



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mell Bell, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Mackerel Cobia Committee

Hotel Ballast
301 N. Water Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 – 1:30 P.M. – 3:50 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Steve Poland

Approval of September 2019 Committee minutes – Steve Poland

1. Status of Commercial and Recreational Catches vs. ACLs – Rick DeVictor, NMFS SERO (*Attachments 1a* and *1b*)
2. Status of Amendments under Formal Review – Rick DeVictor, NMFS SERO
 - a. King mackerel emergency action request – sent to NMFS 6/21/2019
 - b. Spanish mackerel control date request – sent to NMFS 6/21/2019
3. Advisory Panel Report – Ira Laks, AP Chair (*Attachment 2*)
4. CMP Framework Amendment 8 (King mackerel commercial trip limits in the Atlantic southern zone during season two) (*Attachment 3a-3c*).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review updated analysis, public comment, and consider approval for formal review – Steve Poland
5. CMP Framework Amendment 9 (Spanish mackerel commercial trip limits and accountability measures) (*Attachment 4a* and *4b*).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review analysis, select preferred alternatives, and consider approval for public hearings – Steve Poland
6. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary AP Input – Christina Wiegand

Other Business – Steve Poland

Adjourn – Steve Poland

Committee Members

Steve Poland, Chair
Spud Woodward, Vice Chair
Robert Beal
Anna Beckwith
Mel Bell
Chester Brewer
Chris Conklin
Roy Crabtree
Tim Griner
Jessica McCawley
Art Sapp
Mid-Atlantic Liaisons:
Tony DiLernia and Dewey Hemilright

Attachments

Attachment 1a: NMFS SERO Commercial ACL Report for CMP species.
Attachment 1b: NMFS SERO Recreational ACL Report for CMP species.

Attachment 2: Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report

Attachment 3a: CMP Framework Amendment 8 Final Approval Draft

Attachment 3b: CMP Framework Amendment 8 Decision Document

Attachment 3c: CMP Framework Amendment 8 Codified Text

Attachment 4a: CMP Framework Amendment 9 Public Hearing Draft

Attachment 4b: CMP Framework Amendment 9 Decision Document

Staff: Christina Wiegand

OVERVIEW

Mackerel and Cobia Committee

The Committee will approve of minutes from September 2019 meeting and the agenda for the December 2019 Committee meeting.

1. **Status of commercial and recreational catches vs. ACLs – (*Attachments 1a* and *1b*)**

Description: The Committee will receive an update on commercial and recreational landings for Atlantic king mackerel, Atlantic Spanish mackerel, and Florida east coast zone cobia.

Committee Action: None required.

2. **Status of amendments submitted for formal review**

Description: The request for emergency action for the commercial Atlantic king mackerel fishery was sent to NMFS on June 21, 2019. The temporary increase in the Atlantic king mackerel commercial trip limit in the Atlantic southern zone was published on September 27, 2019 with an effective date of October 1, 2019. The request for a control date in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery was sent to NMFS on June 21, 2019. NMFS published an advanced notice of proposed rule making on October 15, 2019. The public comment period concluded on November 14, 2019.

Committee Action: None required.

3. **Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report – (*Attachment 2*)**

Description: The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel met on October 7-8, 2019 in Charleston, SC. Ira Laks, AP Chair, will provide a summary of the Advisory Panel discussion and recommendations.

Committee Action: None required.

4. **CMP Framework Amendment 8 (king mackerel commercial trip limits in the Atlantic southern zone during season two) (*Attachments 3a-3c*)**

Description: At the June 2019 meeting, based on concerns expressed by fishermen in Florida and the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel, the Council requested NMFS take emergency action to increase in the commercial trip limit from 50-fish to 75-fish in the Atlantic southern zone, south of the Flagler/Volusia County line, Florida during season two of the 2019/2020 commercial fishing year. Framework Amendment 8 will permanently address season two commercial king mackerel trip limits. Staff will present a summary of public hearing comments and a final document, with updated analysis, for the Council to consider.

Committee Action: Review updated analysis, public comment, and consider approval for formal review.

5. **Spanish mackerel white paper (*Attachments 4a* and *4b*)**

Description: The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel and stakeholders have expressed concerns about participation in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery and early closures in the Atlantic northern zone (NY through NC) and southern zone (SC to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line, FL). At their September meeting the Council reviewed a white paper on effort in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery and avenues to control effort, including: a

limited access commercial permit, a limited access gillnet endorsement in the southern zone, and collaboration with state agencies. The Council determined that a short-term solution was necessary to prevent closures while a long-term solution (such as limited entry or revised allocations) could be developed. The Council directed staff to begin work on an amendment that would modify Spanish mackerel trip limits and accountability measures as follows: Reduce the Atlantic northern zone commercial trip limit to 2,500, 2,000, or 1,500 pounds, when the Atlantic northern zone commercial sector quota is met a stepdown to 500 pounds will occur, the Spanish mackerel fishery will close when the total ACL (commercial and recreational combined) is met or projected to be met. Staff will present a draft public hearing document for the Council to consider.

Committee Action: Review analysis, select preferred alternatives, and consider approval for public hearings.

Other Business