



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey., Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Mackerel Cobia Committee
World Golf Village Renaissance
500 Legacy Trail
Saint Augustine, Florida 32092

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 –8:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes (March 2023)

- Spanish Mackerel Assessment (SEDAR 78) (***SSC Report***)
 - SSC Update – Dr. Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair
- 1. Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report (***Attachment 1***) – Ira Laks, AP Chair
- 2. Mackerel Port Meetings Discussion (***Attachment 2***).
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee Action:** review discussion document and provide guidance to staff.
- 3. King Mackerel Tournament Landings (***Attachment 3***)
- 4. Topics for Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting

Other Business

Adjourn

Committee Members

Tom Roller, Chair
Spud Woodward, Vice Chair
Tim Griner
Trish Murphey
Mel Bell
Kerry Marhefka
Gary Borland
Carolyn Belcher
Judy Helmey
Jessica McCawley
Chester Brewer
Laurilee Thompson

Andy Strelcheck
Robert Beal
Lt. Cameron Box
Mid-Atlantic Members: Dewey Hemilright and Joe Cimino

Attachments

Attachment 1: Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Report

Attachment 2: Mackerel Port Meetings Discussion Document

Attachment 3: King Mackerel Tournament Landings

Staff Lead: Christina Wiegand (christina.wiegand@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Mackerel and Cobia Committee

The Committee will approve the minutes from the March 2023 meeting and the agenda for the June 2023 Committee meeting.

Status of Amendments:

Amendment	Council voted final action	Council submitted to NMFS	NOA published (comments due)	Proposed rule published (comments due)	Final rule published	Implementation date
CMP 34	3/11/22	8/5/22 Resubmitted 12/2/22	1/30/23 (3/31/23)	2/10/23 (3/13/23)	5/09/23	06/08/23

- **Spanish Mackerel Management (*SSC Report*).**

Description: At the March 2023 Council meeting, SSC Chair Dr. Jeff Buckel updated the Council on the January 2023 SSC meeting including the terms of reference developed by the Spanish mackerel workgroup and discussion of alternative methods of setting ABCs. The Council also discussed a letter from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), stating that the revisions to SEDAR 78 requested by the SSC in January are exploratory in nature and require extensive rework. As such, they cannot be accomplished in a timely fashion. The Council again expressed the importance of receiving catch level recommendations at their June 2023 meeting. The SSC met again in April 2023, and Dr. Jeff Buckel will provide the Committee an update on SSC discussions relative to Spanish mackerel.

Committee Action: Direct staff to begin work on an amendment to adopt catch level recommendations from the SSC.

1. **Mackerel Advisory Panel Report (*Attachment 1*)**

Description: The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel met on April 21st, 2023 via webinar. The AP Chair, Ira Laks, will provide a summary of Advisory Panel discussion and recommendations on items being discussed at this meeting as well as other items relevant to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics fishery.

Committee Action: review Advisory Panel input and provide guidance to staff.

2. **Mackerel Port Meetings (*Attachment 2*).**

Description: Based on recommendations from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel, the Council directed staff to begin work on a plan to conduct port meetings for king and Spanish mackerel to gain a comprehensive understanding of the fisheries to improve management efforts. At the March 2023 meeting, the Council defined the focus of the port meetings, including focus species, topics, and outcomes. Council staff will present an updated planning document for Council review, including discussion of CMP FMP goals and objectives.

Committee Action: review port meetings proposal and provide direction to staff, as requested.

3. King Mackerel Tournament Landings (*Attachment 3*).

Description: At their December 2022 meeting the Council requested NMFS provide information on king and Spanish mackerel tournament landings over the last ten years and how those landings were accounted for against the annual catch limit. The SEFSC has worked with the state agencies to provide these landings to the Council. Additionally, the SEFSC will provide an update on ACCSP technical committee discussions related to tracking tournament landings.

Committee Action: review landings and provide direction to staff.

4. Topics for the Spring Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel Meeting

Description: The Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel is scheduled to meet this summer in Charleston, South Carolina.

- Atlantic Spanish mackerel catch level recommendations,
- Mackerel Port Meetings,
- King mackerel tournament landings,
- Citizen Science update.

Committee Action: review and approve Advisory Panel agenda topics.

Other Business