



Tab C, No. 6

Proposed Engagement in Mackerel Port Meetings



South Atlantic History

- April 2019 and October 2022 – South Atlantic Mackerel/Cobia AP requested a series of port meetings to gather info on king and Spanish mackerel
- 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
- modify management measures of Atlantic Spanish mackerel after port-meetings
- modify management of Atlantic king mackerel, as appropriate.

Anticipated Next Steps

- Establishment of a planning team responsible for:
 - Discussions on how to best structure and facilitate port meetings.
 - Identifying key locations for holding port meetings.
 - Identifying key stakeholders and ways to encourage participation in port meetings.
- Planning team members will be requested from the Gulf Council, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and state agencies. Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils may be involved/consulted on an as needed basis/as requested.
- Information on port meetings is being presented to both the Gulf Council and ASMFC at their August meetings.

South Atlantic Timeline

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	December 2022	Council directs staff to organize port meetings for Atlantic king and Spanish mackerel.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	March 2023	Council reviews detailed plan for conducting port meetings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 2023	Mackerel Cobia AP meeting via webinar to review plan for conducting port meetings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 2023	Council reviews AP member input and approves plan for conducting port meetings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 2023	South Atlantic Council reviews SSC recommendations and directs staff to begin work on an amendment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 2023	Staff presents port meeting plans to Gulf Council and ASMFC.
<input type="checkbox"/>	September 2023	Council reviews port meeting input from Gulf Council and ASMFC reviewed, and guidance provided to staff.
<input type="checkbox"/>	December 2023	Port meetings plan and schedule finalized.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winter 2024	Port meetings held throughout the Atlantic region.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spring 2024	Port meetings held throughout the Atlantic region.
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 2024	South Atlantic Council approves Spanish mackerel amendment for public hearings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Summer 2024	Port meetings held throughout the Atlantic region.
<input type="checkbox"/>	September 2024	Summary report prepared and presented to the Council.
<input type="checkbox"/>	September 2024	South Atlantic Council reviews public comments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 2024	Gulf Council reviews public comments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	December 2024	South Atlantic Council considers amendment for formal review.
<input type="checkbox"/>	January 2025	Gulf Council considers amendment for formal review.



What about the Gulf?



Gulf Council History CMP Meetings

Historically low attendance at mackerel hearings:

CMP 26: Commercial King Mackerel Zones and ACLs		CMP:29 King Mackerel Allocation Sharing		CMP 32: Cobia Catch and Possession Limits	
Location	Attendance	Location	Attendance	Location	Attendance
Corpus Christi, TX	1	Tampa, FL	3	Destin, FL	11
Pascagoula, MS	0	Key West, FL	16	Gulfport, MS	5
Texas City, TX	6	Port Aransas, TX	12	Corpus Christi, TX	0
Orange Beach, AL	0	Pascagoula, MS	1	Galveston, TX	4
Kenner, LA	1	Galveston, TX	2	Madeira Beach, FL	3
Destin, FL	9	Mobile, AL	0	Baton Rouge, LA	3
Key West, FL	8	Houma, LA	0	Fort Myers, FL	12
Sarasota, FL	0	Panama City, FL	3	Orange Beach, AL	17
Written Comments	7	Written Comments	96	Written Comments	10
Video Views	108	Video Views	38	Video Views	135

Gulf Council History

Fisherman Feedback
King Mackerel
November 2019
47 Responses

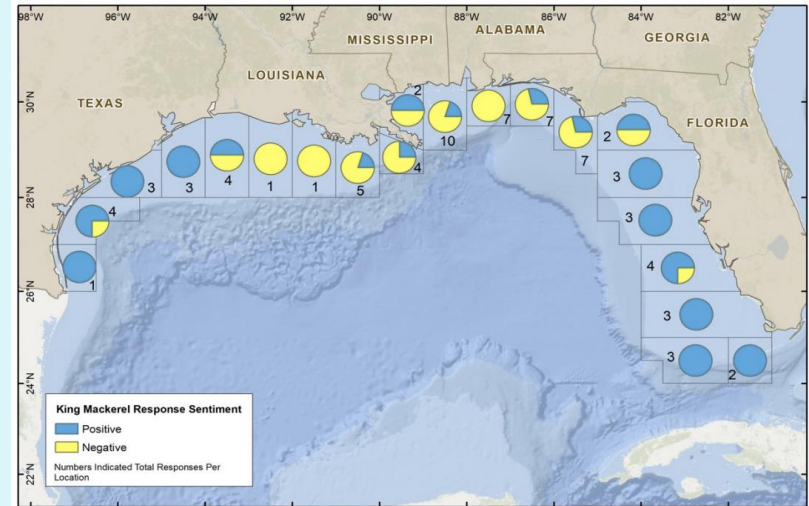
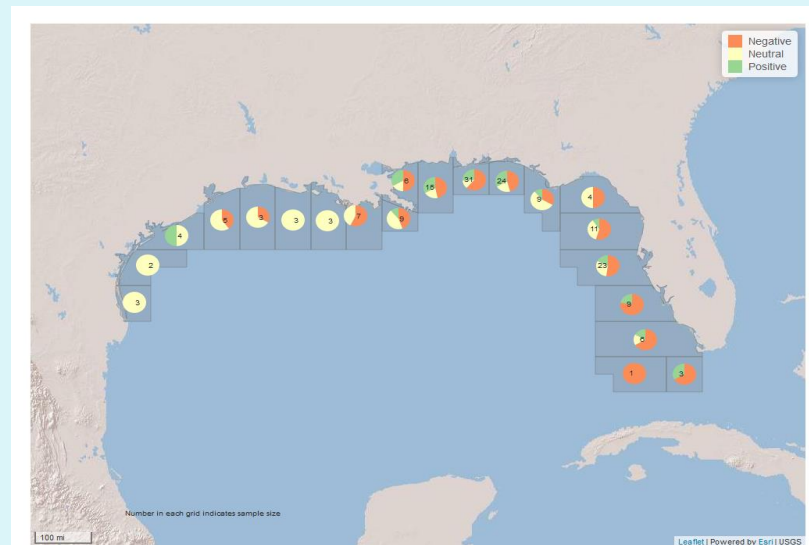


Figure 2: Responses by sentiment and area

Fisherman Feedback
Spanish Mackerel
May 2023
117 Responses



Gulf Council History

Fisherman Feedback
Cobia
March 2020
586 responses



Ongoing Gulf Council Efforts

Current Council directed work that may overlap

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



Proposed Gulf Council Next Steps

- Serve on the planning team with the SAFMC staff
- Solicit directed feedback from the CMP AP
- Schedule virtual hearings with stakeholders for Gulf stocks?
- Consider conducting stand-alone mackerel Fisherman Feedback?



Questions?

