



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405  
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

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

## AGENDA

### Mackerel Cobia Committee

Hutchinson Island Marriott  
555 NE Ocean Boulevard  
Stuart, FL 34996

**Thursday, June 13, 2019 – 2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda – Doug Haymans

Approval of March 2019 Committee minutes – Doug Haymans

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. CMP Framework 6 (King mackerel trip limits) – sent to NMFS 11/9/2018
3. Advisory Panel Report – Ira Laks, AP Chair (*Attachment 2*)
4. Consideration of Atlantic king mackerel trip limit emergency action (*Attachment 2*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Committee Action: Discuss and take action as needed – Doug Haymans
5. CMP Framework Amendment 8 (King mackerel commercial trip limits in the Atlantic southern zone during season two) (*Attachment 2*).
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and approve actions and alternatives to be analyzed – Doug Haymans
6. History of Spanish mackerel closures (*Attachment 2*).
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee Action:** Discuss and take action as needed – Doug Haymans

Other Business – Doug Haymans

Adjourn – Doug Haymans

**Committee Members**

Doug Haymans, Chair  
Steve Poland, Vice-Chair  
Robert Beal  
Anna Beckwith  
Mel Bell  
Roy Crabtree  
Tim Griner  
Jessica McCawley  
Spud Woodward  
Rob O'Reilly, Mid-Atlantic Liaison  
Dewey Hemilright, Mid-Atlantic Liaison  
Tony DiLernia, Mid-Atlantic Liaison

**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 Committee Story Map.

**Staff:** Christina Wiegand

# **OVERVIEW**

## **Mackerel and Cobia Committee**

The Committee will approve of minutes from March 2019 meeting and the agenda for the June 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:** SERO staff will brief the Committee on the status of CMP Framework Amendment 6 (King mackerel season one trip limits) which as submitted for formal review on November 9, 2018. The proposed rule published on March 27, 2019.

**Committee Action:** None required.

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

**Description:** The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel and Cobia Sub-Panel on April 18, 2019. Ira Laks, AP Chair, will provide a summary of the Advisory Panel and Sub-Panel's discussion and recommendations.

**Committee Action:** None required.

4. **Consideration of Atlantic king mackerel trip limit emergency action – (*Attachment 2*)**

**Description:** During their April 2019 meeting the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel passed a motion asking the Council to consider an emergency action to raise the commercial king mackerel trip limit south of the Flagler/Volusia County line, Florida to 75-fish for the 2019-2020 season. Staff will present information on the criteria and justification necessary for an emergency action.

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

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

**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). During the winter months, fishermen are only able to fish a small number of days due to the weather. Additionally, due to changes in the fishery, more fish are on the market during this time of the year, resulting in lower prices. When the weather is decent, AP members feel it would be helpful if fishermen had access to a higher trip limit to make trips worthwhile. The Committee directed staff to begin work on framework amendment to address these concerns. Staff will present an options paper for consideration.

**Committee Action:** Review options paper and approve actions and alternatives to be analyzed.

**6. History of Spanish mackerel closures (*Attachments 2*)**

**Description:** During the March 2019 meeting 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 provide a history of postponed actions to address Spanish mackerel and to discuss possible management changes with the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel.

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

**Other Business**