

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

GOLDEN CRAB ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

**Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriott
Dania Beach, Florida**

May 2, 2014

SUMMARY MINUTES

Golden Crab AP:

Robert Palma, Chair
Howard Rau, Jr.
David Nielsen
Randy Manchester

Brad Whipple, Vice Chair
Theresa Coppa
Glenn Ulrich
Nuno Almeida

Council Members:

David Cupka

Council Staff:

Dr. Brian Chevront

Observers/Participants

Bill Kelly
Gary Daprino

Tony Coppa

The Golden Crab Advisory Panel of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriot, Dania Beach, Florida, May 2, 2014, and was called to order at 1:00 o'clock p.m. by Dr. Brian Chevront.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Here we are with the Golden Crab Advisory Panel on May 2, 2014, in Fort Lauderdale. This is Brian Chevront and our chairman is Robert Palma. I think, Robert, what we need to do is have everybody introduce themselves and get the voice recognition. One thing I want to say is that when you speak if you go ahead and say your name. The last time the transcriber had difficulty sometimes figuring out who was speaking, and so they weren't able to attribute some of the things that were said to specific people. That may be good or bad, but it is what it is.

MR. PALMA: Robert Palma; Marathon, Florida.

MR. ULRICH: Glenn Ulrich; Charleston, South Carolina.

MR. NIELSEN: Dave Nielsen; Fort Lauderdale, Florida, retired golden crabber.

MR. WHIPPLE: Brad Whipple; Fort Lauderdale.

MR. RAU: Howard Rau; Fort Lauderdale.

MS. COPPA: Theresa Coppa; Jupiter.

MR. ALMEIDA: Nuno Almeida; West Palm Beach.

MR. MANCHESTER: Randy Manchester; Fort Lauderdale.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, Robert, what you need to do is make sure that everybody agreed to the agenda, and you might want to find out what other business things people want to talk about now before they move through the agenda.

MR. PALMA: Okay; does everybody approve of the agenda for today? All right, is there any other business?

AP MEMBER: I would like to know who the rest of the people are in the room here.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay; when that sheet is coming around that everybody signed off, if I can get everybody to on the back here go ahead and write your name and your affiliation on there. The other four people who are here in the room are here as observers. This is an open public meeting; but that does not necessarily give them the right to speak at this meeting. They can only be given the right to speak if the chairman decides that is appropriate for them to speak during this meeting. But if you would like to find out who they are; if you all would like to state your names and what your affiliation is that would be great.

MR. CUPKA: I'm David Cupka; I'm a council member from South Carolina and Chairman of the Golden Crab Council Committee.

MR. COPPA: Golden crab permit holder; Tony Coppa.

MR. DAPRINO: My name is Gary Daprino; I've been in the industry for around 15 years. I worked for different processors.

MR. KELLY: My name is Bill Kelly; I'm the Executive Director of Florida Keys Commercial Fisherman's Association based in Marathon, Florida.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Can we get back to the other business and see what other topics folks want to talk about?

MR. PALMA: Yes, okay, anything under other business?

MR. WHIPPLE: Maybe there is a need to clarify a regulation issue in the Southern Zone.

DR. CHEUVRONT: In the Southern Zone, okay.

MR. ALMEIDA: Also, on that note in the northern zone.

DR. CHEUVRONT: There are two other issues that I thought we might talk about that we talked about some in the past; one is you have requested that there be a stock assessment for golden crab. There has been discussion of that and I would like to talk to you about where that could go. We want to talk about the golden crab stock assessment. Then there will be one quick thing on term limits.

MR. RAU: What was the new business on the Northern Zone?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes, Nuno, you mentioned that right.

MR. ALMEIDA: Yes.

DR. CHEUVRONT: You were talking about where the closed area is.

MR. ALMEIDA: Boundaries, right.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; the boundary. Your Northern Zone shows a different one. I've got five different things under other business. Does anybody else have anything else they want to talk about? Okay, the next thing, Robert, we need to do is talk about the people approving the minutes, which you were all sent as an attachment; so I didn't even print out copies of it or anything. Theoretically you could have read it before you got here and you would make sure you all agree. I guess there are no modifications anybody wants for the minutes or anything like that?

MR. PALMA: Not that I know of.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I do have one extra copy of the agenda and another handout if you want to look at that. Item Number 3 on that agenda is Golden Crab Amendment 9; and your thinking where did this come from? It turns out that the council is looking at providing some consistency across how they implement different management measures across fisheries, because there has been some inconsistency.

One of the things that they are considering doing is changing the criteria by which the accountability measures would be implemented. Now, an accountability measure goes into place when the total annual catch limit or the quota is exceeded. The way it is now, if you look on this one page that has the Action 1 and then Alternative 1 and Alternative 2; under Alternative 1, the way it is now is that if the golden crab fishery was to reach its ACL or is projected to reach its ACL, then the National Marine Fisheries Service would shut down the fishery if there was time to do that before the fishing year ended.

If there is an overage of that ACL, then that would come off the quota from the next year, the ACL from the next year. Now, what the council is doing is saying, well, is this always a necessary thing to do, to reduce the ACL in the next season? Sometimes there may not be a biological reason to do that.

Now there are two conditions; and they are considering whether there is a biological reason or not. Golden crab is different than our other fisheries, because this one is a commercial-only fishery. In most of our other fisheries, the finfish things, primarily; what happens is that the ACL is divided up between the commercial sector and the recreational sector.

Those AMs were written so that if the commercial sector was to exceed its ACL, then it would have its ACL reduced in the next season by the amount it went over; but there might be a biological reason for not doing that. For example, if the recreational sector did not catch all of its ACL and you added those two things together to form the total ACL and the total ACL was not exceeded; so why make one sector pay back an overage when the total ACL was not exceeded, and there is no biological reason to do that?

Then the other issue that they are considering taking into account is whether or not the stock is overfished. Clearly, if a stock is overfished, it is being rebuilt and you can't exceed that ACL because you will harm the ability for that stock to rebuild. Well, golden crab is not in that situation. Golden crab is not overfished.

Generally the only way that is determined is through a stock assessment, whether overfishing is occurring or whether the stock is overfished. Right now golden crab does not have a designation of being overfished; and the total ACL is the same thing as that 2 million pounds ACL that you all work with now. If you look under Alternative 2, you will see there are some subalternatives, 2A, 2B, and 2C. 2A says you are only going to do paybacks if the stock is overfished. Well, right now we don't have a determination of this stock as being overfished.

An overage, if the council was to choose 2A as the way it wanted to go, is there would be no payback of an overage because the stock is not overfished. Right now if you go over, there is payback. This one is only if it is overfished. Subalternative 2B is only if the total ACL is exceeded. Well, that is irrelevant for golden crab.

And 2C for golden crab is functionally equivalent to 2A. Really, you're talking about are you supportive of the council changing the way accountability measures are put in place by saying that you only have paybacks if the stock is overfished? That is the main thing that we needed to officially discuss here; what is your preference on how you want the council to handle an overage should that happen in this fishery? Do you want paybacks; do you not want paybacks in the next season? That is it kind of in a nutshell.

MR. WHIPPLE: What is the determination of overfished?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Typically that is done through a stock assessment and there is no stock assessment that exists for golden crab. The SSC could come up conceivably with some other criteria to determine that golden crab were overfished; but I'm not sure what it would be at this point.

MR. WHIPPLE: If we want the rule to be changed to include that overfished criteria; is that going to provide a more compelling reason for a stock assessment?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Realistically?

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes.

DR. CHEUVRONT: No. To be perfectly honest with you right now; golden crab is so far down the list of stocks to be assessed that the council has such a backlog. You've got to realize most of our species simply have never been assessed. There is no indication that the council has that there are any problems in the golden crab fishery in terms of stock status.

There is nothing pushing them along right now to come up with a stock assessment. One of the things I'm going to talk to you about later when we get to that stock assessment thing under other business are some reasons why it is probably not in your best interest to be pushing for a stock assessment at this point.

If the council chooses Subalternative 2A or Subalternative 2C as their preferred for this action, it would apply to all the stocks. You can see at the very beginning, it says Action 1. It lists all the stocks and golden crab is on the very end. If the council chooses 2A or 2C, basically if for some reason it should go over; if it started happening a lot, the council will probably start getting concerned and say we need to do something about this.

We might need to start thinking about doing a stock assessment with what we can; but right now there is no indication of that. I just don't see that happening. What you guys can do is – I'm doing most of the talking; but it sounds like you probably would most prefer either Subalternative 2A or Subalternative 2C, meaning you do paybacks only if the stock is overfished. If that is your general consensus, I would like for you to get that to us.

I actually happen to be one of the lead authors on this management plan for the council. What we have to do is when the council makes a decision as to which way they choose to go; we have to say what all the different advisory groups, the SSC, the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel, this one, what you all had to say about these different actions.

That goes into the rationale behind what the council chose. It would really help me out if you would just give me some kind of indication as to what you would prefer the council to do in this case. Do you want to have it as it is now with payback for overages or only have paybacks if the stock is overfished?

MR. PALMA: I say overfished.

MR. WHIPPLE: I'm supportive of 2A. Nuno, were you going to ask a question?

MR. ALMEIDA: My question was if we as a group can decide – if it comes down to shutting us down, if we can decide whether it could be, let's say, September to August where the fishery starts in September; so that if they do shut us down, it is during the times where we can work things out as far as fishing, maybe the hotter months, rather than us getting shut down let's say when the fishing is a little thicker in the winter, Christmastime when the guys could use that.

MR. WHIPPLE: Right, instead of the season being a calendar year, just pick different dates.

MR. RAU: Fishing year; make it a fishing year.

MR. ALMEIDA: Yes; right.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, that is a whole other issue. If you guys want to consider changing the start of the fishing year, that is probably something you all could suggest as well. Right now it is on the calendar year, and I think that was done by default. If you think that – if you ever feel like you are going to reach that ACL at some point and there is a potential you could have that fishery shut down; and you would prefer it to be shut down say like Nuno said in the summertime, in July; then you should then suggest at some point to the council to put in an action to change the start of the fishing year to the month you really want to start fishing and make sure that you are able to fish and get those crabs. It could be based on either availability of crabs or value if it changes much over the year, however you want to do that; but you could make that as a recommendation at some point if you would like to.

MS. COPPA: I have a question for you, Brian. The wording, and it is underlined, says only if the species is overfished; why are we using the term overfished instead of ACL exceeded?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Because there are two different concepts. Overfished means it is a stock status determination.

MS. COPPA: Well, that is what I'm saying. We're not looking at that right now.

DR. CHEUVRONT: But we do in some of the other species that are included in this action, all these finfish things. A lot of them have been assessed in a stock assessment and have been determined to be overfished. Like you look at snowy grouper; that is a stock that is overfished. If the council chooses Subalternative 2A as their preferred, and that snowy grouper ACL is exceeded, then there will automatically be paybacks in that fishery.

MS. COPPA: Okay; we seem to be put in with grouper and things like that. Can't we be a separate entity because we are only a small number of permits, while these are all close to being overfished, grouper and snappers and all this stuff?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Each stock would be determined individually. If an individual stock is determined – if you look under Alternative 1; this is the regulation as it is in place now, which I show here just for golden crab. The document that you were all sent has all the species, everything listed. It takes several pages to get through that Alternative 1, because it has to list the accountability measures for each and every species that is in that list.

What this basically is doing is Alternative 2 is a shorthand way of amending all of those accountability measures for all of the species, including golden crab, to determine how we are going to change the management measures. It would be applied to each species individually, but to all of them together.

MR. ULRICH: Brian, since the amendment applies to a number of species; I think Subalternative 2C is probably the preferred one, because the impact on the golden crab fishery would be the same as 2A.

DR. CHEUVRONT: It would be; it would be exactly the same for golden crab. They are functionally equivalent for golden crab.

MR. ULRICH: That way it does cover the recreational ACLs as well for these other species that do have –

DR. CHEUVRONT: Would I be out of line by saying that the Golden Crab AP would support either Subalternative 2A or 2C? Do you think that is reasonable; is that what you all are saying?

MR. WHIPPLE: Sounds reasonable to me.

MS. COPPA: Could you repeat that please. I don't understand what you are saying.

DR. CHEUVRONT: That the Golden Crab AP, this group, would support the council's choice of Subalternative 2A, which would be only if the species is overfished; or 2C, which is the species is overfished and the total ACL is exceeded. Well, the total ACL in this fishery is the commercial ACL. They are functionally equivalent for golden crab, because there is no recreational fishery, 2A or 2C. Could we get something? Glenn, you kind of did – if you could maybe just make a motion or something.

MR. ULRICH: Yes; I move that the Golden Crab AP recommend either Subalternative 2A or 2C.

MR. WHIPPLE: I'll second that.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Is there any discussion on that anymore?

MR. PALMA: Nobody else has anything on that? **Nobody opposed the motion? Good.**

AP MEMBER: I do have a question, though. Who are they referring to as the Regional Administrator?

DR. CHEUVRONT: That is Roy Crabtree.

AP MEMBER: Okay; so he basically calls the shot if it exceeds?

DR. CHEUVRONT: No; there are people who monitor the landings.

AP MEMBER: Trip tickets, right?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes, through trip tickets and things like that.

AP MEMBER: It doesn't necessarily mean, hey, they reached 2 million and let's shut it down?

AP MEMBER: It has got to be backed up by trip tickets.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes, it is not somebody who is arbitrarily saying they've landed 2 million pounds, we've got to cut it off. They have to be able to back it up with numbers, and their numbers come from – because you all have logbooks.

AP MEMBER: We have logbooks, too.

MS. COPPA: Trip tickets are what they really use overall.

AP MEMBER: Trip tickets from dealers and not logbooks then.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; to be honest with you guys, sometimes the logbooks are a little slow coming in and you just have to turn them in to get your permits renewed, and so sometimes that is when those get caught up from the previous year. That is the reality of what it is. We're all being honest here, right.

AP MEMBER: And dealers get fined.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, it is what it is. I have nothing to do with logbooks directly.

MR. CUPKA: Essentially the dealer reporting is fixing to change, and they can be required to submit weekly reports electronically. If they don't, then they are not supposed to purchase any product until they do the reports. It is going to be a little different.

DR. CHEUVRONT: But that is really on the dealer and not so much on you guys.

DR. CUPKA: NMFS would still know what the landings are quicker than they have.

MR. WHIPPLE: Within the week.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Theoretically. That was the one piece of real official business we needed to talk about. Normally something just like this, I would have just done it by e-mail or

something like that instead of trying to bring you all here; but it is these other business issues that we really need to talk about.

MS. COPPA: Well, on this one do we vote?

DR. CHEUVRONT: You all did.

MS. COPPA: You motioned and seconded, but did we have a vote?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Then we asked if there was any opposition to the motion.

MS. COPPA: Well, I didn't get a chance to speak. I do oppose the overfished wording; where each of the time where it says and golden crabs are overfished, meaning stock assessment.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Is it that you are having trouble with the wording of using overfished?

MS. COPPA: Yes.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Overfished has a very, very specific meaning. That does not mean anything about the ACL directly. You have two concepts mixed up here.

MS. COPPA: Maybe, if you say so.

DR. CHEUVRONT: If you exceed the ACL; that is overfishing. This is overfished and that is a stock status determination.

MS. COPPA: But the wording here is a stock status assessment and we haven't even met or came close to our ACL yet.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right; so then this is basically moot. This does not apply to you until – first you have to exceed your ACL, which you haven't.

MR. PALMA: Then you need a stock assessment.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Then you need a stock assessment. If you are overfishing, you exceed your ACL; you get to that point – they are supposed to try to stop overfishing by stopping the season so you don't exceed the ACL.

MS. COPPA: The burden is on NMFS then to come back to us –

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes.

MS. COPPA: – and say that we're getting close to the ACL.

DR. CHEUVRONT: We project it is going to be met.

MS. COPPA: And we're going to close it down.

DR. CHEUVRONT: This year.

MS. COPPA: At a certain time.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right.

MS. COPPA: Then we shouldn't exceed it, so we don't have any paybacks.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right. Now, if they choose 2A or 2C, there won't be any paybacks, because there has been no stock assessment to determine that golden crabs are overfished. We have no determination of this stock as being overfished. Basically until there is a stock assessment or some other way of determining that golden crab is overfished – and that doesn't mean just exceeding your ACL in one year. It means it is a stock determination and not just an extraction.

MS. COPPA: If commercial landings exceed the ACL, the golden crabs are overfished; that's the way it's worded.

DR. CHEUVRONT: No, it is not worded that way. Where are you seeing that?

MS. COPPA: The sentence; if commercial landings exceed the ACL, golden crabs are overfished.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Where are you reading?

MR. PALMA: Right after that sentence where the EEZ is prohibited where it starts there.

MS. COPPA: Alternative 1.

DR. CHEUVRONT: That is Alternative 1; that is what is currently in place. That is what is going to be changed.

MS. COPPA: We're saying that is going to be changed?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes.

MR. PALMA: Yes, 2A or 2C.

MS. COPPA: It is going to be changed to the 2A or C?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Correct.

MS. COPPA: Okay; so what part is going to be changed, the entire thing?

DR. CHEUVRONT: No, they are going to change the part that says that if the ACL is exceeded, that you would have to have paybacks. What they said – the very last part – “at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year”. That would not occur if the council chooses 2A or 2C unless there was a stock status determination that the fishery is overfished.

MS. COPPA: On A and C, NMFS will notify us so we should never have any overfishing, over our ACL.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, theoretically they should, but it doesn't always happen that way.

MS. COPPA: They'll have the electronic trip tickets coming in and things like that.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I know, theoretically that is the way it is supposed to be, but there have been instances where fisheries have been allowed to exceed their ACL before it got stopped. This way what they are saying is, well, we are not going to force paybacks on people unless we know that stock is overfished.

MR. PALMA: Right.

MS. COPPA: We won't get any – what you are saying is they are not going to push for the paybacks

DR. CHEUVRONT: Correct.

MR. PALMA: Correct.

DR. CHEUVRONT: There will not be paybacks in the golden crab fishery if they choose 2A or 2C.

MR. PALMA: Under A or C.

MS. COPPA: Thank you for the clarification; I appreciate that.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Not a problem, but that is what you all voted on. Does anybody want to change their votes, because you can bring it back up now if you need to? We're ready to go to other business. I would like to handle the term limit issue first, because that is going to be quick and easy.

Everybody should have received a letter from Kim Iverson, everybody on the AP that told you about what term limits are for the advisory panels now. Again, this is a special one so I will explain something here about this. Basically, you can serve three consecutive three-year terms on this advisory panel; basically for nine years.

You would have to get off for a year and then you can get back on again. The idea behind this was in some of our advisory panels for the council there are a lot of people who would like to get on these advisory panels who have been waiting forever, because they keep getting reappointed over and over again. Well, I think, Randy, you're the only one, and you got the letter saying that your term is up. But there is a loophole in here, and I don't know if Kim talked to you specifically, but you should reapply.

MR. MANCHESTER: I did.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, great, because this AP basically has everybody who is interested in the fishery on this AP. Unless there are other people who apply to be on this AP, there is a loophole that Randy could get back on with no break unless there is somebody else who really wants to get on and the council determines they want to put that new person on there.

But if there is not, then Randy can bet back in. That was the thing I wanted to make sure, Randy, that you had reapplied. If you all get this letter in the future, because I'm not sure exactly what years everybody was appointed, you should go ahead and reapply, anyway, if you are interested in staying on it, because there is a good chance that there isn't going to be anybody else applying for it.

I'm just letting you know. I'm sure you got the form letter that went out to everybody who is on all the advisory panels. Once again, golden crab is a little bit different than all the rest of the fisheries that we manage. That is all I had to say. I'm glad to hear that you reapplied, because I was going to tell you that. Okay, so that one is done.

Nuno, do have them all? Do you have things written down, regulations in the southern zone, the northern zone closed areas, Nuno's issue; the golden crab stock assessment and the northern zone, fishing from the north. Is there any order you want to handle this in? If you want me to, I will talk about the stock assessment real quickly.

MR. PALMA: Okay, let's start with that one.

MR. ULRICH: Change in fishing year; would that be new business?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; we could probably add that one and see if you guys want to include that as an action. Golden crab stock assessment; the last couple of times we've talked about this, and you were saying, well, you think – you know, you've got a two million pound ACL quota and you were saying, well, we can catch more than that so we want to be able to get more crabs than that.

One of the ways to do that is through a stock assessment that determines that the stock is healthy enough to increase the ACL. The issue is that right now we don't have much data on this fishery, not much recent data. We don't know a lot about exactly where the crabs are harvesting, where they come from, from the larvae. We don't know what the full extent of the range of these crabs is right now.

These are all kinds of things that would be really, really helpful at expanding the knowledge of this fishery, because I think probably everybody in this room agrees that you are only fishing on part of the area where these crabs occur. The problem is that if they were to do a stock assessment now, it would be based on what you guys are landing. That would be assumed to be where the crabs are.

You are going to shrink the size of the area of where these crabs occur; not such a good idea to do a stock assessment. Now if they are going to say that you don't have any paybacks if you exceed your ACL; and if they go out and do a stock assessment now, you run the risk that they could come back and tell you that it is overfished based on the area where you are fishing right now. If you do that, they will reduce the ACL. You run that risk.

My suggestion is that you make some kind of a recommendation about data collection at this point, because we don't have a good data collection program for golden crab. This would be what we call independent data. This is separate from what you guys catch. That is dependent, okay.

You are going out specifically trying to get those crab; those are dependent data. Independent data is data that they go out and they try to capture everything they can about where the crabs are. It is not very efficient fishing. A lot of times people get upset when they hear about this independent data collection that the National Marine Fisheries Service does.

Well, if you want to know where the fish are, I'll take you to where the fish are; but the problem is you have to collect these data over time in the same place to check for changes. Then you need to figure out what the extent of the range is of where these crabs are. I think, Glenn, you did some stuff and they were off of South Carolina when you were doing it.

MR. ULRICH: Oh, yes, quite a bit; and also well out onto the Blake Plateau in 5 and 600 fathoms; and a lot of females in that zone.

DR. CHEUVRONT: But we really don't know for sure how far north they go. We do know they occur in the Gulf of Mexico. I know Rob Erdman has done some research years ago.

MR. ULRICH: We did limited sampling off of North Carolina and did not pick up any off of North Carolina.

DR. CHEUVRONT: How long ago was that?

MR. ULRICH: That was back in I guess the mid-eighties. From about due east of Charleston on down, we've surveyed down to probably about due east of Brunswick and good numbers of crabs in that zone.

DR. CHEUVRONT: We're talking 30 years. What we need to do – Glenn's data is 30 years old now – we need to get updated data and find out have they expanded. Have water temperatures and other things caused these things to move, if that affects them at all. To what extent are they in the Gulf of Mexico; is it all one stock?

We don't even know these basic facts about golden crab. They could maybe try to do a stock assessment and if they realize that they don't have the data to do it, they would stop it. However, if they can make those models run with the data they have, they will do it and that is the bottom line, because that is the best available data. You have heard that talked about in the Magnuson-Act; and that is kind of the loophole.

MR. ULRICH: And that is highly dangerous.

DR. CHEUVRONT: It is highly dangerous, because it may be the best available, but is it good enough? That is it good enough part is not part of the Act. It is the best available, but maybe not good enough; but as long as they can do it, they may be forced into doing it. I would recommend you talk about data collection.

AP MEMBER: Didn't they do a stock assessment a long, long time ago?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I don't know of anything that was done. It might have been done like a catch curve or something?

AP MEMBER: A couple of them done.

MR. CUPKA: Right, they didn't give them very decent (talking over each other).

MR. ULRICH: A little bit of modeling based on the areas that had been fished to date, but it certainly didn't take in even any of the areas where the fishery is presently operating; but we did come up with sort of a quick-and-dirty assessment of the standing stock basically for that area.

MR. CUPKA: For that area, which was very limited.

MR. MANCHESTER: I remember Roy Crabtree saying it was like 10 million, 12 million pounds was closer to the real stock assessment.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, we don't know; that is the problem.

MR. MANCHESTER: I mean that's way up there.

MR. RAU: There was one stock assessment for like 350,000 pounds. We don't want that one.

MR. WHIPPLE: What is current; what is considered current data? I have studies from University of Florida and University of Georgia in the Gulf from the eighties with the estimated biomass between 10 and 15 million pounds over there.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; and that could inform a stock assessment, but they would be much more reliant on much more recent data.

MR. WHIPPLE: Okay, what is recent, five years, seven?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, that is the problem, that is just dependent data. If they are forced to use that, then they would. What you need is somebody getting out there collecting independent data, a lot like what Glenn was doing but for the whole range and trying to figure out where is this whole range, where do these crabs come from, and life history sorts of things, and things that maybe we don't know much about.

MR. WHIPPLE: Right. What I'm asking is what do you think the council considers?

DR. CHEUVRONT: If it happened in the last five years.

MR. WHIPPLE: Five years, okay.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, the council is not the ones that do it. They are going to get stock assessment folks who are going to do it. But, yes, I would think that getting data studies would

have to be at least within the last five years, but even independent data up to the most recent fishing year. What they need to do is not just a one-time thing.

They need to have an ongoing data collection program for golden crab; because just a one-time, one-shot data collection is not going to be enough to give you an adequate understanding of the dynamics of this fishery. Are some years better than others or are they pretty much constant in terms of recruitment into this fishery from one year to the next? We don't even know some of those things now.

MR. RAU: Where would this independent data come from? We don't have much area within the HAPC. I mean, everybody is there with their gear. Would this be out of the allowable golden crab zones?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I don't know. Well, there are lots of ways this could be done. There are research programs where people outside of the National Marine Fisheries Service; like cooperative research, the fishermen work with scientists to help collect the data that they need. Right now what needs to happen; we need to get this on the radar screen of management and the scientists.

AP MEMBER: What about maybe getting one of them guys that work for the research departments to do alternate trips on different boats.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, there are things, for example, like cooperative research. You have your fishing trips that you go out and you go out and fish how you are going to do it. Now it could be a cooperative –

MR. ALMEIDA: Brad, he would have the soak time, what kind of bait, the type of trap; because all that plays a different effect as opposed to different bait. You use shark, it is different than using racks. Your catch is different.

DR. WHIPPLE: Yes, granted.

MR. ALMEIDA: If they could take and say, okay, this guy soaked for this long and this guy used that bait; I think obviously there will be confidentiality if you guys don't want to know what each other's numbers are and what they're doing. But they will have depths; they will have everything within their data.

MR. WHIPPLE: Right. Well, we would want to be able to help inform the data collection process, but the data that comes off of our vessels is still going to be fishery dependent and you are just coming right back to the trip tickets.

DR. CHEUVRONT: You are absolutely right, Brad, unless the research protocol has you going and fishing in some other place and that could be part of the research.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's fine.

MR. ULRICH: Also collecting some environmental data such as bottom temperature with sensors on traps and such as that so you would know what you're dealing with.

AP MEMBER: I would like that.

MR. WHIPPLE: What does this data collection process, the request, what does it do procedurally to the timeline of a stock assessment? Why are we being encouraged to request this?

DR. CHEUVRONT: The reason why you are being encouraged to request this is that if in the future they are going to do a stock assessment; you have got to have a number of years of data behind you before they can even start it. My guess, even if they started to act on this now, on the request to start doing data collection; there would be a couple of years before data even start being collected. They will have to find a funding mechanism to make this happen. It could happen through cooperative research, whatever. Then you are going to probably need at least five years of data.

MR. WHIPPLE: It can procedurally delay a stock assessment?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; and then a stock can routinely take a year and a half to get through all the entire steps of done and review. If you are looking to increase your ACL eventually, probably the only way it is going to happen is through a stock assessment. You better be pretty sure those crabs are out there.

MR. PALMA: We're trying to build a stock assessment process to be in favor of having the right data in the past to forward that the right way.

MR. RAU: To have a plan, I guess.

DR. CHEUVRONT: To have a plan so it could be done.

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes, right, I understand, I get that. That is why my question was if there is a current data collection process, then the stock assessment is going to wait for that process to play out; that is my question.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Actually one of the things that if the council knows that data are starting to be collected in a fishery, they know we need to wait until there is sufficient amount of data to do this. They would put this even further on the back burner. The only thing that I could see is if something happened to cause the council to think that there is a problem in the fishery; like if suddenly you guys stopped catching crab. Then something has happened to the fishery, there is a crash or collapse, something is going on here; and that may encourage them to do something else sooner. But what that would be, I don't know.

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, in that case I would like to move that the AP recommend independent data collection for the golden crab.

MR. PALMA: Does anybody second?

MR. ULRICH: I wanted to address it. I think if we're trying to get the best shot of learning more about these crabs and their distribution and overall abundance throughout their range; we ought to push more toward the cooperative research aspect. A totally fishery-independent survey

using like National Marine Fisheries Service vessels is extremely expensive. It would be basically starting from square one in terms of learning how to fish for them and how to effectively sample them.

MR. CUPKA: Yes; and if I may; fisheries-independent research right now, the money for fisheries-independent research is going this way and it is going to be extremely difficult to find support for starting a whole new fisheries independent.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Cooperative research really is the way to go.

MR. ULRICH: I agree with Brad; and I would second his motion with that caveat that maybe.

MR. WHIPPLE: If you need to change the language; that is fine.

DR. CHEUVRONT: We could amend the motion. How about this because I'm recording it down here: **AP recommends independent data collection program for golden crab, preferably cooperative research.** That is good with both the motion maker and the seconder, Glenn?

MR. ULRICH: Agreed.

MR. PALMA: All in favor; five.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Is anybody opposed? **With one opposition; the motion carried.** Now you've got the –

MR. PALMA: Northern boundary.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, you've got Southern Zone regulations, which was apparently there is some fishing or something that is going on down there that there are questions or concerns. I'm going to let you all handle that, because that is your deal and not really mine.

MR. PALMA: How do you want to start?

MR. WHIPPLE: I happen to have a copy of the CFR that printed April 23rd, eight days ago. I don't know how you explain it, but it is Rule 622.241, Number 3; small vessel subzone. Well, the first sentence just describes the boundaries, lat/long boundaries. Then there is a second sentence that says no vessel with a documented length overall greater than 65 feet may fish for golden crab in this subzone; and, a vessel with a documented length overall of 65 feet or less that is permitted for the Southern Zone may fish for golden crab only in this subzone.

That is the way I read the regulations. The way I understand that, practically speaking, if you are shorter than 65 feet, you are restricted to inside the box. If you're over 65 feet, you are compelled to stay outside of the box.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right, with a southern zone permit.

MR. WHIPPLE: With a southern zone permit, right.

MR. PALMA: Is it allowable that anyone with a southern permit to fish anywhere in the southern zone and keep out the big boats from the southern subzone or is it only two separate permits then?

DR. CHEUVRONT: It is one permit, but it is basically –

MR. RAU: The size of the vessel, I believe. If you are 65 and over, you have to stay out of the subzone. If you are 65 or under, you have to stay within the subzone, you can't go outside.

MS. COPPA: I'm looking at last meeting's minutes; and I believe Mr. Whipple made a motion at that time that the four agenda items, and one of them being the length of a vessel, that we could keep on Amendment 9. We tabled all them, and we just approved the minutes on it; that discussion of length of vessel and stuff. We pretty much did that and took care of it.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I don't understand what you mean?

MR. PALMA: It still sits that there is a subzone out there.

MR. RAU: This is different, I believe.

MR. PALMA: It stayed the same. We tabled it; what we wanted to do was to get rid of all that.

AP MEMBER: The rocks, right?

MR. PALMA: Everything stayed the same.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Everything stayed the same.

MS. COPPA: Everything stayed the same being that the subzones stayed in place and everything stayed in place.

MR. PALMA: Correct. My question still stands is anyone with a golden crab southern zone can fish anywhere in the southern zone; and if that subzone is only for 65 footers, meaning anybody over 65 foot has to stay outside of it; but if the 65 footer could fish anywhere, inside or out.

MR. WHIPPLE: No, it says only.

MS. COPPA: It was the subzone and EEZ that you had to stay out of if you were a certain size; isn't it?

MR. ALMEIDA: I'm just curious; what was the purpose of that?

DR. CHEUVRONT: It does say golden crab only in that zone.

MR. RAU: It was all about Tim Daniels was the one, but they didn't realize when it came down – he was trying to keep the big boats, because there was a lot of mess going on down there.

MR. ALMEIDA: They were trying to keep the big boats out then.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right; outside of the small box.

MR. RAU: But he didn't realize that it also kept him within the box; that he couldn't go outside the box. He was furious.

MR. CUPKA: Wasn't there some gear conflicts?

MR. RAU: It was horrible; talk about gear conflicts.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I think that was the reason why that box was set up was for those gear conflicts.

MR. RAU: That's correct. These were little guys; these were the lobster guys with smaller boats.

MR. CUPKA: Is there a need to maintain that subzone?

MR. RAU: It's kind of a two-edged sword, because it is some protection from a big boat. You get rid of it; now you've got a big boat coming in there.

DR. CHEUVRONT: How many small boats are fishing in that subzone now?

MR. PALMA: One.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Is that yours?

MR. PALMA: Mine.

MR. WHIPPLE: How many are outside of it; one.

DR. CHEUVRONT: There is one vessel over 65 feet fishing outside of that.

MR. WHIPPLE: There is.

MR. PALMA: Your boat doesn't go outside of that box?

DR. CHEUVRONT: It is not supposed to.

MR. PALMA: No; it is not supposed to.

MR. RAU: But really it's been a moot thing; there really hasn't been any –

MR. PALMA: Yes; this in and out of the box thing has never been an issue.

MR. RAU: There were boats before that; there were other 65s fishing outside that for a while.

MR. PALMA: This is another issue with the permitting that got us confused. My permit reads that I am allowed up to a 94-foot boat, but yet I can't go inside the box with anything over 65 foot. That is why we were under the impression that the way it read is that anyone with any permit can fish anywhere; except only if you are a big boat, you are not allowed to go inside that box, to protect the smaller boats. Our permits are issued for maximum of 94 feet, so I am allowed to be outside the box.

MR. WHIPPLE: It is documented length of the vessel. The permit is different. You can get a bigger boat and put that permit on it and go out there; but the way that read it is documented vessel length regardless of what the permit says.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, in Golden Crab Amendment 6 there was an action to remove the small vessel subzone in the southern zone, correct?

MR. WHIPPLE: Correct.

DR. CHEUVRONT: This is what Theresa was talking about.

MS. COPPA: What I'm trying to get to –

DR. CHEUVRONT: But the whole amendment was tabled, so that action never went forward. Are you guys saying you want to try to resurrect that action in some other form?

MS. COPPA: No.

MR. RAU: No.

DR. CHEUVRONT: No, you don't want to do that, okay.

MR. PALMA: My question is to clarify the 65 foot over in the box outside the box. Permits are issued for 94 foot; but yet the boat is 65, can you fish outside or inside. That is that gray area.

MR. WHIPPLE: It's not gray; it is right there.

MS. COPPA: That is just clarification of the current law or regulation. That is just a clarification you are asking for of the current regulation, which is really nothing we need.

DR. CHEUVRONT: It sounds like just from reading the CFR that Brad brought; you either can fish inside the subzone or outside the subzone, one or the other.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's it, one or other.

MS. COPPA: If you are larger than 65 foot.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right; and the criteria of whether you are inside or outside is the size of the vessel.

MR. WHIPPLE: Correct.

DR. CHEUVRONT: No matter whether you are 65 over or under, you have to have a Southern Zone permit. There is just an extra qualification in that Southern Zone; but that is pretty clear that if you are 65 or under, you are in the box, the little box.

MR. RAU: While we're on this big boat; is there any way we can keep this guy out of here?

AP MEMBER: How big is the boat?

MR. RAU: It is a hundred footer.

AP MEMBER: Where does he fish out of, Stock Island?

MR. RAU: Yes.

DR. CHEUVRONT: He's fishing the southern zone?

MR. RAU: Right. You've guys got to remember this is starting. I've been offered two for the Middle Zone and the Northern Zone permits by people from up in New England. They want to get into this now because of the price from overseas. We kind of need to keep close, all of us, and find out what is going on. I don't know if anybody else has been approached with permit sales or anything else. I don't like it; I just don't like it. I know the ACL; what if he whacks them? It becomes a factory.

MR. ALMEIDA: Right; and what happens when it gets flooded in the worse time of the year you have no choice but to dump them –

MR. RAU: Exactly, you are gone; and I can't fish when the crabs are there because we're shut down; we fish six months and that's it; we're done.

MR. ALMEIDA: This guy has the potential capacity of holding 30, 40,000 pounds.

MR. RAU: He goes someplace else; he goes back up and does the red crab.

MR. ALMEIDA: Right; holds 30, 40,000 pounds lands them at the dock and they are sold for fifty cents a pound.

MS. COPPA: We did have a discussion previous at one of our meetings, and I don't know whether it was during closed session or not, but we talked about setting a certain limit. I think we discussed the size of your boat, with the potential of whatever boat we were talking about at that time. We were kind of setting like an overall regulation of, you know what, let's just set a length and we would all be in agreement.

MR. WHIPPLE: A trip limit.

MS. COPPA: Trip limits are tough.

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, I mean you call it in, you call it out.

MS. COPPA: I could catch maybe 100 pounds more than your hold or something, and then all of a sudden I'm down for four weeks; so really the trip limit becomes a problem. I've seen that before. I'm just saying just an overall length.

MR. RAU: You could like be able to do that for here, but I don't know about the northern zone. You're way offshore up there; you are going to need a pretty good sized vessel up there.

MS. COPPA: What we're finding is even in the range that we were talking in the low 70s or 60 foot, I think we discussed 65 to 70 or something like in that range; that it was really acceptable to us. What was your largest boat? Maybe you were the one with the largest boat at the time, Nuno.

MR. ALMEIDA: They are both right at like 70.

MS. COPPA: I think it was right about that we were going to set it.

MR. WHIPPLE: What is the purpose of doing that?

MS. COPPA: Basically, the carrying capacity for traps and setting them on top of each other and things like that; you know, we have to take into consideration everything.

MR. ALMEIDA: Flooding the market.

MS. COPPA: Flooding the market.

AP MEMBER: I think we've got this built up to where it is a nice little fishery. We do not need to come in with these mother loads like this.

MR. WHIPPLE: What mother load; what are you guys talking about?

MR. ALMEIDA: Well, I'm just saying these vessels have potential. You know, your Dad did this up north.

MR. WHIPPLE: First of all, the crabs have to be landed live. You can't process them at sea. I don't know if anyone was paying attention to what Brian was saying earlier with a stock assessment being based on documented landings; but we landed in this fishery 700-something thousand pounds last year.

If you guys look at Atlantic Swordfish, all the west coast groundfish, New England red crab; they are all losing all their ACL and all of the reductions are being based on eight to ten years averages of documented landings. You guys better hope, hope that boat lands a million pounds for the next few years or there is not going to be anything to even argue about.

MR. RAU: He's got a point; that is something that scares you.

MR. ULRICH: It also happened in wreckfish.

MR. RAU: Yes, exactly; that is where I was going with the wreckfish. Look what happened to the wreckfish.

MR. MANCHESTER: Did they actually do that, Brad?

MR. WHIPPLE: Did who actually do what?

MR. MANCHESTER: They shut those fisheries way down?

MR. WHIPPLE: The New England red crab lost 33 percent of its ACL in one meeting, one meeting. They got determined to be a data-poor fishery. They had no reliable science. They decided to set the ABC equal to eight years' average of documented landings. The ACL had been nine million pounds; they had never caught more than six. They cut the ABC to six million and set the ACL equal to the ABC; done, one meeting.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Wreckfish went from two million pounds to 200,000 pounds.

MR. WHIPPLE: Why do you think he's getting calls from those guys up there; there is nothing left to go catch.

MR. RAU: Listen to this example; look at the wreckfish, two million pounds and what was it cut to, 300?

DR. CHEUVRONT: 200,000 pounds based on landings.

MR. WHIPPLE: Our initial ACL was going to be, what; 350,000? The council has already told us that this two million is a gift as far as they are concerned.

MR. RAU: Yes, 350,000, that is correct.

MR. WHIPPLE: It is a gift. We better catch it or we're going to lose it; I'm telling you.

MR. RAU: So you've got to report.

DR. CHEUVRONT: You've got to report.

MR. PALMA: You've got to put it in the trip ticket and you've got to send the money to the IRS at the end of the month.

MR. WHIPPLE: I want to find out – I mean, don't you guys want to find out what is really going to happen to the market? Say two million pounds a year does go into the market; don't you guys want to know what the real price of this crab is going to be. What is going to happen; are we going to go up, are we going to go down? What is the reality of the market for this product? Let's figure out what kind of money we can really make in this fishery or not before everyone goes buying new boats and more traps or whatever.

MR. ALMEIDA: We're going week by week here and up until today there has always been more demand than supply. I don't know; it just kind of like scared me when you say, okay,

you've got a hundred footer out there that could potentially land a big load where these guys don't have that market like that.

MR. WHIPPLE: What guys?

MR. ALMEIDA: Buyers.

MR. WHIPPLE: I've got the market; don't worry about that. Don't you want to find that out anyway; wouldn't you like to find that out?

MR. ULRICH: Scarcity doesn't always translate into high prices. People move on to the next thing.

MS. COPPA: I've got a question, Mr. Chairman.

DR. CHEUVRONT: We need only one person talking at a time, please.

MS. COPPA: I have a question for you, Brad. The new buyers or the new dealers, the purchasers, the wholesalers in town; are they putting any set limits or anything on any of the sizes or anything else for pricing or are they going like we want something three pounds? Do they want any consistency in their product or they just want anything and everything they can get?

We can ruin our own industry by not adhering to certain – I mean, you can catch two million pounds; but if you start messing with the juveniles and things like that, you are not going to be in the industry, which happened in the red crab, which is cause for them to shut it down. You've got the dealer now.

MR. WHIPPLE: Are you asking me if I'm following the rules? Yes; I'm following the rules.

MS. COPPA: No, what are the rules? I guess what I'm saying is –

MR. WHIPPLE: The rules are 1.5 and up as far as I am concerned.

AP MEMBER: The rules are four inch escape vents in the traps.

MS. COPPA: You're catching 1.5?

AP MEMBER: No taking of females. That is why we put all this in place many, many years ago.

MS. COPPA: Basically, it is no females and you have a one or two price range for this?

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes; like we've always had. There are number ones and number two. That is what I call them; I don't know what you guys call them.

MS. COPPA: And number ones are what, because I'm new at this; my husband and I are.

MR. WHIPPLE: Number ones are 1.8 pounds and up.

MS. COPPA: And then number two?

MR. WHIPPLE: No; he's right, number twos are crab with a missing claw or missing digits.

MS. COPPA: Still 1.8 and up?

MR. PALMA: Yes.

MS. COPPA: My question was to Brad.

MR. WHIPPLE: That is right.

MS. COPPA: What was right?

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, it is not the dealer. It is the regulations of the fishery.

MS. COPPA: Okay, so we have regulations for 1.8?

MR. WHIPPLE: 1.5.

MS. COPPA: 1.5; I'm sorry I wrote 1.8.

MR. RAU: I think it is a bigger crab, right, then what could fit through the escape hatch, right, 1.5?

MR. PALMA: One pound will go into the hole.

MS. COPPA: A number two gets paid the same amount as a number one, except it is missing a claw or something; then it is a number two, so 1.5 for number two?

MR. WHIPPLE: Number twos are worth less money; that is why they are called number twos.

MS. COPPA: I'm not getting clear here. Okay, number one, is what size, 1.8 or 1.5?

MR. WHIPPLE: It is 1.8 and up.

MS. COPPA: And up; so number twos is what weight; any weight at all?

MR. WHIPPLE: It can be a five-pound crab; if it has a claw missing, it is a number two.

MS. COPPA: Okay, any weight, so a number two would be the larger crabs.

MR. WHIPPLE: It could be.

MR. ULRUCH: It could go as low as 1.5.

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes, 1.5.

MR. PALMA: Yes, 1.5 is the size of your hand.

AP MEMBER: You shouldn't take anything smaller than that. You are just cutting off your own head; it is absolutely foolish.

AP MEMBER: But don't the escape gaps solve that problem?

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes, three by four gaps. I don't think anyone here is taking any small crab.

MR. PALMA: I don't want them.

MR. WHIPPLE: They are not worth it. I'm sure we're all throwing away crabs that we probably could sell, in fact.

AP MEMBER: If you want them for the future, you better throw them back. That is the whole thing here why we started this fishery with regulations is so that it would be a viable industry for many, many years to come.

DR. CHEUVRONT: That is a really important point; a lot of fisheries didn't start with regulations and this one did.

AP MEMBER: It sure did.

MS. COPPA: We should take a look at it every once in a while as to whether we need to increase or decrease or whatever in the fishing industry, depending on the catch and stuff and the wholesalers. We can always go up and you can get a better price because of the demand. Like somebody here at the table said a little while ago that when the demand is up and we don't have enough product, we get the better price. We can kind of control the market, which Brad has brought up many times before, with just quality of a product.

DR. CHEUVRONT: At this point it is a good time to interject this. I was contacted last week from two folks who were interested in buying golden crab. One is a guy I think is in the Palm Beach area and another one is in Maine. If you all are interested, I can give you some contact information and all that stuff for these guys. It is unusual for me to be contacted by somebody, but I got one each for two days this past week. If you are interested, I will be glad to pass on that information to you.

AP MEMBER: Are they Chinese, by any chance?

DR. CHEUVRONT: No. I just didn't want to put the name and the phone number on the record; but if you should talk to me after the meeting I will be glad to pass on that information to you.

MR. PALMA: All right, where are we at? Do you want to talk about –

MR. RAU: Yes this is something – I don't know whether it means anything; it is something that is a concern of mine. It could possibly happen. There isn't an FMP for red crab up to the north.

The only reason I say this is because there has been a lot of interest in golden crab from the boats up north.

I have some worries that possibly a red crab vessel could come down from the north and fish south of the Virginia/North Carolina line. Instead of landing red crab, I don't know the technicalities of it; but he could be landing golden crab in that area. I don't know how to go about this or how to look into it.

MR. PALMA: I think that the northern boundaries should be back to the original state to where originally it was.

MR. RAU: Well, the FMP for the red crab goes to Cape Hatteras.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Cape Hatteras.

MR. PALMA: So they come down.

MR. RAU: I do know of one trip that was made.

AP MEMBER: What kind of depth do you know that they fish for red crab over there?

MR. RAU: Three thousand.

AP MEMBER: So it could be that, you know –

MR. RAU: Well, I mean fishing mentality would say maybe we should try in 2,000 for red crab. Maybe they are in shallower; I don't know. I don't know if this is a concern or not; but it is something.

AP MEMBER: Do you think they might be going in there and catching golden crab in there?

MR. RAU: No, I don't think – it probably isn't happening, but it may happen. It is something that we need to be aware of in case some day some of us want to go up there and start fishing.

MS. COPPA: Well, who governs that area?

MR. RAU: Well, the South Atlantic has jurisdiction over it.

MR. CUPKA: Yes; but when New England put together the FMP for red crab, they should have included the Mid-Atlantic and the South Atlantic. It should have been a joint plan, and they never included us.

AP MEMBER: That is correct; I remember that.

MR. CUPKA: In fact, we wrote a letter to them and they pretty much ignored it; and so we don't have any say in what goes on in that fishery.

MR. RAU: They could theoretically come down there and fish that, is that right, and take over? Say you were fishing for red crab, but you could take –

MR. CUPKA: Well, they could come around and fish for red crab. I don't know how you would check to see if they were catching anything else. You would have to do some observation.

MR. RAU: Yes; and then they would go back to Virginia.

AP MEMBER: I've got a question. What if we went deeper and we caught red crab; we wouldn't be able to land them?

MR. RAU: Actually, it is illegal, I would imagine.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Why is it illegal?

MR. CUPKA: You would probably have to have a permit.

MR. PALMA: There is no permit.

MR. RAU: It doesn't matter; everything is illegal until you have a plan.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I don't know.

MR. WHIPPLE: Why would it be illegal?

DR. CHEUVRONT: If their plan only goes through Hatteras and they don't have a permit you say, right?

MR. RAU: Right.

MR. WHIPPLE: We could do the same thing going that way, Howard. It's a free for all.

MR. WHIPPLE: We take our golden crab permits up there.

MS. COPPA: I don't know what you're saying here. Let me clarify; can somebody clarify this for me? Our permits used to go up to the Virginia/North Carolina line. Our southern permit used to cover that zone, that you would have to have a golden crab permit to fish that – excuse me –

AP MEMBER: Yes, in the northern area –

MS. COPPA: So if our permit is the legal permit for that area – who is the chairman?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Guys, guys, only one talk at a time.

MS. COPPA: What I understood you to say is who is to keep them from fishing a golden crab permit south of that line?

MR. RAU: They wouldn't have a permit.

MS. COPPA: They wouldn't have a permit, but what I'm saying is our permits for the northern zone used to be to the North Carolina/Virginia line. If they were fishing in that zone, they would need a South Atlantic Fisheries Council permit, a permit from us.

DR. CHEUVRONT: They would need –

MR. PALMA: For golden crab.

MS. COPPA: For golden crab.

DR. CHEUVRONT: For golden crab, not red crab.

MS. COPPA: The question he had was what is to keep these red crab permits fishing off of Hatteras from taking the golden crabs.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Legally they are not supposed to.

MS. COPPA: Legally they are not supposed to if they didn't have one of our northern permit.

DR. CHEUVRONT: But who is going to catch them?

MR. RAU: But what if they bycatch for red crab; I don't know.

AP MEMBER: It is just like us going down range –

MS. COPPA: I guess what I'm saying is we are the governing body then for that area, because our permits are the ones that cover that area.

MR. RAU: That is correct; you are right, but all I'm saying is –

MS. COPPA: Our hands are tied right now because it is considered a closed area, that anybody fishing in that area would be fishing totally illegally for golden crab. Have I got this wrong?

MR. PALMA: No, you're right.

AP MEMBER: We have these boundaries at that 29 line because of coral.

MS. COPPA: Well, we were hoping to discuss that today as to maybe that should be our next thing.

AP MEMBER: But you are exactly right, Terry, what is keeping them from coming and tearing up that coral?

MS. COPPA: We don't know because we are not in cooperation with the north right now. Has this been going on for years?

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, the HAPC is the HAPC. Regardless of who you are or where you are coming from; the HAPC is still the HAPC.

MR. RAU: Nobody can go in there.

MR. WHIPPLE: My question would be if there are some golden crabs coming across the dock in Virginia; are they documented landings; are they counted against our ACL?

MS. COPPA: I could make some phone calls or you probably would know.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, if they are coming across the dock, they are not being counted against your ACL that I am aware of, because those would be counted up in the northeast.

MR. WHIPPLE: As bycatch or something?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes. They might include them if they did a stock assessment, but I don't know that they are counted against your quota at this point and if they are either coming across or if they are not.

AP MEMBER: Do they process them at sea; do you know?

MR. WHIPPLE: Red crab, no.

MR. PALMA: Red crab live?

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes.

MR. PALMA: On ice?

MR. WHIPPLE: No, tanks.

MR. ULRICH: I think those HAPCs I think have been many cases drawn a little bit too broadly, because I know there are areas that we surveyed during the golden crab work back in the mid-eighties that we never encountered coral. That coral has a particular signature on a bottom machine; and you can tell how the gear is hanging up and all that if you happen to be in coral.

We were not fishing in coral. In fact, we did do some sets adjacent to those coral areas and catches were much lighter than they were in the smoother bottom. I think it is kind of a shame that the area where the fishery really first started there is no fishing allowed because of the way these things are drawn..

MS. COPPA: Are we going to make a motion or anything with our discussions here to reopen or at least amend the permit back to the original status and that we request from the Coral Committee or whoever is in charge of the coral to map out the areas so that we can call them closed areas; that they will work as habitats for our fish or it will end up being nurseries for the golden crabs maybe. If this is the deep-water coral – well, I don't know.

DR. CHEUVRONT: But as it is now, you could with your northern zone permit fish all the way up to the Virginia line in any area that is not closed. There is nothing to stop you from going around those closed coral areas.

AP MEMBER: Apparently I guess that closed area – I think maybe you remember this – it goes way out deep, right, on the 29 line. You would have to go –

MR. RAU: It goes way up, too. That is where Glenn was fishing a lot, good areas there. It took it all away.

AP MEMBER: Exactly, so it's like –

MR. ULRICH: There wasn't coral in those areas.

MR. RAU: No, there are a lot of places that –

MR. ULRICH: It is a fairly narrow band that we fished where the catch rates were very good; but there was no coral within that zone. What they call the Carolina Sea Channel, where it drops off from about starting at about 900 feet, Jonah crabs; and then as you got deeper, more and more golden; and then good catches in about 1,500 feet of water in that Carolina Sea Channel; and it was mud bottom pretty much.

AP MEMBER: You said it was off of North Carolina?

MR. ULRICH: Off of Charleston, yes. We did some limited sampling off of North Carolina and did not pick up any crabs; so I wouldn't hold out too much – not to say that they are not there, but we didn't find them.

MS. COPPA: For clarification, we really don't need to open back up our permits, because our permits are still good to there; and we just need to avoid the closed areas for the coral.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes.

MS. COPPA: The most updated charts and things for them are?

DR. CHEUVRONT: They are available from our office and National Marine Fisheries Service; and you can see them online.

AP MEMBER: Can we request an e-mail of that?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Sure.

MR. ULRICH: Howard, did you determine that it pretty much precluded all the areas that we had fished?

MR. RAU: Yes, they took over, because there is a lot of history up there.

MR. ULRICH: But the existing maps didn't allow any open areas with this.

MR. RAU: No, not up there; there was no allowable fishing areas allowed to the north.

MR. PALMA: That has to be better defined.

MR. RAU: We need to write a letter to the council.

MR. ULRICH: That is certainly that I can think you all might want to explore would be to revisit the inshore boundaries of that HAPC.

AP MEMBER: We're elbow to elbow over there with three vessels.

MR. WHIPPLE: I think the directive we've previously been given from council was that we're going to have to put in the work and request specific areas that we want to reclaim. We can't just ask them to move lines around. Just the way we drew out all the boxes when this originally happened in 2007, we had to draw out all the fishing areas corner to corner with the lat/longs and everything; we are going to have to do that again.

MR. RAU: Again, it comes to historical fishing areas. Except for Glenn's, we don't have any other – you know, the people that were up there and where they fished.

MR. WHIPPLE: Historically and traditionally.

MR. RAU: I guess you could draw it where you would expect on a bathymetry chart. You could draw it and the best science that you could use for flat bottom and mud bottom; but that doesn't guarantee anything. They should take a look at it.

DR. CHEUVRONT: That sounds like if you guys had maps, that what you could do then is draw on there where you would like it to be. If it was drawn carefully enough, we would be able to turn those into lat/longs in the different areas that could then be considered by the council. They would send it out to the appropriate advisory panels to review it and stuff, including golden crab but also Coral Advisory Panel and all that, and get all the input, and then decide how they want to handle it from there.

MR. WHIPPLE: At one point there was a chart that my Dad had that I cannot find; but it specifically pinpointed where the researchers had identified coral with like Xs. There was some kind of emblem that they used.

AP MEMBER: Dives they were on.

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes, so if they found it here on this X, then they would take all of this. But if we could get that chart with all these Xs and then look in the northern zone and find all the Xs, then maybe we could draw out an area in between some Xs –

AP MEMBER: Allowable areas.

MR. WHIPPLE: – that we can create some allowable area; but I don't know where this map exists.

MR. RAU: It would be better to get it on a computer. You can do all the functions, draw your boundaries in. They have that already; you just have to get the availability, because that is how we did it when we drew it in the first time.

AP MEMBER: It was back with Gregg.

MR. RAU: Correct.

AP MEMBER: In '07.

MR. RAU: But we didn't have all the – that was a nasty thing, because we didn't have all the coral, those marks where their concerned areas were. We had a lot of the concerned areas; but now we can get more of the concerned areas and we could do a better job.

DR. CHEUVRONT: There is more mapping that has gone on.

MR. CUPKA: There has been a lot more bottom mappings.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Even more accurate than what you were looking at in the past.

AP MEMBER: Since '07, Brian?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes, a lot since '07. What I can do is I can probably get Roger Pugliese in our office to create specific maps with the different overlay showing where they know coral are in the entire northern zone, lay on top of it all of the closed areas, and it would all be color-coded and stuff; and then you could figure out where you guys would like to carve out maybe additional fishing areas from areas that are currently closed. You guys don't want to fish in coral either.

AP MEMBER: Realistically, Brian, and I'm sure that they are as anxious as I am; how quick do you think that this process will take? I mean, I had two captains shoot flairs at each other. They grabbed on each other's gear and not communicating properly. This was over a year ago.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I remember you told me about that. Most of the stuff moves pretty glacially. I mean, nothing moves fast with the council; but if we don't get it started, it is not going to happen.

MR. WHIPPLE: I don't know if you guys know this; I'm on the Coral AP now. I can try to – I applied for a reason obviously.

AP MEMBER: Somebody has got to watch what they do.

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes. Anyway, I can keep in touch with you guys about the process that is going on from that end.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, let's try to recap and try to make this into something that is a little more actionable. What we need to do – if I hear what you guys are saying is that you want the maps and you want to be able to have the time to get together to draw those areas. How do you

want to do that? Do you want to do it as another meeting of the AP? Do you want us to send you the maps, and you guys get together and you figure out how you want to do it? What is the way you guys would like to proceed on this?

MR. RAU: Shouldn't we send a letter to the council?

DR. CHEUVRONT: No, not necessarily. I don't think that is going to have to happen. I've got it here. It will go in the report that this is what you guys want to have done; and this is actually something that council staff would provide. It is not unusual for an AP to make a request for data kind of a thing; and that is perfectly fine.

That does not actually have to go through the council. Obviously, the council will be notified that you're thinking about this and this is what you want to do; but when you have something together, then you submit what you have to the council saying we would like the council to consider X, Y, and Z; and here is our maps to show what we would like you to consider. That would be the way I would suggest you approach it.

MR. RAU: This would be put on a disc and we could use our computers to do the drawing?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I can get it to you that way.

MR. RAU: That would be better, because a program right in there allows you to draw on that. Roger put it together before.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, I don't know what kind of format, because I don't deal with that much.

MS. COPPA: We have the program that would be able to do it.

MR. RAU: I'll ask Roger, he knows; it was a wonderful job he did.

MR. ALMEIDA: Do you guys need to do adjustments, too, in the other zones?

MS. COPPA: I like the overlay idea.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, he can print the maps on the overlay, but the kinds of file that he would send it to you in, I am not sure. Howard said he sent you guys something that you are able to do.

MR. RAU: Yes, ArcReader I guess.

DR. CHEUVRONT: ArcReader; okay, that is what he creates the things in.

MR. RAU: Yes, he did an excellent job.

DR. CHEUVRONT: And you can zoom in and out and see all the different things that are in there.

MR. ULRICH: I'm not even sure if the broad data is even available; but if we could put our hands on the lat/long for the research sets that were made, would that be a good idea?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Is that your stuff?

MR. ULRICH: Yes.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes, if you could get that data for the lat/longs, we can get that to Roger and he can put that on that map as well.

MR. ULRICH: As far as the location of the sets and absence of coral.

DR. CHEUVRONT: That would be great. I'm going to put that down, Glenn, that I'm going –

MR. ULRICH: I'm not saying I've got it. It may be in my attic.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I know, but I'm putting that down.

MR. RAU: We can do the rest of those areas down south. There is no hard bottom but they took it away.

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes, we might as well request not just the northern zone but the whole thing.

MR. PALMA: If we can do it, we might as well revise all three zones and identify a better situation.

MR. CUPKA: Roger ought to pretty much have that all up to date, because we just went through looking at some possible revisions to some of those areas.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; I just need to talk to him and find out how that would work out. Glenn, could we try to put a date on where you would let us know by such and such a date whether you think you have it or not; whatever is realistic for you?

MR. ULRICH: Yes, let's go with July 1, how about that?

MR. CUPKA: All that was put into a report, but I don't know who our computer guy was then. They were trying to archive a lot of stuff. I don't know if they still have it.

MR. ULRICH: Who was that? I don't know; it's a good question.

DR. CHEUVRONT: We could try to make this – just to be realistic on this, when you guys meet as an AP, it is because the council wants you to meet. The way we can do this is that at the June council meeting we'll talk about this meeting and what happened here, and this is one of the things you guys want to work on. I'll explain how Glenn is going to try to get us whatever data he has if he can by July 1st, whatever. Maybe this fall we would like to try to shoot for another meeting, because that would give us some time to take whatever data Glenn has, get whatever maps created, and then we can see if we can reconvene.

MS. COPPA: Like September 1st or something?

DR. CHEUVRONT: No, September is a bad month for council, because we have a council meeting that month. I'm thinking probably something along the lines of October/November is when it would be. You guys are fishing then though, right, a lot.

MR. MANCHESTER: Fishing all year, man.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, I know you are. I called you one morning at five o'clock in Alaska thinking you were in Florida.

MS. COPPA: If he gets his information to you by July 1st, we're looking at not having anything available to us until this fall area?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I'm thinking, because I would like to hold off – I want to hold off in sending you maps until we have all the data together instead of having to send you another set of maps. What we are trying to do is if we can show on those maps where Glenn was making those sets, and they were catching golden crab; and if we know that there are not corals in those areas, then that is a prime candidate for opening up. Let's get all the data together.

MS. COPPA: Let me ask a question. Glenn, what areas do these maps or the longitude/lat that you have cover?

MR. ULRICH: They cover roughly from due east of Charleston to about due east of Brunswick, Georgia.

MS. COPPA: Okay, so nobody is fishing that area right now; so I would say we move on to at least getting the maps out so that we can take a look at them and start to get – I would be more than happy to set a meeting place for us to get together if we can look at these maps.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, actually it depends on how you want to handle this. If it is an official council function, the council handles all the logistic.

MS. COPPA: This is not a council function. We're saying for all of us to get together and have one thought. In other words everybody has an input right now, but I don't know what they are.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right; that is what I'm saying; this other meeting that we could schedule this fall, once we have all the data and stuff in there, would be specifically to work on these maps and come up with what your recommendations would be.

MS. COPPA: I'm going to end up requesting from your office a set of them before that is input, anyway. In the meantime anybody else, if you want to wait, that is fine; but it is important to us to at least get a look at them. What he is talking about is ones – there are only two people that hold permits in the northern area, which would affect us. Everybody else could have some inputs as to where the coral is. They could think about it during this time period. To go into some room and decide in one hour you have to make a life decision is tough.

DR. CHEUVRONT: You would get the maps and things ahead of time. I'm just saying having the meeting to bring everybody together after you have been looking at the maps to figure out what you want.

MS. COPPA: Right; but the maps you were saying we wouldn't get until before the next meeting after we got Glenn's information on it.

DR. CHEUVRONT: You would get them before the meeting; but I'm not sure exactly when it's going to be.

