

## **Mackerel Committee Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab C**

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**Agenda Item IV:** SSC Recommendations on Gulf King Mackerel Interim Assessment

**Timeline Status:** Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

**Council Input and Next Steps:** Dr. Jim Nance (Scientific and Statistical Committee [SSC] Chair) will summarize the July 2023 SSC discussions and recommendations related to the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) migratory group king mackerel. Overall, the SSC determined the data were not appropriate to modify the current catch levels. The Committee should discuss the information presented and consider if any changes to current management practices are needed.

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**Agenda Item V:** SSC Recommendations on SEDAR 81 Gulf Spanish Mackerel Operational Assessment

**Timeline Status:** Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

**Council Input and Next Steps:** Dr. Nance will summarize the data, model results, and projections resulting from the SEDAR 81 operational assessment for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel. Dr. Nance will discuss the SSC's deliberations and catch recommendations. SEDAR 81 updates the recreational landings data to the Marine Recreational Information Program's Fishing Effort Survey (MRIP-FES) and determined that the stock is not overfished or undergoing overfishing as of 2021. The Committee should review the information presented and direct staff to initiate appropriate management action to update catch levels.

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**Agenda Item VI:** Proposed Engagement in Mackerel Port Meetings

**Timeline Status:** Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

**Council Input and Next Steps:** Based on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (SAFMC) Mackerel-Cobia Advisory Panel's recommendation, the SAFMC directed its staff to conduct port meetings and gather stakeholder concerns on the status and current management of king and Spanish mackerel. Given that coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) resources are jointly managed between the Councils, the SAFMC has asked whether the Gulf Council would be interested in participating in a complementary effort. Staff will summarize stakeholder participation on previous public meetings, recent efforts to gather CMP feedback, current Council actions pertaining to CMP fisheries, and propose next steps. The Committee should consider if the proposed next steps are appropriate and provide feedback to staff.

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**Agenda Item VII:** Amendment to the 2015 Biological Opinion for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region

**Timeline Status:** Information

**Council Input and Next Steps:** Ms. Jennifer Lee (Southeast Regional Office) will present the amendment to the 2015 biological opinion for CMP resources in the Gulf and Atlantic Region. The biological opinion addresses giant manta rays and oceanic whitetip sharks, which were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2018. It was concluded that the operation and management of CMP fishery is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of oceanic whitetip sharks and manta rays. The Committee should ask questions as appropriate.

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**Agenda Item VIII:** Other Business

**Timeline Status:** Discussion and recommendations

**Council Input and Next Steps:** Additional items may be brought up for discussion during the adoption of the agenda to be considered at a future Committee meeting.

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