

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

GOLDEN CRAB COMMITTEE

**King and Prince Hotel
St. Simons Island, Georgia**

March 5, 2015

SUMMARY MINUTES

Golden Crab Committee:

Ben Hartig, Chair
Jessica McCawley

Chester Brewer
Mark Brown

Council Members:

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Anna Beckwith
Chris Conklin
Charlie Phillips
Dr. Wilson Laney

Mel Bell
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John Carmichael
Amber Von Harten
Dr. Mike Errigo
Dr. Brian Chevront
Chip Collier

Observers/Participants:

Monica Smit-Brunello
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Iris Lowery
Erika Burgess

Roy Williams
Dr. Jack McGovern
Pres Pate

Additional Observers Attached

The Golden Crab Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Sidney Lanier Ballroom of the King and Prince Hotel, St. Simons Island, Georgia, March 5, 2015, and was called to order at 3:10 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Ben Hartig.

MR. HARTIG: We're going to go ahead and get started. The first thing, before I even approve the agenda, is to tell you that we have reconstituted the committee, and it will be myself as Chair, Chester Brewer, Roy Crabtree, Jessica McCawley, Charlie Phillips, and Jack Cox. Mark Brown is no longer in this committee and we added two others.

Going to the second item of business now is approval of the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda? Is there any objection to approving the agenda? Seeing none; the agenda is approved. That brings us to approval of the December 2014 Golden Crab Committee Minutes. Any additions or changes to the minutes? Are there any objections to approval of the minutes? Seeing none; the minutes are approved. That brings us to status of commercial catches versus ACL for golden crab, and Brian is going to do that.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes, I am not a NMFS employee or a NMFS SERO employee, but I'm going to play one here for a few minutes. The golden crab commercial landings for 2013 – the numbers I guess are considered final at this point – is 957,019 pounds. For 2014 the preliminary numbers, which are not yet finalized because I'm sure some of the guys still are turning in logbooks, is about 886,456 pounds. For 2015 we have a whopping 2,250 pounds. That is it for landings' update.

MR. HARTIG: Any questions about the landings for the golden crab fishery? Seeing none; we'll go to update on status Amendment 9.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes; you've already heard some about this I believe in Snapper Grouper, but since we're here in a different constitutional setup here; Amendment 9 affected the accountability measures for golden crab; so that is Snapper Grouper Amendment 34, Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7, was also Golden Crab Amendment 9; that has been sent to SERO for submission to the Secretary of Commerce. That was done last week, so that one is on its way.

MR. HARTIG: Any questions about that? Seeing none; report on the Golden Crab AP Meeting. I believe that is behind Attachment 1 in your briefing book.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes, it is. What I'm going to do is – the Golden Crab AP met in January. They had some concerns lingering from their meeting, I believe it was last May, where they wanted to have the council consider whether there should be some modifications to the allowable fishing zones for golden crab.

At the June meeting last year staff was given direction to try to get the AP together and talk about what their recommendations would be and to bring it back to the council for further discussion as to how you would like to proceed. We had that meeting in January. It was a good meeting, lots of good discussion. I wanted to give you a quick overview of what the recommendations were that came out of that AP meeting.

The first one was that right now the AP really only wants the council to consider potential modifications to the northern zone. Everybody seemed to be fairly happy with the setup that we

have now for the southern zone and for the middle zone. If the council chooses to go down this route, they really would like to limit this basically to the northern zone only.

The modifications that have been recommended by the AP; I want to talk about that a little bit in case you've been concerned about what those medications might be. They are based on areas where they know that historically there has been some golden crab fishing in the past. There is some research and particularly a study that was done by Golden Crab AP Member Glenn Ulrich and Betty Wenner.

This was a number of years ago. This I think was back in the mid to late eighties that this research was done; but they actually sampled in some of the areas where the fishermen are now not allowed to fish; and not only were golden crabs present, they didn't find any habitat they thought would be impeded by golden crab fishing.

The problem is, of course, they didn't do any kind of bottom scanning specifically at that time. What they would like to do is to look at areas that are not – I think the goal of the AP is the same as the council's in terms of wanting to protect hard bottom, live bottom, and things like that. That just messes up the gear and that costs them money.

They don't want to get into places where they don't belong, but they all feel very certain that there are places where habitat might be suitable for them to continue fishing in there. Now part of the reason why the northern zone is an issue is because it is a fairly small zone. I will show you on the maps here in just a second.

It is really quite small; it only runs between latitudes 28 and 29. There is a notch of it that is cut out for a protected area. I think we've got three vessels that are fishing in that area now. Sometimes these guys literally get on top of each other. They put these long traps out there. There have been gear entanglements and other things.

Just to let you know, there are other permits for the northern zone that are out there that are not currently being fished that could be fished in the future. The AP is concerned that there are some needs here, and they would like to get their needs addressed before there really becomes any really serious problems in the northern zone.

They would like the council to consider what possible options are available to them. Now the northern zone was at one time the largest golden crab fishing area. We're talking really basically the Miami-Stetson Terrace is what we're talking about. When I pull up the maps here in just a second, I can show you some areas like where Glenn Ulrich's research had been done in the past.

Our problem is that when you see the maps, large swaths of this Miami-Stetson Terrace have never had the bottom mapped. There is some confusion there as to how much protection is really needed even over areas where fishing had occurred in the past. Don't get up all uptight about anything I'm about to say, but the recommendation from the AP was basically let's consider looking at areas of depth of less than 2,400 feet. Now on the map, Roger has put the line on there so you can see where the contour is on top of the Miami-Stetson Terrace; but then there were a couple of areas where it is very, very clear.

It has been mapped and they don't want to go in there, there is high relief, everybody knows it is there, everybody wants to stay out of it. What the AP would like for the council to do, if you decide to move forward with an amendment for golden crab, is to work with staff to help develop a suite of alternatives that could be considered of areas that could be opened.

They know that they've asked for pie in the sky; but if you don't ask for pie in the sky and you ask for something too small, you might get shut out of something that potentially you could consider in the future. Nobody is seriously asking for open it all up, let us go. They don't want all that.

What they want is a fair consideration of habitat that they can get in and fish, because it is suitable for golden crab and it is not going to cause harm to the environment. Now we say that; but there is a whole lot of research and cooperation that would need to go on. If this goes on, you are getting into the Coral AP and probably your new Habitat Protection Enhancement, whatever, folks would get involved and stuff in that, too.

This is not a minor undertaking. It is going to involve coordination with a lot of folks and a lot of research and stuff still needs to be done. Let me pull up the maps. What we've got, this is the allowable fishing zone for the northern zone. Here is the latitude 28 and here is 29. You can see this is where they're allowed to fish in here.

It is not a very wide area, it is pretty narrow, and in fact around this known habitat area they even created a buffer around it. They can fish around it, but this is very narrow. There is just not a whole lot of space for these guys to fish. This squiggly orange line that you see here that I am outlining right now; this is that 2,400 foot depth contour.

It is deeper to the right of the image and it is shallower to the left. Now some might say, well, why don't you just fish inside of the Miami-Stetson Terrace.? The problem is that is too shallow. Those are not very productive areas for fishing. It is really not a real possibility that they could do that.

Now, I am going to zoom in a little bit more here. You see these areas here. We know that these are very high-relief areas that I am outlining here. There is just no way; they don't want to get into anything like that. We know that this is mapped and this is the way it is. When we had the meeting, they specifically said we're not even interested in that area, so let's block that off and we're not going to consider that at all.

But some of these other areas – and here is some overlap. That is that area I was just showing you on the other map; we've got some overlap here. It may be possible for there to be some fishing. The work that was done by Glenn Ulrich – and here is Charleston here – was mostly in this area here.

When they were doing this – and realize this goes back a number of years – they were not running into any problems with high relief on the bottom, any coral. They were not pulling up anything like that when they were pulling in their trawls. The fishermen have said basically we'd like to see if we can consider some additional areas. We had lots of discussion, we had maps out and we drew and all this.

They said they find more areas in the allowable golden crab fishing zone now where it is clear that they should stay out of that area. If they need to draw boxes around it with buffers, they are happy to do that. They just want some bigger places or more places to go in this area that was once the largest fishing zone and it is now the smallest.

You might ask, well, why did it end up being the smallest zone; how did that happen? Well, it occurred at a time – and we've got a bunch of the golden crab fishermen here and I'm sure they will want to jump up and correct me if I say anything wrong. At the time that it was set up, I believe nobody was actually fishing in the zone at the time.

A decision had to be made and that is what it was. Well, now it has turned out we've got these 11 permits. I think 7 of them are being actively fished right now and it is getting tight. The middle zone, there is not much room for anybody else in there. The place that they can go is the northern zone and that is what they would like for you to consider. Now I know Roger is going to have some comments about this, too.

MR. PUGLIESE: Yes, point of clarification; in building those zones they were really crafted around the operating areas. While there may not have been as much fishing in the northern zone, we worked real closely to get their trawl tracks and overlay those and crafted especially that northern area specifically tied to the trawl track areas they had.

They provided catch history from their records that crafted all the existing golden crab areas. There was fishing in there. It may just not be as much as there is now or potentially could be in the future if more vessels enter the fishery.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Anyway, the question that is before the committee now is basically two questions. Do you want to consider this request from the AP? If you do, when do you want to do it? Obviously, there are a lot of things on our plate. This is something that has been on the list of potential amendments; but until we had this meeting with the AP and found out what they were interested in and bring it back to you, it really couldn't be ranked.

I don't think – I don't know, I will keep my mouth shut about that, but you can sort of decide is this something that you want to look at. Then the other is, is there a time frame when you would like to consider doing this, knowing that it doesn't have to be immediately, but it is something that probably needs to be looked at sooner rather than later; just not put off indefinitely.

MR. PUGLIESE: Just to follow up on kind of the habitat side of this; when we first started talking about this, one of the first reactions was, well, let's find out what we know about it. That is how I worked with Brian and worked with providing the maps. We looked at everything from the Portales all the way up through the northern Stetson-Miami Terrace HAPC.

Since we combined all the information we've been building on what we know about multibeam and any characterization in the areas; one of the hopes was that we would be able to find some of the habitat that would probably coincide closer with the existing operation areas. One of the last efforts that happened, the most significant that Brian had zoomed in, that large area last year was actually accomplished last year by the Okeanos Explorer and a massive area; but it is very obvious that is some of the most high-relief area of the entire area mapped.

The inshore area, which is directly north of that, has essentially no characterization or mapping of it. Then as you move and you saw – even the area that was done, some sample sites and catch rates and different things back in '86 and '87 by Betty Winner and Glenn Ulrich doesn't really have any bathymetry, multibeam, or characterization in some of that area.

That is somewhat of an issue in being able to move forward on some of these, because if there had been some fairly clear indications of the types of habitats necessary for fishing in the area, that probably would have enhanced a more rapid review and characterization or opportunity to figure out that. I thought I would at least lay that down; and that is where we are with our understanding of what exists within the system and the opportunities that may be there to look at potential for expansion.

MR. HARTIG: Are there questions of Brian and Roger about what the AP – it is pretty clear, pretty good presentation. My concern was how much information do we have to map additional zones for the golden crabbers in that northern zone? How would we get that information if we don't have it? Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Do we have the coordinates of where they used to fish? Do we have those coordinates? From what I gather, they didn't have any interaction with coral. They were getting their gear back and to okay.

DR. CHEUVRONT: There is some information in that paper by Betty Winner and Glenn Ulrich from the eighties. I believe the fishermen have told me that they can get access to logbooks or log records of people who participated in the fishery years ago, who don't participate now either because they are deceased or retired or whatever. We could get some more information that could at least tell us very specifically where people have fished in the past, either experimentally or were actually fishing.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, that would be a good starting point. If I remember the numbers right, you've got seven people fishing and you've got four more permits that aren't. Theoretically, you could increase the number of participants by over 50 percent; and if they are already tight on how they are trying to work, if you put 50 percent more people then you have really got a problem.

We would probably be proactive – for lack of a better term – to go ahead and start finding some places that they can go work, but we need to be careful. If we know some places that were being worked and can get some characterization, even if it is not bathymetric, sidescan sonar – we know that the logbook says we were getting this, we weren't having any entanglement issues, or we were – then at least it gives you something to work on. I think that would be a good place to start.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Thanks, Charlie, for those comments. I think part of the issue that you've got here is that the fishermen understand – right now they are catching about half of the ACL. They have a two million pound ACL. That is setting them up for thinking that they want to be able to go after more of that ACL. The habitat itself provides protection for the stock. What they want to do is we've got four permits that aren't being fished.

I do know that some of those permits are expected to be starting to be fished sometime in the future. What the AP is trying to do is being proactive as opposed to waiting until we have a serious problem out there. They would like the council to consider, at least consider, find out what is the evidence that we have out there now?

Charlie talked about one way of looking at it; and so let's see if the council wants to find out what is there. We already know you have got to go through a bunch of different groups. A lot of different folks have to weigh in on this. You've got different APs that will talk about it. It is not like something they are saying, sure, come on, open it up. Everybody is aware of that.

They know it is going to take a while to make this happen. They would like to at least get the consideration started and get a plan if that is what is necessary to get more mapping done and make it a priority. Whatever it is that you all have recommendations, because if you don't do something now, it is not going to change and all you are going to get later on will be an issue that will become a headache. I will be quiet on that now.

MR. HAYMANS: Mr. Chairman, I am not on your committee, but two things and you got at one of them, and that is that they are not reaching their ACL now. As that speaks to me, it says that the ACL is too high in the area they are fishing, if they are not reaching it.

DR. CHEUVRONT: This is a market-driven fishery. You are not going to catch golden crabs if you don't know that you've got somebody who is going to buy them right now. It is a growing market. A couple of times a year I get inquiries from dealers who want to know where they can buy more golden crab. They are not all here in the South Atlantic either.

I think what is happening is as the market is growing, is it poised for that expansion; and what we are talking about is adding more vessels so you can have more effort going into it. There is only so much that the guys who are fishing in it now with the area that they have are going to catch. There is potential for room, and the reason the ACL is not being met is not because the crabs aren't there. There are other metadata type reasons why that is the case.

MR. HAYMANS: Okay, and the maximum number of vessels are 11, right?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes.

MR. HAYMANS: Okay. The other thing is, not that I was in any way, shape or form involved in this industry in the eighties; but UGA tinkered around with it some in the late seventies and early eighties. My understanding is the few fishermen who went out there played it out fairly quickly at least. That is why I'm told that the fishery didn't continue out there. It is a heck of a long way from our coast. It might be worth checking in with UGA as well.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Exactly; if you can help us figure out where we can find information like that; that would be a great help. Moving on with the idea of an amendment will help us to ferret out things like this that can help us get a bigger and better picture of what is actually possible out there.

MR. PUGLIESE: Just a consideration I think that the council definitely needs to think about is we had real close coordination when we were building these with the industry and with the

characterization of the way the industry operated at that time. We've seen a significant change in vessel characteristic, size, the fleet, and maybe even new captains and entrants into the fishery.

Right now we still do not have any monitoring capability of operations; and extending into an area outside of the existing zone, that may be even more of a complication, because we really don't have any way to know where these vessels are within the area. Like I said, we had real close coordination and the fishery was very compact in the way it operated.

There was a lot of understanding. As it evolves, changes, growth in vessel size and other entrants that may be new captains and whatever; but that is a consideration that the council really needs to figure out how to get something that gets a better way of understanding it, whether it be electronic logbooks or combinations of some type of monitoring vessels and logbooks; something that could provide that. That is a real consideration going outside the bounds of what you've already created.

DR. CHEUVRONT: You know, Roger; actually we had that conversation at the AP meeting, where the fishermen were saying that they realize it is in their best interest to find out where all these different areas are. They were more than happy to work with NMFS or whoever to help gather some of that information on where they are fishing and where they are catching, and where they are running into habitat types that they should not be in at all.

If the council decides to go ahead with an amendment like this, clearly there could be actions that could deal with things like reporting issues. We've talked in the past when we had the ill-fated catch shares amendment debacle of a couple of years ago; one of the actions that was in there was a VMS.

Well, the council has now heard of other methods for monitoring catches and where people are even using iPads and GPS into an iPad and just recording what you caught on that trip. The iPad can keep track of where the vessel is fishing and things like that. This is not so obtrusive and a lot less expensive than say something like VMS.

There are lots of possibilities. This might be a place that this could really be explored. I think you would probably find some support from the fishermen if we could come up with something that will not hinder their ability to do their job and allow them to consider the expansion of this fishery.

MS. McCAWLEY: I was just going to say that I appreciate the AP meeting discussing this and I appreciate the thorough report, but I guess my take on this is if we are going to consider this and opening this area; then I think we should make the same consideration for the rock shrimp guys. To me it is a similar type of argument, looking back at a portion of an area and trying to open it back up. I wouldn't want to consider this unless we're going to give consideration to the rock shrimp area at the same time.

MR. PHILLIPS: Good point, Jessica. To Doug's point about the value of the crabs, it is a totally different ballgame. I remember some things coming back. They actually picked some of these golden crabs at the crab plant that was a couple miles down the road from me. What they thought they were going to get, because they had big crabs, they were going to get jumbo crab meat. What they got was special, because the meat wouldn't hold together.

The value that they thought they were going to get for these crabs just wasn't there. Between that and the distance offshore, it wasn't worth it. But what they are doing now is a totally different thing. The crabs have a totally different higher value, and you are not going to need as many to get X dollars for them.

I worked with UGA for a long time and they have taught me a lot. An awful lot of it, I modified several times before it became really profitable. The other thing, we've got royal red boats that work, I think, still up north. Where they work might help guide us into certain areas, because they obviously not going to drag around coral. There are ways and things to look at. I am interested in working with Roger and whoever we need to work with to look at it.

DR. DUVAL: Brian, those are the only mapped areas within that northern zone right there?

DR. CHEUVRONT: That is a Roger question, but I believe that is true, right ,Roger? That is all that is mapped at this point?

MR. PUGLIESE: I've been looking closely and beyond what we put together here, but this I think is the most recent cobbled together of as many of the cruises and deep-water coral and Okeanos Explorer, and any of the ones where they were able to do transect, whatever was available.

The one thing I think that also continued and needs to be remembered is when we talk about maps and you see something covered; that may just be baseline bathymetries without any characterization. This is the most coverage at least that we've got right now on just overall multibeam and any other sidescan multibeam work.

DR. DUVAL: I don't know; I guess I might just keep in mind opportunities for cooperative mapping if there are the tools available that can be mounted on the boats, just given the conversation we had about citizen science earlier. If these guys are out fishing in areas and fishing in places that really have not been mapped very well, then there is an opportunity.

MR. HARTIG: It sounds like the fishermen are willing to participate in that kind of an adventure.

MR. PUGLIESE: Very specifically to that; we had that SEAMAP bottom mapping characterization where we are going to be looking at a mapping strategy for the whole region. Part of the discussion was opportunities to figure out a vessel's opportunity and other capabilities.

You've got vessels out there plowing the ground, doing different things. If we can figure out ways to be able to couple it with other technologies, this may be the time to try. You are not going to get directed research efforts that are going to fill that entire area. The more we can do to fill in each part – and we had some very specific areas I think that are probably high probability for this effort, targeted to do that may be a real way to do it in a cooperative effort, maybe or definitely an opportunity we have here. The link to it also is not just doing it. Doing it is one thing; it is getting the post processing to get you that.

We're building those types of links with even groups maybe like Leslie Sauter's group in College of Charleston that is doing a lot of work already and other partners that we may be able to – if we get the core with the backscatter, they can just provide it. I think we can build that kind of capability more than we have in the past.

MR. HARTIG: All right, I see some support for moving forward with at least a start in going down this road. Do we need a motion to do that, Brian?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Well, I think that would be helpful. The other part of this is when do you think that this venture should start? I think this has got to fit in with everything else that you've got going on. There are a lot of things. At some level you might want to be telling us what you want us to do.

MR. HARTIG: Yes; and when will we revisit that? In June do we revisit the time schedule or did we just do that?

DR. CHEUVRONT: That is a Gregg question.

MR. HARTIG: That is a Gregg question. When will we revisit this rankings again, Gregg? In December, so we just really did it; it will be six months, but I'll get the real answer.

MR. WAUGH: Well, the committee has a motion that they are bringing forward. If you have some changes to that, that could be discussed at full council session here or you could pick it up in June, either way.

MR. HARTIG: What is your pleasure?

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, if you want basically just a motion to start looking at what we need to proceed. Then we will place it in the order as we see how much effort it is going to take and how much staff time, which would help us figure out what kind of priority we want. But we can go ahead and start pulling some stuff together, and it shouldn't take a lot of staff time to do that, hopefully.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Charlie, I need a little bit of help here – identifying data and what else?

MR. HARTIG: Habitat characterization; anything we have to start this process. It is almost like a feasibility study in a way, because we're looking at how much information we have, how much information we'll need to be able to do what the AP wants, and then how do we get that information that we need to move forward. It is almost three-pronged.

MR. WAUGH: In talking with Roger a little bit; it might be better to give us between now and June to really look into what would be involved in doing this; and then we could discuss it in June.

DR. CHEUVRONT: That was going to be my question; when do you want us to bring that back to you? If June is it, we'll make it happen in June.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, if you have the time and resources to do it between now and June; that would be fine; if not, September.

MR. WAUGH: This is to look at prior to start this process.

MR. HARTIG: This is just an exploratory venture; it is not to track down everything we have. It is just to have an exploration into the feasibility and timing of doing this.

MR. WAUGH: Then you would discuss it in June and give us guidance on timing at June.

MR. HARTIG: That is what I envision this, and I am seeing some heads nod around the table.

DR. LANEY: Ben, I'll defer to Roger on this; but given that we have a Habitat and Environmental Protection AP meeting scheduled for April, would it be beneficial at that point to just advise them that this motion has passed and ask them for any new information that members of that AP might be aware of that would address the issue?

MR. HARTIG: That is an absolutely great idea, Wilson. I hope we can have enough time to take the opportunity to do that, because that is where a lot of this starts, from people who have worked in these different areas over time and may have some information or know of some information available that we could use to further our exploration into this. I think that is a great recommendation.

DR. CHEUVRONT: The motion as I have it written is pretty squishy and noncommittal. If we can tighten up that language a bit, it would really be helpful. Charlie, since this is your motion, can you at least read it over and see whether you are okay with that or can think of any wording changes?

MR. PHILLIPS: I think it covers it. I don't know that we can make it not squishy. I'm open to wordsmithing.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I think the intent is there – I just want to make sure that everybody is cool with that idea; but at some point this has got to get read into the record. .

MR. PHILLIPS: The motion is to begin identifying data and habitat characterization to determine when a new golden crab amendment should begin that will consider revisions to the northern golden crab allowable fishing zone; to be discussed again by the council in June.

MR. HARTIG: We've got a motion and a second by Jack Cox. Is there any further discussion on this motion?

MS. McCAWLEY: I'm going to vote against this. I was serious about what I said earlier. I just don't think we should begin working on this unless we are going to go back and begin working on the areas that the rock shrimp folks brought up. I just think it is a fairness issue, so I am going to vote against this motion.

MS. PHILLIPS: Jessica, if you want to make a friendly amendment to add something, then I am game.

MS. McCRAWLEY: Could we even do that in this committee? Doesn't that need to be done in full council since this is the Golden Crab Committee?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I would recommend that you bring it up in full council, because you don't have a Deepwater Shrimp Committee Meeting at this meeting. If I recall correctly, when we had the discussion in June about whether you wanted us to pursue this with the Golden Crab AP, it came up at their request.

There was discussion about the fact that there needs to be some kind of review of these HAPCs and allowable fishing zones at some point, anyway, to make sure are they the right ones in the right place and are they affecting the right fisheries? I believe there was some discussion in June about shrimp at that time.

This doesn't seem out of bounds to me. It would just make whatever amendment – if this all becomes one amendment, it may make it a little bit bigger than we had anticipated; but if you are going to deal with it, deal with it.

MR. HARTIG: I think the fairness issue that Jessica brings forward is a good one. It is something we said we were going to do, and it has kind of been off the radar for a period of time. I think if we're going to do this, I think your suggestion is appropriate that we do. My suggestion would be probably to deal with this motion, whether it passes or not, and then in full council try to insert the verbiage that you would like to have in that at that time.

MR. HAYMANS: I was about to say why I was going to agree with Jessica and vote against it until I realized that I am not on the committee. But at full council I would vote against it, because I am still not ready to reopen the Deepwater Shrimp Issue yet. Along the lines of the question I asked earlier, I mean they are not approaching their ACL yet. I think there are better uses of the council's time before we go expanding areas. But, anyway, like I said, I am not on your committee so it really doesn't matter.

MR. HARTIG: Well, it matters in full council and it matters what you think, anyway. Thanks for putting that on the record. Those are things we need to know.

DR. LANEY: Well, I'm not on your committee either, Mr. Chairman, but I will just note that we're dealing with a big difference in gear types here. We've got a mobile gear in the deepwater shrimp fishery and this is a relatively static gear. I think there is a big difference there that should be considered.

Also in the deepwater shrimp case, the proposal that they were pursuing was extremely close to the boundary of one of our existing HAPCs and was carved out because of the presence of habitat we do have. Roger can correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe we have pretty good habitat mapping for those particular areas.

Then if I am recalling our discussion on this issue the last time we had it for deepwater shrimp; there were some concerns on the part of some of the council members that we hadn't been

getting the information that had been promised to us; and when we finally did get some additional information, there was a considerable jump in landings within some of the areas that were close to the HAPC.

I may not be remembering exactly; I haven't gone back and read the minutes. But I think we just need to make sure that when we discuss these, we give consideration to all the similarities between the two fisheries. But also the differences between the two fisheries at least from a habitat protection standpoint; I guess I would in general, very generally say that I am always more concerned about mobile gear versus static gear even though static gear obviously can damage corals as well; referencing our past discussions about lobster pots fairly frequently.

MR. WAUGH: In the follow-up document on Page 65, an item that we have to deliver at the June meeting is under the Ecosystem-Based Management. You directed staff to provide an updated VMS analysis using all of the 2014 data and include information on vessels that are capable of fishing in the depths of the area that will be closed in Coral Amendment 8.

Updated economic information for the area from Mike Merrifield; present results to the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee, and should be at the June 2015 meeting. You will have that report delivered at the June meeting and then can determine how you want to proceed from there.

MR. HARTIG: In the amount of stuff that we deal with sometimes we forget, at least I do, about what our deliverables are from meeting to meeting. That makes it clear to the deepwater shrimp that we haven't forgotten about them. We are incorporating the additional information, and the council is willing to look at that. We'll see that in June; and thank you for that; I appreciate that. That brings us back to the motion. Is there any more discussion? **Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none; that motion is approved.**

MS. McCRAWLEY: Objection over here.

MR. HARTIG: Motion passes with one objection.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Mr. Chairman, I don't have anything else.

MR. HARTIG: Yes; that is what I was going to say; is there any other business to come before the Golden Crab Committee? Seeing none; we will adjourn the Golden Crab Committee.

(Whereupon. the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 o'clock p.m., March 5, 2015.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

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March 25, 2015

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South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Golden Crab Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 5, 2015

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	kloster..., joseph	grkjfk@omcast.net	Mar 05, 2015	3:44 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hanson, Chad	chanson@pewtrusts.org	Mar 05, 2015	3:38 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hildreth, Delaine	delaine_hildreth@gad...	Mar 05, 2015	3:33 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Knowlton, Kathy	kathy.knowlton@gadnr...	Mar 05, 2015	2:36 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	gregory, doug	doug.gregory@gulfcou...	Mar 05, 2015	2:28 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brennan, Ken	kenneth.brennan@noaa...	Mar 05, 2015	1:42 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clarke, Lora	lclarke@pewtrusts.org	Mar 05, 2015	1:38 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Malinowski, Rich	rich.malinowski@noaa...	Mar 05, 2015	1:30 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larkin, Michael	Michael.Larkin@noaa....	Mar 05, 2015	1:20 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brogan, Gib	gbrogan@oceana.org	Mar 05, 2015	12:41 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williams, John	john@shrimpalliance...	Mar 05, 2015	11:18 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	cardin, bobby	finchaser357@aol.com	Mar 05, 2015	10:57 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	hull, jimmy	hullsseafoos@aol.com	Mar 05, 2015	10:20 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lee, Jennifer	Jennifer.Lee@noaa.gov	Mar 05, 2015	10:10 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gore, Karla	karla.gore@noaa.gov	Mar 05, 2015	10:05 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	rindone, ryan	ryan.rindone@gulfcou...	Mar 05, 2015	9:27 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alvarado, Nicolas	Nicolas.Alvarado@noa...	Mar 05, 2015	9:22 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Takade..., Helen	htakade@edf.org	Mar 05, 2015	9:17 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bubley, Walter	bubleyw@dnr.sc.gov	Mar 05, 2015	9:00 AM EST

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Package..., Christina	christina.package-wa...	Mar 05, 2015	8:58 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lamberte, Tony	tony.lamberte@noaa.g...	Mar 05, 2015	8:38 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neer, Julie	julie.neer@safmc.net	Mar 05, 2015	8:33 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ballenger, Joseph	ballengerj@dnr.sc.gov	Mar 05, 2015	8:25 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bresnen, Anthony	anthony.bresnen@myfw...	Mar 05, 2015	8:22 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c, m	mec181@yahoo.com	Mar 05, 2015	8:19 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerhart, Susan	susan.gerhart@noaa.g...	Mar 05, 2015	8:18 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bademan, Martha	martha.bademan@myfwc...	Mar 05, 2015	8:18 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	holiman, stephen	stephen.holiman@noaa...	Mar 05, 2015	8:17 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erwin, Gwen	gwen.erwin@myfwc.com	Mar 05, 2015	8:04 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Raine, Karen	karen.raine@noaa.gov	Mar 05, 2015	7:58 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laks, Ira	captainira@att.net	Mar 05, 2015	7:35 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MacLauc..., Bill	billmac@charter.net	Mar 04, 2015	10:04 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DuBeck, Guy	guy.dubeck@noaa.gov	Mar 04, 2015	2:43 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	vara, mary	mary.vara@noaa.gov	Mar 04, 2015	10:10 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karp, Fran	francine.karp@gmail...	Mar 03, 2015	1:27 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foreman, Allan	acforeman1@hotmail.c...	Feb 26, 2015	12:49 PM EST
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FARMER, NICK	nick.farmer@noaa.gov	Feb 11, 2015	12:39 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mehta, Nikhil	nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov	Feb 11, 2015	11:54 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sandorf, scott	scott.sandorf@noaa.g...	Feb 11, 2015	11:48 AM EST
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