

# OVERVIEW

## Mackerel Committee Meeting

March 1, 2010  
Jekyll Island Club  
Jekyll Island, Georgia

The Mackerel Committee needs to: (A) receive a report on the Gulf Council's actions on the options paper for Joint Mackerel Amendment 18; (B) discuss the mackerel data request to the SEFSC and their response; (C) discuss the South Atlantic Council's participation in the Gulf Council's Mackerel LAPP work; and (D) discuss a request to allow use of float gear in the mackerel fishery.

### **A. Gulf Council's Actions on the Options Paper for Joint Mackerel Amendment 18**

The Gulf Council and the South Atlantic Council are preparing a joint amendment to address the new requirements of the Reauthorized-MSA. Rick Leard and Gregg Waugh discussed the two staffs' workloads and proposed that Rick take the administrative lead for the Joint Mackerel Amendment and Gregg take the administrative lead for the Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment. The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils have approved this approach.

The South Atlantic Council has completed scoping as a part of the Comprehensive ACL Amendment scoping process. Scoping meetings were held as follows:

- (1) January 26, 2009 in Charleston, SC
- (2) January 27, 2009 in New Bern, NC
- (3) February 3, 2009 in Key Largo, FL
- (5) February 4, 2009 in Cape Canaveral, FL
- (5) February 5, 2009 in Pooler, GA

The Gulf Council held scoping meetings as shown below. Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, attended the Key West and Marathon, Florida meetings.

- (1) September 21, 2009 in Key West, FL and Grand Isle, LA
- (2) September 22, 2009 in Marathon, FL; Biloxi, MS; and Corpus Christi, TX
- (3) September 23, 2009 in Madeira Beach, FL; Houston, TX; and Orange Beach, AL
- (4) September 24, 2009 in Panama City, FL

Gregg Waugh will review the draft Options Paper for Joint Mackerel Amendment 18 (**Attachment 1**) and the Gulf Council's actions (**Attachment 2**).

### **REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

1. Discuss the Gulf Council's actions on the Options Paper for Amendment 18. This version of the options paper does not have MSY, OY, MSST, MFMT, ABC and ABC Control Rule sections; this will be added after the Gulf Council meeting.
2. Provide guidance to staff as necessary

**B. Mackerel Data Request**

The South Atlantic Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee requested certain data for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel to develop their ABC recommendation based on the control rule. A data request was sent to the SEFSC (**Attachment 3**). The SEFSC response will be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> briefing book or provided by the SEFSC at the March 2010 Council meeting.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

1. Discuss the SEFSC's response.
2. Provide guidance to staff as necessary.

**C. South Atlantic Council's Participation in Gulf Council's Mackerel LAPP**

The Gulf Council is evaluating a LAPP for Gulf king mackerel. Such a program would impact fishermen on Florida's east coast. The South Atlantic Council needs to determine what level of participation is desired.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

1. Discuss the Gulf Council's actions for a LAPP. There will need to be some coordination for fishermen in Florida and the SAFMC needs to determine whether they are interested in exploring a LAPP for Atlantic Migratory Group King and/or Spanish Mackerel.
2. Provide guidance to staff as necessary

**D. Request to Allow use of Float Gear in the Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Fishery**

The Council reviewed a previous request from Mr. Hickman (Brunswick County in North Carolina) at the September 2009 meeting. The request was to allow use of his float gear to catch king mackerel. The Council rejected this request largely because of the vertical lines as the float was tethered to an anchor and concern about threatened/endangered species. After the Council meeting, Mr. Hickman was told that the Council disapproved his request and why. Since then he has worked on some modifications to the gear including an option that would get rid of the vertical line. He wants to petition the Council once again and will be sending another letter and perhaps even a piece of gear to show what it is they are doing.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

1. Discuss the request.
2. Provide guidance to staff as necessary

## **E. Planning/Timing for Joint Amendment 18**

### **2010 Activities:**

An Inter-Disciplinary Team (IPT) has been formed:

- A. SAFMC – Gregg Waugh (SAFMC Lead) and Kate Quigley.
- B. GMFMC – Rick Leard, GMFMC & Council Lead.
- C. NMFS SERO – Susan Gerhart (NMFS Lead), Steve Branstetter, John Vondruska (Economist); David Dale (HCD), Kate Michie, Karla Gore, Nikhil Mehta, Tracy Dunn (OLE), Jennifer Lee and Andy Herndon (NMFS PR), Karen Burns, and David Keys (NEPA).
- D. NMFS SEFSC – Mauricio Ortiz.
- E. NOAA GC – Shepherd Grimes.

### **Timing:**

1. IPT Meeting January 14, 2010
2. Options Paper/Draft Amendment – March & June 2010
3. Approve for public hearings – August/September 2010
4. Hearings – October/November 2010
5. Currently EA. If EIS, NMFS Files DEIS – October; comment period ends prior to December 2010
6. Review public hearing input and approve actions – December 2010 and January 2011
7. Final review of complete document and final approval – March and April 2011
8. Send to Secretary of Commerce – April 2011

### **Specific steps in 2010 and 2011:**

- A. IPT meeting – 1/14/2010
- B. SSC provides OFL & ABC – Gulf SSC has provided their recommendations. The South Atlantic SSC will provide their recommendations after their April 20-22, 2010 meeting.
- C. Draft Amendment prepared by Gulf staff with assistance from NMFS and South Atlantic staff - \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. GMFMC reviews and provides input – February, April and June 2010
  - b. SAFMC reviews and provides input – March and June 2010
- D. NMFS determines whether EA or EIS and prepares appropriate notices and analyses - \_\_\_\_\_. Currently EA.
- E. Councils review Draft Amendment/DEIS or EA and approve for public hearings –
  - a. GMFMC – August 2010
  - b. SAFMC – September 2010
- F. Public Hearings – October/November 2010
- G. Review public comments and provide final guidance on document –
  - a. GMFMC – January 2011
  - b. SAFMC – December 2010
- H. Review and approve final document –
  - a. GMFMC – April 2011
  - b. SAFMC – March 2011
- I. Send Mackerel Amendment 18/EA or EIS/Proposed rule for formal review – April 2011.