

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Advisory Panel

August 18-19, 2009
Hilton Garden Inn
5265 International Boulevard
North Charleston, SC

At this meeting of the Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP), the Advisory Panel needs to: (A) receive an overview of fishery management & the Council process, the new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006, and the status of recent assessments & stock assessment determinations; (B) receive a status report on the South Atlantic Council's work with the Gulf Council on Amendment 18; (C) review and discuss the scoping document for the Gulf Council's scoping process; and (D) review the decision document for Amendment 18 and provide recommendations to the Council.

A. Overview of Fishery Management/Council Process, Reauthorized MSA and Status of Recent Assessments & Stock Status Determinations

Kim Iverson will give a presentation on fishery management and the Council process with special emphasis on the role of the Advisory Panel.

Gregg Waugh will give an overview of the new requirements of the Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act of 2006, status of recent assessments, and stock assessment determinations.

B. Status of Work with Gulf Council on Amendment 18

The Gulf Council is Administrative Lead for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan which means they are responsible for preparing the documents, etc. Rick Leard is the Gulf staff lead and Gregg Waugh is the South Atlantic staff lead. Rick will take the lead on developing Amendment 18 and Gregg will provide the input for South Atlantic Council actions; other SAFMC staff will provide input and analyses to Gregg for inclusion.

The SAFMC conducted scoping for mackerel changes as a part of scoping for the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment. The Gulf Council approved a scoping document at their June 15-18, 2009 meeting in Tampa (Florida) and will conduct scoping meetings after June; the SAFMC approved this scoping document at their June 7-12, 2009 meeting in Stuart (Florida).

The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils, with input from the Mid-Atlantic Council through their two voting seats on the South Atlantic Council's mackerel committee, intend to complete the

document so that the changes can be implemented during the 2011 fishing year. A timeline will be developed after the scoping process is completed.

Mackerel Interdisciplinary Team:

- (i) SAFMC – Gregg Waugh (SAFMC Lead) and Kate Quigley.
- (ii) GMFMC – Rick Leard, GMFMC & Council Lead.
- (iii) NMFS SERO – Sue Gerhart (NMFS Lead), John VonDruska (Economist); David Dale (HCD), Kate Michie, Karla Gore, Nik Mehta (NMFS), Otha Easley (OLE), Jennie Lee and Andy Herndon (NMFS PR), and David Keys (NEPA).
- (iv) NMFS SEFSC – Mauricio Ortiz.
- (v) NOAA GC – Monica Smit-Brunello.

C. GMFMC Scoping Document (Attachment 1)

Scoping meetings for the Comprehensive ACL Amendment were held January 26 – Feb 4, 2009 and comments were accepted through February 6, 2009. Scoping comments for the Comprehensive ACL Amendment addressing mackerel were presented to the Mackerel Committee during the March 2009 meeting.

The Gulf Council will conduct scoping meetings after their June 2009 meeting. Both Councils approved the scoping document for the Gulf scoping process at their June 2009 meetings. The most recent version is included so that the Advisory Panel is aware of what is in the document.

D. Decision Document (Attachment 2)

The decision document includes items specific to the South Atlantic Council and includes decisions from the most recent review of the document by various groups (see cover for groups and dates reviewed). The South Atlantic Council's mackerel committee reviewed and revised these actions/alternatives at the June 9, 2009 meeting. The intent was to have all actions and a reasonable range of alternatives identified at the June 2009 meeting. The SAFMC Mackerel Advisory Panel is now getting an opportunity to provide recommendations to the SAFMC's Mackerel Committee for their September 2009 meeting. These actions/alternatives will then be incorporated into the joint Mackerel Amendment 18 document.

A report on the FishSmart project is included as **Attachment 3** for the Advisory Panel's use in developing their recommendations for Amendment 18.