

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
September 2014
Charleston, SC

From Spiny Lobster Amendment 10

Preferred Alternative 4: Establish the ACT as the accountability measure for Caribbean spiny lobster (6.59 million pounds).

Preferred Alternative 4 would use the ACT of 6.59 mp as the AM. At their June joint meeting, the Councils changed their preferred alternative from 6.0 mp to a value that is 90% of the ACL or 6.59 mp. The ACL is 7.32 mp and is equal to the ABC, which is derived using the ABC control rule adopted by the Gulf Council. The Councils felt an ACT that is 10% lower than the ACL would provide an adequate buffer between the target level of harvest and the annual limit on harvest. An exceedence of the ACT would automatically trigger an AM whereby the Councils would convene a review panel to assess whether or not corrective action is needed to prevent the ACL from being exceeded. It is unlikely the ACL would be exceeded under the current ACL preferred alternative based on landings history; however, the updated framework procedure contained within this amendment would facilitate timely adjustments to the National Standard 1 harvest parameters and management measures if needed in the future. The ability to expeditiously implement modifications to the ACL, ACT, AMs, and management measures for Caribbean spiny lobster would limit any negative biological impact that could result from continued ACT or ACL overages.

If the ACT is exceeded the Councils will convene a review panel to determine if corrective action is necessary to prevent the ACL from being exceeded. Furthermore, if the catch exceeds the ACL more than once in the last four consecutive years, the entire system of ACLs and AMs would be re-evaluated as required by the National Standard 1 guidelines.

Spiny Lobster Amendment 10 is available at http://www.safmc.net/Library/FMP/SpinyLobster/Final_Spiny_Lobster_Amendment_10_July_11.pdf.