

GOLDEN CRAB COMMITTEE
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA
March 2, 2009

The committee reviewed the letter from the golden crab fishermen concerning a LAPP program. The committee agreed to recommend that Council staff time be provided as long as it does not negatively impact the snapper grouper economic work.

The committee discussed a number of items to meet the new Reauthorized-Magnuson Stevens Act:

1. Timing – the most recent guidance is that for species not experiencing overfishing, the new requirements must be implemented during the 2011 fishing year. The golden crab fishing year is the calendar year.
2. Species - the species included in the fishery management unit (golden crab) and those in the fishery management plan (red and jonah crab). Monica Smit-Brunello provided guidance that only species in the fishery management unit will be considered “in the fishery” and those are the species that would need to have ACLs and AMs specified. The committee also discussed the New England Council’s Red Crab FMP and how the plan extends through the South Atlantic Council’s area. The committee directed staff to contact the New England Council and NMFS/NOAA GC and report back to the committee in June.
3. How to implement – the committee discussed this and recommends including golden crab in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

The committee approved the following motions:

**MOTION #1: COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE COUNCIL PROVIDE STAFF TIME TO WORK ON DEVELOPMENT OF A GOLDEN CRAB LAPP WITH THE PROVISION THAT THE SNAPPER GROUPE ECONOMIC WORK IS NOT COMPROMISED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #2: INCLUDE GOLDEN CRAB IN THE COMPREHENSIVE ACL AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR ACLs AND AMs.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION #3: DIRECT STAFF TO CONTACT NEFMC AND NOAA GC TO ADDRESS THE RED CRAB FISHERY MANAGEMENT UNIT
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

MOTION #4: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO THE COUNCIL THAT STAFF WORK ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. WORK ON DEVELOPMENT OF A GOLDEN CRAB LAPP WITH THE PROVISION THAT THE SNAPPER GROUPEE ECONOMIC WORK IS NOT COMPROMISED.
2. GOLDEN CRAB AP TO MEET DURING THE JUNE 2009 COUNCIL MEETING.
3. STAFF MAY MEET WITH THE GOLDEN CRAB INDUSTRY PRIOR TO THE JUNE 2009 MEETING.
4. DIRECT STAFF TO CONTACT NEFMC AND NOAA GC TO ADDRESS THE RED CRAB FISHERY MANAGEMENT UNIT

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE