

OVERVIEW

Mackerel Committee Meeting

December 4, 2014

Doubletree by Hilton New Bern/Riverfront

100 Middle Street

New Bern, NC

The Mackerel Committee will receive reports from SERO on (A) the status of commercial and recreational catches versus the respective quotas for Atlantic group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. SERO will also provide (B) status updates on amendments recently submitted for formal review.

Committee Chair Ben Hartig will (C) report on the October 2014 Gulf Council meeting. Next, the Committee will (D) review the results of the stock assessment for Atlantic king mackerel. Marcel Reichert, SSC Vice-Chair, will present the SSC recommendations for modified ABCs for Atlantic king mackerel. The Committee will provide guidance to staff on next steps for any changes to the Atlantic king mackerel ACL based on the results of the stock assessment and the SSC recommendations.

The Mackerel Committee will then review (E) potential actions and alternatives for ACL shifts and allocation changes for Atlantic Spanish mackerel in CMP Amendment 24. The Committee will provide guidance to staff on next steps and a timeline for the amendment. 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 20B – submitted for Secretarial review on May 22, 2014; proposed rule published on October 31, 2014; comment period closes on December 16, 2014.
- S. Atlantic CMP Framework Action 2013 – submitted on for Secretarial review December 18, 2013; proposed rule published on March 19, 2014; comment period closed on April 18, 2014.
- CMP Framework Amendment 1– submitted for Secretarial review on May 29, 2014; proposed rule published on July 31, 2014; comment period closed on September 2, 2014.
- CMP Framework Amendment 2– submitted for Secretarial review on November 5, 2014.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

C. Gulf Council Meeting Report (Attachment 3)

Committee Chair Ben Hartig will provide a report on mackerel actions from the Gulf Council meeting in October 2014.

D. SEDAR 38 - Atlantic King Mackerel Stock Assessment (Attachments 4-6)

SEDAR 38 was completed in August 2014 and included assessments for Gulf and Atlantic king mackerel (**Attachment 4**).

In October 2014, the SSC reviewed the results of SEDAR 38 and provided recommendations for new ABCs for Atlantic king mackerel (**Attachment 5**). SSC Vice-Chair Dr. Marcel Reichert will present the SSC recommendations to the Mackerel Committee.

Additionally the Committee will review the approach used in SEDAR 38 to designate the Gulf and Atlantic stocks, and the mixing zone. The Assessment Report states:

that the best approach is to establish the management mixing zone in the area south of the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, demarcated in the west by a line west from Key West to the Dry Tortugas at 24°35' N. lat, then south at 83° W from the Dry Tortugas (the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Council boundary) to the shelf edge, and in the east from the Dade-Monroe county line to the shelf edge (see Figure 3.1 in Commercial Fishery Statistics section). King mackerel captured in this zone from November 1 to March 31 should be assigned 50:50 to Gulf and Atlantic stocks. (SEDAR 38 Atlantic King Mackerel Stock Assessment Report, pp. 16-17)

Council staff will receive guidance from the Committee on next steps for Amendment 26, including actions and timeline for the amendment (**Attachment 6**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary, specifically on changes to the ACLs in developing or future amendments.

E. CMP Amendment 24 Discussion Paper (Attachment 7)

Amendment 24 could include actions for an ACL shift or allocation change for Atlantic Spanish mackerel, and was scoped in the South Atlantic region in January 2014. In June 2014, staff provided a discussion paper that presented potential ways to address sector allocations, in-season ACL shifts, and pre-season ACL shifts. At this meeting, Council staff will review potential actions and alternatives that incorporate input from the Committee during the June 2014 meeting. The Committee will provide guidance to staff on next steps and a timeline for the amendment.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide direction to staff on content and timing.