

Gulf Council Involvement in South Atlantic Council:

Mackerel Port Meetings



South Atlantic History

- March 2023 – South Atlantic Council decided to host port meetings:
 - Gather info on Gulf and Atlantic king and Spanish mackerel fisheries
 - Species movement and its impact on management and fishermen behavior
 - Dynamics of the commercial fleet
 - How fishermen value the fishery
 - Role of tournaments
 - Effects of water quality and other environmental variables
 - How king and Spanish fisheries interact with other fisheries
 - Host meetings along the Gulf and Atlantic coast up to Southern Massachusetts (w/ support from ASMFC, state agencies and regional Councils as appropriate/requested).

South Atlantic Goals

Evaluation of current goals and objectives of the CMP FMP.

- Achieving the maximum economic and social yield from the fishery.
- Maintaining the long-term sustainability of stocks.
- Maintaining the integrity of fishing communities under climate change.
- Achieving the most equitable management structure under climate change.
- Identification of underserved communities and EEJ concerns.
- Consideration of interjurisdictional management and cooperation with other councils and ASMFC.

Anticipated Outcomes

Staff will develop a final report that includes notes from all conducted port meetings. In addition to a basic summary, the document will include a thematic analysis identifying patterns and themes among the different port meetings.

Information from the final report would be used by the Council to:

- update the goals and objectives of the CMP FMP
- overhaul management of Atlantic Spanish mackerel (plan amendment scheduled to begin post-port meetings)
- modify management of Atlantic king mackerel, as appropriate.

Port Meeting Timeline

	Date	Development of Port Meetings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	October 2022	South Atlantic Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel unanimously passes a motion requesting the Council conduct a series of port meetings to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the king and Spanish mackerel fisheries.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	December 2022	South Atlantic Council reviews the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel motion and directs staff begin work on a plan to conduct port meetings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 2023	South Atlantic Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel discusses their goals and objectives for port meetings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 2023	South Atlantic Council reviews input from the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel and discusses their goals and objectives for port meetings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	August 2023	The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Gulf of Mexico Council are asked to participate in the development and execution of port meetings.
	August 2023	Gulf Council suggests moving forward with a complimentary effort.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	November 2023	South Atlantic Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel meets and provides input on proposed structure for port meetings and key communities to hold meetings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	December 2023	South Atlantic Council meets and discusses proposed meeting structure and approves key locations so scheduling work can begin.
	December 2023	Gulf Council Outreach and Education Technical Committee meets to review goals and objectives of South Atlantic port meetings and suggest complimentary Gulf effort.
<input type="checkbox"/>	January 2024	Planning team meetings to discuss Council input, revises plan as needed, and discusses outreach needs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	February 2024	Mock-port meeting held with the Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel
<input type="checkbox"/>	March 2024	South Atlantic Council approves final plan for conducting port meetings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	April 2024	Port meetings begin
<input type="checkbox"/>	April 2025	Final Report to Councils

Gulf Council Directive

August 2023: Staff shared information on the South Atlantic effort with the Council.

Council recommended moving forward with a complimentary effort. Given low historical in-person participation a meetings addressing CMP issues a virtual approach should be developed and complimented with an angler effort during scheduled council meetings



Council Work that May Overlap

- Solicit public comments during next Spanish mackerel documents addressing results from stock assessment (February 2024)
- Stakeholder engagement plan for the FEP that could capture stakeholder feedback about king and Spanish mackerel via different engagement process



O&E Feedback

Virtual engagement

- Should we consider virtual hearings?
- Should we consider conducting stand-alone mackerel Fisherman Feedback?

Council meeting engagement

- Should we develop a tool to gather input in-person?
- Should we host workshops during Council meetings?

What else?

