



Tab B, No. 5(b)

Coastal Migratory Pelagic Advisory Panel

2024 CMP Special Engagement Session and Beyond...



Background on this effort

The Gulf Council aims to gather input from a broad variety of stakeholders on king mackerel, Spanish mackerel and cobia. This effort is designed to:

- Complement the South Atlantic Councils Port Meeting effort
- Inform future Gulf Council management



Gulf Council CMP Communications Plan

The Gulf Council has historically had very low participation in in-person mackerel-based engagements. In lieu of port meetings, the Gulf Council will gather information in four ways:

1. Online Feedback Tool
2. Virtual Feedback Workshops
3. AP Feedback
4. Council meeting testimony



CMP AP Special Engagement Session

1. Have there been **substantial changes in the fishery** in recent years?
2. Have there been changes in the **effort and/or fishing techniques** used to target each species?
3. Have there been changes in the **migratory patterns of behaviors** of each species as they relate to time, area, and depth?
4. Have there been changes in **discard trends** for each of the species?
5. In your sector, how have recent changes to the stock affected your **economic performance** for each species?
6. In your sector, how have recent changes to the stock affected your **behavior or lifestyle** as it relates to each species?
7. Provide feedback on the **appropriateness of current regulations** and catch limits for each species?
8. Do you think there any **environmental, ecological factors**, or recent events that are influencing each of the species?



Emergent Themes: Abundance

- All three species experiencing some decline in abundance/size
 - Changes to salinity, water temperature, habitat degradation, harmful, algal blooms, low DO are driving population decline and/or impacting migratory behaviors



Emergent Themes: Location

- Migratory patterns changing (timing, area, size of schools)
- King mackerel and cobia seem to be further offshore
- Removal of rig structure has disrupted movement
- Bait that used to attract fish has nearly disappeared in inshore environments changing location and availability of CMP species



Emergent Themes: Fishing Behavior

- Recreationally, none of the three species are primary targets because they're not as readily available. This is a departure from historical behavior.
- Commercially, there is increased competition for king mackerel in the southern zone and a decline in pressure in the western zone.
 - The commercial fishery remains economically viable despite the increased challenge of targeting fish because price has increased with decrease supply.



Emergent Themes: Ecological

- Shark depredation is driving increased mortality.
- Fishing regulations are not limiting harvest. Instead, ecological challenges and decreased availability prevent catch limits from being harvested.



What's Next?

1. AP Feedback
 - Should we do this with other APs?
 - Should anything be modified?
2. Online Feedback Tool
 - Any preferences or feedback on the types of information we collect?
3. Virtual Feedback Workshops
 - How should these be structured?
4. Council meeting testimony
 - Should a summary be completed at year's end?

