

**SPINY LOBSTER TEAM CONFERENCE CALL
FEBRUARY 7, 2008**

A Team has been formed to write the amendment document. The first meeting was held on February 7, 2008. Results are as follows:

The Team agreed to use the scoping document as the starting point for the amendment. Materials in a previous document prepared by the SERO will also be used.

The statement of need is as follows:

Problem/Need: Lobsters are being imported below the respective Continental and Caribbean U.S. minimum size limits. Much of the imported lobster does not meet the minimum size limits in the country of origin. This is adversely impacting recruitment throughout Florida and the Caribbean and, as a result, the status of spiny lobster in Caribbean and U.S. waters because of the distribution and dispersal of larvae during their long larval phase.

The Team agreed to defer consideration of a framework for the CFMC's spiny lobster plan to a future amendment. Actions/Alternatives to be included are as follows:

Action 1. Import size regulation. Note: Action 1 regulations only apply to imports and do not impact existing domestic regulations (Continental U.S. and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

Alternative 1. No Action.

Alternative 2. Prohibit imports smaller than the existing U.S. minimum size limits. No one in the Continental U.S. would be allowed to import a Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*):

1. Less than 3.0 inches (7.62 cm) carapace length if the animal is whole.
2. Less than 5.5 inches (13.97 cm) tail length if only the tail is present.
3. Less than 5 ounces tail weight (e.g., **4.5** – 5.4 ounces).

For Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, no one would be allowed to import a Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*):

1. Less than 3.5 inches (8.89 cm) carapace length if the animal is whole.
2. Less than 6.2 inches (15.75 cm) tail length if only the tail is present.
3. Less than 5.9 ounces tail weight (e.g., 5.9 – 6.4 ounces).

Alternative 3. Prohibit imports into the Continental U.S. and Caribbean U.S. that are smaller than the existing Continental U.S. minimum size limit. No one in the Continental and Caribbean U.S. would be allowed to import a spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*):

1. Less than 3.0 inches (7.62 cm) carapace length if the animal is whole.
2. Less than 5.5 inches (13.97 cm) tail length if only the tail is present.
3. Less than 5 ounces if want a tail weight (e.g., **4.5** – 5.4 ounces).

Action 2. Other import regulations.

Alternative 1. No Action.

Alternative 2. Prohibit the importation/possession of tail meat, berried lobsters, and tails that have been stripped, clipped, etc. in all jurisdictions.

Other Decisions:

1. Format – the CFMC requested that we use the same format developed by the SAFMC and the Snapper Grouper IPT Teams. It was agreed to use the format of Snapper Grouper Amendment 16.
2. Tom Mathews will provide papers to support the section on Caribbean-wide stock status.
3. The SEFSC will assist in preparing the sections describing the Caribbean-wide stock status.
4. The SERO will take the lead on drafting wording for Action 1 and the CFMC staff will take the lead on drafting wording for Action 2.
5. The CFMC and SAFMC staffs will take the lead on drafting wording for the Councils' rationale and decisions.
6. Stock status of the U.S. (all areas) will come from the most recent SEDAR assessments.
7. SAFMC staff will provide scoping comments to CFMC staff by 2/11/08.
8. CFMC staff will distribute all scoping comments to all team members later on 2/11/08.