



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

AGENDA Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel

Town and County Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29414

Other than the starting and ending times of the meeting, times indicated on the agenda are approximate, and the order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated.

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment.

Monday, October 7, 2019 – 1:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Approval of Agenda – Ira Laks

Approval of April 2019 AP minutes – Ira Laks

1. Update on recently submitted CMP Amendments
 - a. Framework Amendment 6 (king mackerel trip limits, season one)
 - b. King mackerel emergency action request
2. Framework Amendment 8 (king mackerel trip limits, season two) (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
3. Spanish mackerel commercial effort white paper (*Attachment 2*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks
4. King and Spanish mackerel port meetings (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Ira Laks

Other Business – Ira Laks

Adjourn – Ira Laks

Advisory Panel Members:

Ira Laks, Chair
Stephen Swann, Vice Chair
Stephen Donalson
Steve English
Skip Feller
Ryan Howard
Keith Bowen
Robert Olsen
Greg Peralta
Gary Robinson
Tom Roller
Chris Elkins
Rusty Hudson
Aaron Kelly
John Mallette
Brad Phillips

Attachments

Attachment 1: CMP Framework 8 discussion document

Attachment 2: Commercial effort in the Spanish mackerel fishery white paper

Attachment 3: Port meetings discussion document

Staff: Christina Wiegand

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel will approve of minutes from April 2019 meeting and agenda.

1. **Recently submitted CMP Amendments and Actions**

Description: Staff will brief the Advisory Panel on the status of CMP Framework Amendment 6 and the request for emergency action in the king mackerel fishery. Framework Amendment 6 was submitted for formal review on 11/9/2018 and the proposed rule published on 3/27/2019. The request for emergency action was sent to NMFS on 6/21/2019.

Advisory Panel Action: None required.

2. **CMP Framework Amendment 8 (king mackerel commercial trip limits in the Atlantic southern zone during season two) (*Attachment 1*)**

Description: During the March 2019 meeting the Council reviewed concerns expressed by fishermen in Florida and the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel regarding low commercial trip limit in the Atlantic Southern Zone during season two (October to the end of February). Stakeholder and AP input indicates that the current season two trip limits are preventing commercial king mackerel fishermen in the Atlantic southern zone from fully utilizing the available resource resulting in undue hardship to fishing communities. At the June 2019 meeting, 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 Framework Amendment 8 for discussion.

Advisory Panel Action:

3. **Commercial effort in the Spanish mackerel fishery white paper (*Attachment 2*)**

Description: During their March and June 2019 meetings the Council reviewed concerns expressed by the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel regarding increased participation in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery. Additionally, stakeholders have expressed concerns about early closures in the Atlantic northern zone (NY through NC) and southern zone (SC to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line). The Committee directed staff to prepare a white paper with a thorough analysis of effort in the commercial Spanish mackerel fishery and a discussion of possible avenues to control effort, including: a limited access commercial permit, a limited access gillnet endorsement in the southern zone, and collaboration with state agencies. Staff will present the results contained in the white paper for discussion.

Advisory Panel Action:

4. **Port meetings for king and Spanish mackerel (*Attachments 4*)**

Description: During the June 2019 meeting the Council reviewed a request from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel to conduct port meetings to gain to comprehensive understand of the commercial and recreational king and Spanish mackerel fisheries. The Council requested staff discussion of port meetings to the September agenda. Staff will present information on the intended focus of future port meetings for discussion.

Advisory Panel Action: