

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee Meeting

December 5, 2013

Hilton Wilmington Riverside
301 North Water Street
Wilmington, NC

The Mackerel Committee will (A) receive reports from SERO on the status of commercial and recreational catches versus the respective quotas for Atlantic group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. SERO will also (B) provide status updates on amendments recently submitted for formal review. The Committee will discuss (C) Joint Gulf/South Atlantic CMP Amendment 20B to review recent Gulf Council actions and approve the amendment again for submission for Secretarial approval.

Following, the Committee will (D) discuss a joint framework action with the Gulf Council to revise Spanish mackerel catch limits based on results of the recent stock assessment (SEDAR 28). The Committee will receive a report from the Chair of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel, including the revised recommendations for stock status and fishing levels. Upon review, the Committee will approve the framework action for public hearings.

The Mackerel Committee will also (E) review the options paper for Joint CMP Amendment 24, which includes actions to consider changes in sector allocations for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel and Gulf group king mackerel. Additionally, (F) Joint CMP Amendment 26, which would consider separation of the commercial king mackerel and Spanish mackerel permits into separate Gulf and South Atlantic permits, will be reviewed by the Committee. Both amendments will be approved for scoping meetings to be held in January 2014.

Council staff will (G) provide an update on the Gulf Council meeting in October, including a Gulf Council action to discontinue further development of Amendment 23 to address tournament sales of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel. Lastly the Committee will address issues under Other Business if necessary.

A. Status of Landings for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Species (Attachments 1 and 2)

The Committee will receive status updates on landings (commercial and recreational) for Atlantic Group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

B. Status of Amendments Approved for Secretarial Review

- Amendment 20A
- South Atlantic CMP Framework Action 2013

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

C. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Amendment 20B (Attachments 3a-3c)

The South Atlantic Council approved Amendment 20B for formal review in September 2013. In October 2013, the Gulf Council changed a preferred alternative under Action 1 (trip limits for Gulf king mackerel). The South Atlantic Committee will review the changes by the Gulf Council. Upon agreement of South Atlantic and Gulf preferred alternatives, the Committee may approve revised Amendment 20B for formal review.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Select or change preferred alternatives, modify the amendment as necessary, approve for formal review, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

D. Joint CMP Framework Actions 2014 (Attachments 4a-4d)

The stock assessment for Gulf and Atlantic Spanish mackerel was completed in 2012. The South Atlantic SSC reviewed the result of the stock assessment in April 2013 and requested projections from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC). In June 2013, the South Atlantic Council received the SSC recommendations for the Atlantic Spanish mackerel ABC but the South Atlantic Council requested that the SSC review the Spanish mackerel projections and revisit recommendations for the Overfishing Level (OFL) and the ABC. In October 2013, the SSC reviewed the projections again and recommended a new ABC value of 6,060,000 lbs for 2014 and 2015.

In CMP Amendment 18, changes to the framework procedure included a requirement that each Council would have to approve the other's framework actions. If submitted and approved, Amendment 20B will modify the framework procedure to remove this requirement, but currently both Councils would have to approve framework actions to the revise the ACLs for both groups of Spanish mackerel. Because the Gulf Council will revise the ACL for Gulf group Spanish mackerel on the same schedule and separate framework actions would have to be approved by both Councils, the IPT will recommend combining the actions into one joint framework action.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Select or change preferred alternatives, modify the amendment as appropriate, provide guidance to staff, and approve for public hearings.

E. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic CMP Amendment 24 (Allocations)

In September 2013 the South Atlantic Council directed staff to prepare an options paper to modify sector allocations for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and Gulf migratory group king mackerel. The Committee will provide direction to staff on timing and content for CMP Amendment 24, including actions and alternatives to include in a scoping document for January 2014 scoping meetings.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff on content and timing, select items to include for scoping, and approve for scoping to be held in January 2014.

F. Joint Gulf/South Atlantic CMP Amendment 26 (Separate permits)

In September 2013 the South Atlantic Council directed staff to prepare an options paper to consider ways to separate the commercial king mackerel and Spanish mackerel permits into separate permits for the South Atlantic and the Gulf. The Committee will provide direction to staff on timing and content for CMP Amendment 26, including actions and alternatives to include in a scoping document for January 2014 scoping meetings.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff on content and timing, select items to include for scoping, and approve for scoping to be held in January 2014.

G. Gulf Council Actions

In September 2012, the South Atlantic Council passed a motion in regards to the action in Amendment 20A to allow tournament sales: *Remove Action 3 from the amendment to be placed in a stand-alone amendment.* However, tournament sales were addressed in Action 1 of Amendment 20A and no longer need to be specified in a separate amendment. In October 2013, the Gulf Council passed a motion to discontinue development of Joint Amendment 23 through the following motion: MOTION. It is recommended that the South Atlantic Committee approve a motion to be in agreement with the development of Amendment 23.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.