



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

## **REVISED AGENDA**

### **Mackerel Cobia Committee**

Town and County Inn  
2008 Savannah Highway  
Charleston, SC 29414

**Thursday, September 19, 2019 – 1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda – Steve Poland

Approval of June 2019 Committee minutes – Steve Poland

1. Status of Commercial Catches vs. ACLs – Rick DeVictor, NMFS SERO (*Attachment 1*)
2. Status of Amendments under Formal Review – Rick DeVictor, NMFS SERO
  - a. CMP Framework 6 (King mackerel trip limits) – sent to NMFS 11/9/2018
  - b. King mackerel emergency action request – send to NMFS 6/21/2019
3. CMP Framework Amendment 8 (King mackerel commercial trip limits in the Atlantic southern zone during season two) (*Attachment 2a* and *2b*).
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee Action:** Review analysis, select preferred alternative, consider approval for public hearings – Steve Poland
4. Spanish mackerel white paper (*Attachment 3*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Steve Poland
5. Port meetings for king and Spanish mackerel fisheries (*Attachment 4*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Steve Poland
6. Gulf Council Framework Action to modify federal for-hire trip limits (*Attachment 5*).
  - a. Overview – Ryan Rindone, GMFMC Staff
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as necessary – Steve Poland
7. Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Agenda Items (*Attachment 6*).
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand

- b. **Committee Action:** Provide guidance on items to bring forward to the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel – Steve Poland

Other Business – Steve Poland

Adjourn – Steve Poland

**Committee Members**

Steve Poland, Chair  
Carolyn Belcher  
Robert Beal  
Anna Beckwith  
Mel Bell  
Roy Crabtree  
Tim Griner  
Jessica McCawley  
Spud Woodward  
Chester Brewer  
Art Sapp  
Rob O’Reilly, Mid-Atlantic Liaison  
Dewey Hemilright, Mid-Atlantic Liaison  
Tony DiLernia, Mid-Atlantic Liaison

**Attachments**

**Attachment 1:** NMFS SERO Commercial ACL Report for CMP species.

**Attachment 2a:** CMP Framework Amendment 8 Public Hearing Draft

**Attachment 2b:** CMP Framework Amendment 8 Decision Document

**Attachment 3:** Spanish Mackerel White Paper

**Attachment 4:** Mackerel Port Meetings Discussion Document

**Attachment 5:** Gulf Framework Action to Modify Federal For-Hire Trip Limits Options

**Attachment 6:** Draft Agenda Items for the October Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting

These attachments can also be viewed using the StoryMap found here: <https://arcg.is/04O0XS>

**Staff:** Christina Wiegand

# OVERVIEW

## Mackerel and Cobia Committee

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

1. **Status of commercial catches vs. ACLs – (*Attachment 1*)**

**Description:** The Committee will receive an update on commercial 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:** SERO staff will brief the Committee on the status of CMP Framework Amendment 6 (King mackerel season one trip limits) and the request for emergency action in the king mackerel fishery. CMP Framework Amendment 6 was submitted for formal review on November 9, 2018 and the proposed rule published on March 27, 2019. The request for emergency action was sent to NMFS on June 21, 2019.

**Committee Action:** None required.

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

**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 draft public hearing document for the Council to consider.

**Committee Action:** Review analysis, select preferred alternative, and consider for public hearings.

4. **Spanish mackerel white paper (*Attachment 3*)**

**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.

**Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as needed.

**5. Port meetings for king and Spanish mackerel (*Attachment 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 to guide discussion of the who, what, when, where, and why of port meetings.

**Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as needed.

**6. Gulf Framework Action to Modify Federal For-Hire Trip Limits (*Attachment 5*)**

**Description:** At their August 2019 meeting, the Gulf Council reviewed options to modify the possession limits for anglers on for-hire vessels on trips exceeding 24 hours in duration. Presently, anglers on these trips may possess two daily bag limits for species managed under the Reef Fish and Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMPs; however, the second daily bag limit may not be possessed until after 24 hours have elapsed. The Gulf Council will review a revised draft at their October 2019 Council meeting. *NOTE: Because this amendment addresses the CMP FMP and the Reef Fish FMP in order to maintain consistent regulations in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions, this issue will need to be considered under the Snapper Grouper FMP as well.*

**Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as needed.

**7. Agenda items for the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting (*Attachment 6*)**

**Description:** The next Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Charleston, South Carolina. In order to optimize the level of input the Council desires from its advisory panels, the Committee is asked to provide guidance on items to include on the next Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel agenda.

**Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as needed.

**Other Business**