MS. COPPA: I would prefer to get mine right away and I can at least look over what is current and then make a decision. It might not affect me at all, because I might never choose to go up that far. I would have to have a northern zone permit, which it affects Nuno and us.

MR. WHITTLE: And Howard.

MS. COPPA: Okay, and Howard, too.

MR. ULRICH: I'm not 100 percent sure that data is still in existence.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right.

MS. COPPA: The maps that we were talking about earlier – I'm discussing this with Howard. These coral; they were going to send out the maps like until next meeting in October or November, and you have a northern zone permit?

MR. RAU: Yes.

MS. COPPA: You might want to look at the northern zone, too.

MR. RAU: Oh, yes, very much so.

MS. COPPA: The stuff we were going to wait for was Glenn in July 1st of this year, waiting to get that stuff on the map and then not discussing anything together until October or November.

MR. RAU: That is a tough schedule to get that done beforehand. I don't think it will be any problem to put Glenn's numbers in.

DR. CHEUVRONT: It won't be.

MR. RAU: It will go quick.

DR. CHEUVRONT: It will go quickly. It is just a matter that we've got to give Glenn time to find the data if he can.

MR. ULRICH: I'm going to contact Betty Winners.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Oh, whatever, you are going to help us find what exists.

AP MEMBER: You better get up in the attic before it gets hot, too.

MR. ULRICH: Sooner rather than later.

DR. CHEUVRONT: June 3rd it could be mighty hot in your attic in Charleston.

MR. RAU: Brunswick data is up in I think the top.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, anyway, we can work out the logistics of how we are going to make this happen. I think what we're going to do is we're going to provide these maps. If somebody wants them earlier, just ask me and I will make sure you get the maps earlier. But we will get the maps for all of the fishing zones and we'll get all of the coral that is known on those maps, with all the closed areas on there.

Then you can look and see where do you want to go back and start asking for potential adjustments to some of these closed areas? We may not be looking at the whole picture. There may be other species and some other reasons why some of these areas are specifically closed. The council will have to take into account all of those things and not just what the golden crab fishermen want. It is a big picture thing that has to happen, but we need the input from the golden crab fishermen to know what it is specifically that you want. I think that is the way to go.

MR. WHIPPLE: Do we have to make a motion to do all this or you are just going to do it, right?

DR. CHEUVRONT: No, I think if you guys are telling me that this is what you want to do, then I will do what I can to make this happen. I'm just trying to get direction from you guys to say this is what you want.

AP MEMBER: Make it so.

MR. ULRICH: I thought of another potential data set. I think the Georgia Bulldog; the Georgia Marine Extension did a little bit of golden crab work as well. Lindsey Parker on the Bulldog; maybe I could get in touch with him. I just ran across his card the other day. I'll see if they might have it.

MR. RAU: That would be great.

MR. WHIPPLE: I've got the studies, the studies from Georgia and University of Florida, if we're talking about the same one. I don't know, it's going back a while.

MR. ULRICH: Probably; but Florida was in the Gulf. That Georgia survey was kind of an add-on to what we did basically.

MR. RAU: Do you think the Bulldog was further south?

MR. ULRICH: I think they did work down probably at least down into northern Florida.

AP MEMBER: There was a boat like 15 years ago in Massachusetts that did golden crab and the wheelhouse got flooded out and ended up back up there. Also, there was a processor from Cape Canaveral years ago; I don't know if you remember David Bates.

MR. RAU: Sure, I sold to him.

AP MEMBER: Yes; so apparently there was a lot of golden crab landed and being processed up there. I just don't know where these guys are.

MR. RAU: I told you the last meeting I don't know where they are. Bobby Brown was there.
AP MEMBER: The guy from Rhode Island?

MR. RAU: Yes; also Gunnar fished a lot up there. That is where he said the best fishing was, was north of you, just north of where you stop.

MR. WHIPPLE: My dad did half a million pounds in the Gulf in six months in '83, but there is no data. I've got pictures, but there is no like scientific data. I've got pictures of traps and a hold full; but that doesn't count.

AP MEMBER: Your dad did do a study; that is a 1984 study of the Gulf of Mexico crab fishery, and I have that study.

MR. ULRICH: Was that Bill Lindbergh?

AP MEMBER: Were 400,000 of them crabs female by any chance?

MR. WHIPPLE: I don't think so; I don't know.

AP MEMBER: They were processing anything.

MR. RAU: He averaged 12 pounds a trap, I think it was, 12 pounds a trap.

MR. WHIPPLE: Overnight.

MR. RAU: Overnight set; it would be all 800 traps.

AP MEMBER: With the New England lobster traps and not the –

MR. ULRICH: They were just doing overnight sets.

AP MEMBER: From what I hear, this guy that processed, they were processing one pounders, females, whatever. It was a free for all. It was probably before the regulations were.

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, in the Gulf there still are no regulations today.

AP MEMBER: I went there and I filled them traps with females.

MR. RAU: That was probably Gunnar – no, I don't think he sold.

AP MEMBER: That's because you were shallow.

MR. ALMEIDA: How deep?

MR. RAU: Deep.

MR. ALMEIDA: Two thousand?

MR. RAU: No, it was Gunnar on the Pacific something he did that. He brought them in and Bates wouldn't buy them after a while.

AP MEMBER: Twenty-four hours out?

AP MEMBER: Who had the Little Giant?

MR. WHIPPLE: Another guy.

MR. RAU: The broker.

AP MEMBER: Didn't me and you go on the Little Giant?

MR. RAU: A guy out of Canaveral.

AP MEMBER: Oh, that John Potts.

MR. RAU: John Potts.

MR. WHIPPLE: What else do we have?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, I've got a little bit of homework and stuff to work on. I'm trying to get stuff together for you to have a working meeting. I'm getting maps and everything to you ahead of time so you can look at it and think about what you want to do, but then having a working session where you can come back and literally draw the lines on the map in agreement.

It would be great if we could do that. I could take them back and they can be turned into actions and alternatives and stuff that the council could then consider how they want to deal with it, because they can put lat/longs and things and stuff in there. I can help make all that happen. I'm thinking looking at timing probably this fall is going to work. We're all cool with that.

MR. PALMA: Yes.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Awesome. The last thing I see on there is that discussion for changing the fishing year. Did you have anything else?

MR. PALMA: No, that's it; the changes in the fishing year, calendar year?

DR. CHEUVRONT: The start of the year.

MR. PALMA: I'll let you guys look at that.

MR. ALMEIDA: Do we need to open up that page right now?

MS. COPPA: That if we go over our ACL, we would then be closed at a certain point in the year where it would be either hotter or really hot or something like that. Are we making a suggestion of what dates we would be interested in? Do we discuss this in more detail after we have time to think about it at the October/November and then come up with dates and present it with dates?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I can tell you if you are going to come up with some other actions that you are thinking about for changing some of the fishing areas; it would end up being a joint plan with Coral and include Golden Crab, but there is no reason why, if you guys wanted to do a simple change like changing the start of the fishing year to a specific – like September 1st, if that is what you are thinking, that could be put into that same amendment if the council chooses to go that way.

I just don't know what they're going to do. I don't know that they would open a golden crab amendment specifically for just changing the fishing year. They could; they could do whatever they want, but you get a little more traction if you have multiple actions for consideration.

MR. PALMA: What was the reason why you are changing the year of fishing?

MS. COPPA: Because if they are going to close us down for when we finally reach the ACL.

DR. CHEUVRONT: You want the fishery to be open in the months you want to fish in.

MS. COPPA: In other words, if they close us in December because that is the end of our year or November, you really don't want to be closed then.

MR. CUPKA: I think it would be better if they would include something like that with an amendment looking at maybe some changes in fishing areas, because there is no rush on the fishing year thing. You haven't gotten close to your ACL; but if you want to change it, the sooner you can start the better; but I don't see any real rush. They could do it in the next year or so, maybe just start working on it.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I don't want to bring up anything painful, but you might want to go back and look at that Golden Crab Amendment 6. I know it had catch shares in there. We're not doing catch shares, don't worry, but there were other actions that were related to the golden crab fishery that were in there.

You might want to start thinking are some of those things you would like to have the council put into place regardless of whether or not there was a catch share that was going to happen. What basically happened, the baby went out with the bath water; but it is not all catch share stuff. There might have been some things in there that you might really want still to have.

One of the things we did discuss was getting rid of the small vessel subzone in the Southern Zone. Well, from what you said earlier today; no, you still want to keep that zone; but that was an action that was in that amendment. There are several others that are management-related things that have nothing to do with catch shares.

If you want to go back and look at that and see if there is anything out of there that you think is worth keeping and bringing back around; because if you are talking about wanting to change allowable fishing areas and start of your fishing year; that would be a good time just to do

another golden crab amendment and pull in what you want to have in it. I'm just saying if you want to do that, great; but that is only a suggestion. Maybe not, maybe it's still too painful.

MR. RAU: If we had catch shares, we probably wouldn't have that big vessel down there.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, I think this is the point you need to find out if there is anything else anybody else wants to discuss.

MR. PALMA: Anything else?

MS. COPPA: I make a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

MR. WHIPPLE: I second that.

(Whereupon, the Golden Crab Advisory Panel adjourned on May 2, 2014.)

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