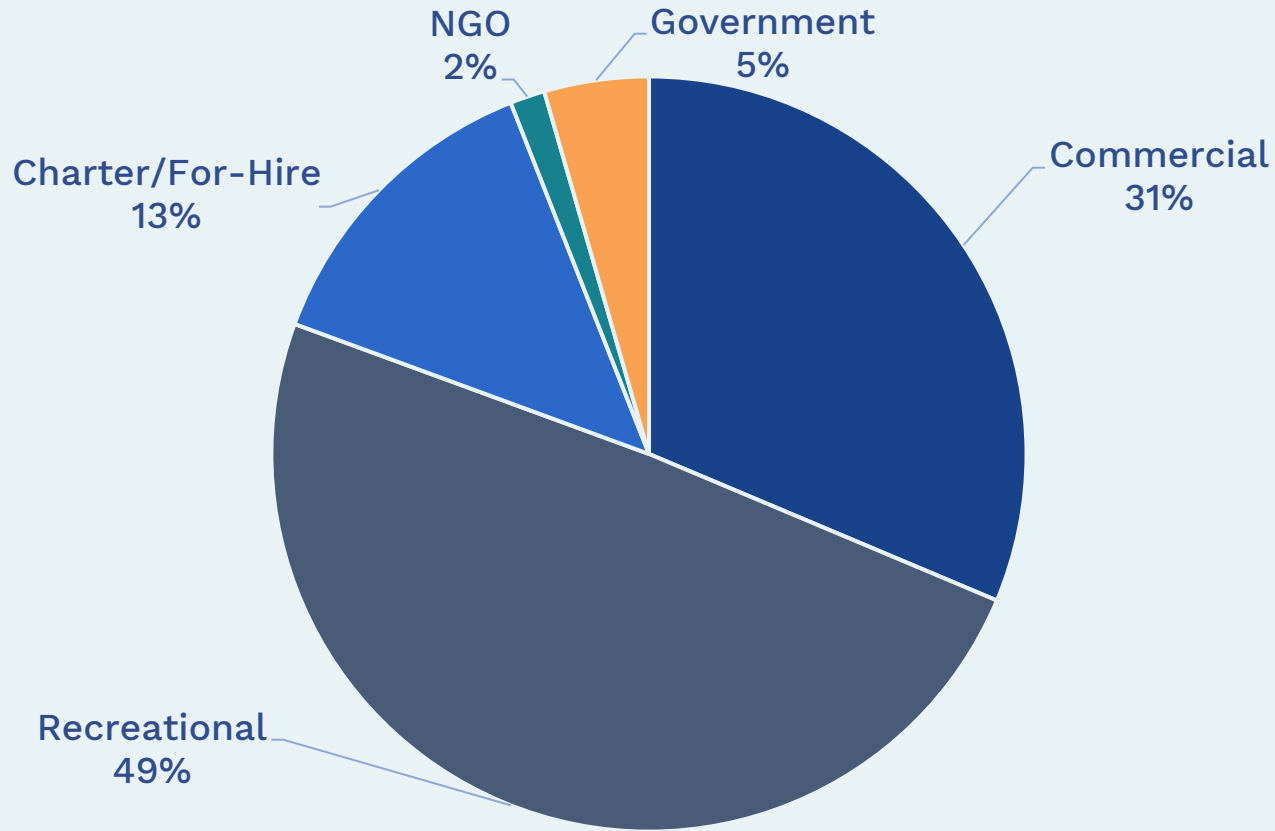


Total Attendees: 45





Morehead City North Carolina

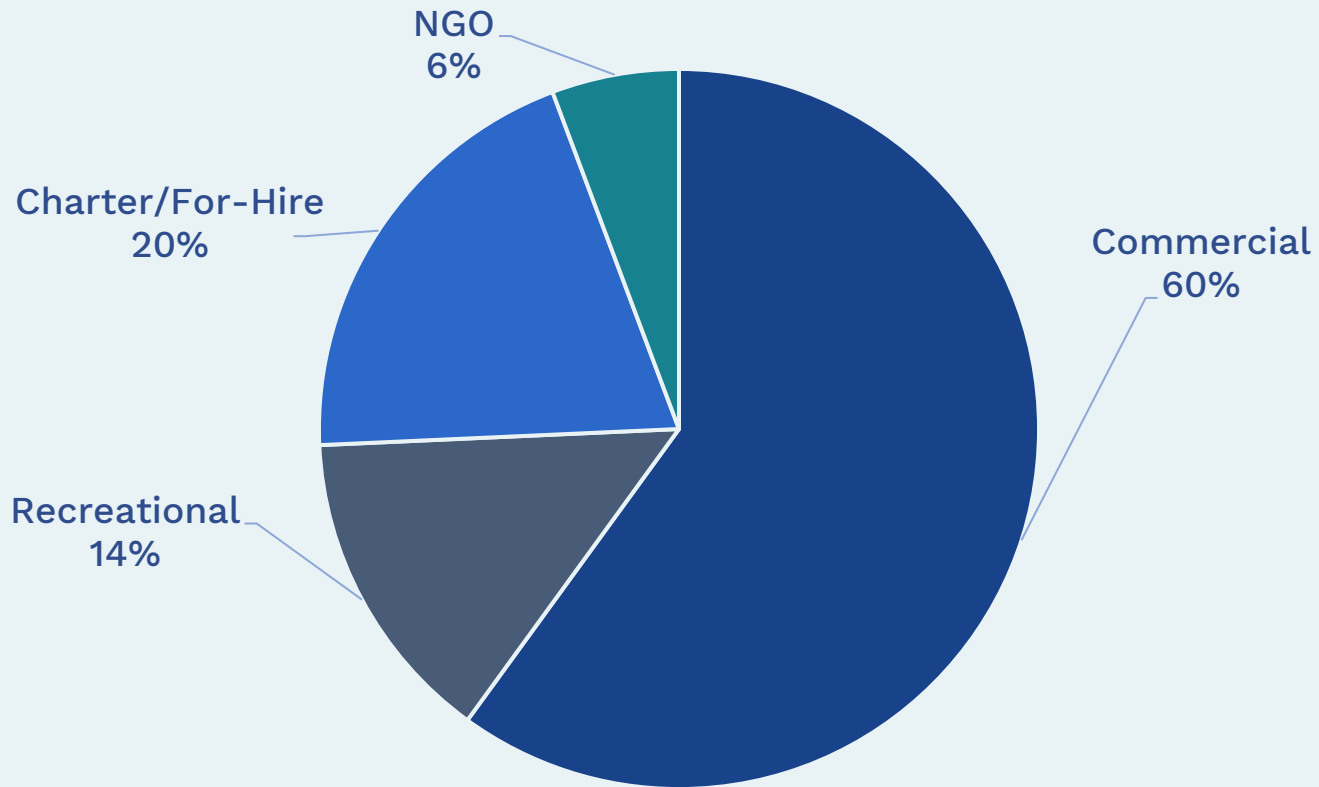


Total Attendees: 52





Hatteras North Carolina

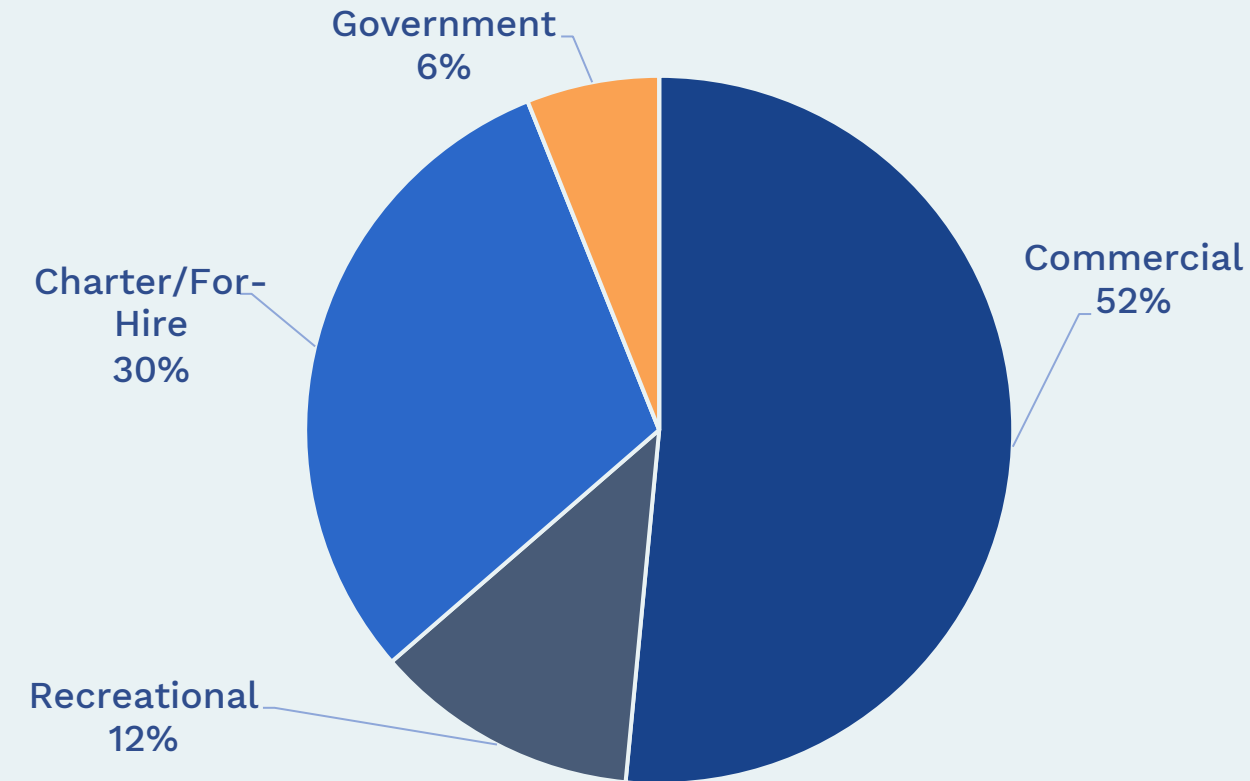


Total Attendees: 32





Manteo North Carolina



Total Attendees: 29

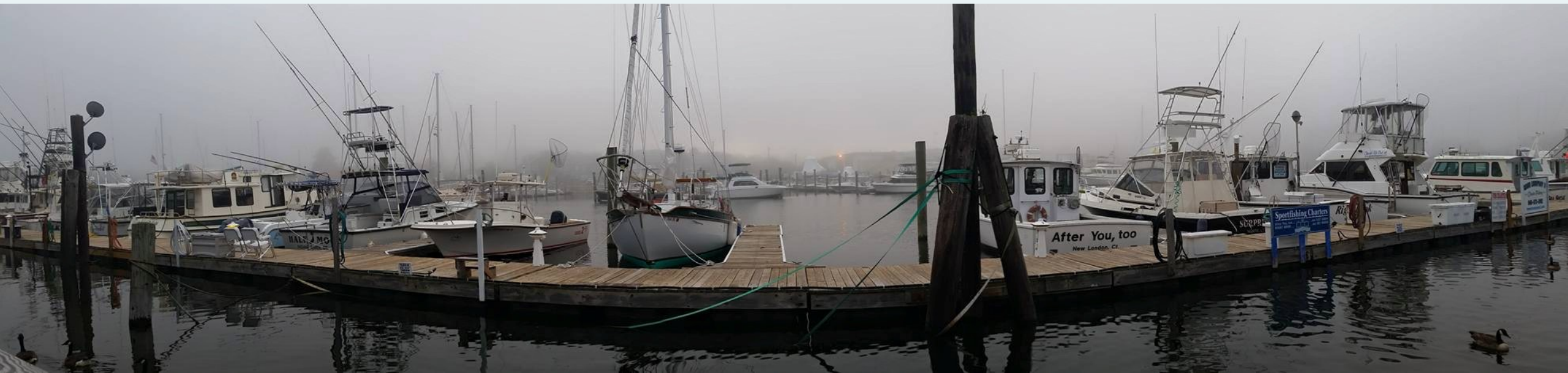


New England Webinars

Webinars held on three nights (May 14, 15, 16) at 6:00p.

Three total attendees that participate in the recreational sector in New England, especially the Massachusetts and Cape Cod areas.

Low attendance may reflect the comparatively low importance of king and Spanish mackerel at this time, but input received was extremely high quality.



Riverhead, New York

- Low attendance from members of the public (reflective of the relative importances of king and Spanish mackerel).
- Well-attended by Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council members who provided a wealth of information.



Shellman Bluff, Georgia

Five total attendees, majority of representation was from the recreational sector.

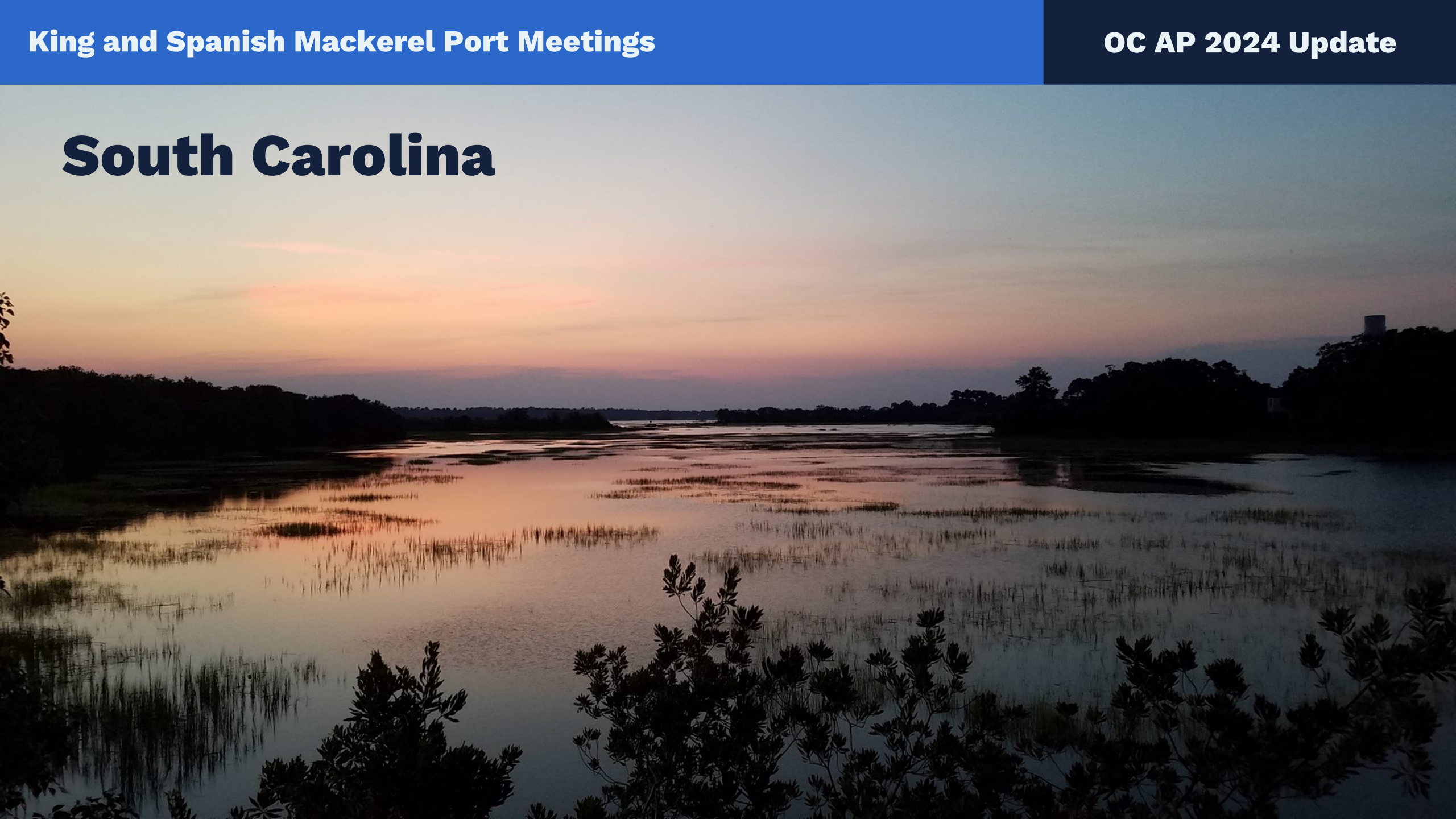
Informative discussion about the role Atlantic king and Spanish mackerel in the broader scope of Georgia offshore fisheries.



Florida



South Carolina



What we've learned:



Outreach before hand and the day of is key to increasing attendance!



Initial presentation needs to “set the stage” for the evening.



Staff should provide more different opportunities for additional input outside of breakout groups.



Next Steps

- Compiling information from all port meetings into a report for Council review.
- Report to be reviewed first by port meeting attendees.

Summarize
and Analyze



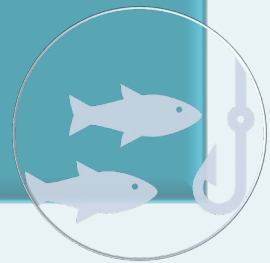
- Final report to include:
 - detailed notes from all meetings
 - thematic analysis identifying various patterns among the different meetings.

Final Report



- Updated goals and objectives for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan
- Plan amendment to address management needs identified.

Management



Discussion Questions

How can information gathered during port meetings be presented to the Council in a way that is informative and engaging but not overwhelming?

Ways to visualize regional similarities and differences?

Recommendations for guiding the Council from information that isn't always management specific to actionable items?

