



## **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405

Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)

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Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair

Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

# **AGENDA**

## **Spiny Lobster Committee Meeting**

Double Tree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront  
2717 W. Fort Macon Road  
Atlantic Beach, NC

**Monday, December 4, 2017 – 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda – Jessica McCawley

Approval of June 2017 Committee minutes – Jessica McCawley

1. Status of 2016-2017 Catches vs. ACL
  - a. Presentation (**Attachment 1**) – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Committee discussion and action as necessary – Jessica McCawley
  
2. Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (Bully-Nets and FWC Management)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Review draft options paper (**Attachment 2a**) – Christina Wiegand
  - c. Review other inconsistent regulations (**Attachment 2b**) – Jessica McCawley
  - d. Committee Action – Jessica McCawley
    - i. Review the purpose and need as well as draft alternatives and determine if any changes are necessary.
    - ii. Review Gulf Council motions.

Other Business – Jessica McCawley

Adjourn – Jessica McCawley

### **Committee Members**

Jessica McCawley, Chair

Ben Hartig, Vice-Chair

Chester Brewer

Chris Conklin

Roy Crabtree

LCDR Jeremy Montes

**Attachments**

**Attachment 1:** Spiny Lobster landings for 2016-2017

**Attachment 2a:** Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 Options Paper

**Attachment 2b:** Inconsistencies between state and federal regulations for Spiny Lobster

**Staff:** Christina Wiegand

# **OVERVIEW**

## **Spiny Lobster Committee**

The Committee will approve of minutes from June 2017 meeting and agenda.

1. **Status of 2016-2017 catches vs. ACL – (Attachment 1)**

**Description:** Council staff will present an overview of 2016-2017 landings (commercial and recreational) for spiny lobster. Spiny lobster harvest in the EEZ off Florida and in Florida waters is closed from April 1 through August 5, except for the two-day recreational sport season at the end of July. Spiny lobster harvest in the EEZ off Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina is open all year. Attachment 1 includes landings from 1991-1992 through the 2016-2017 landings, as of October 2, 2017.

**Required Committee Action:** None

2. **Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (Attachment 2a-2b)**

**Description:** A bully net is a type of gear for harvesting spiny lobsters that generally consists of a mesh net with a long handle. Participation in the bully net fishery has steadily increased in recent years. Constituents expressed concerns to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) about increased participation in the open-access spiny lobster bully net component of the spiny lobster fishery along with growing conflicts between recreational bully netters, commercial bully netters, and other members of the public such as homeowners. Based on stakeholder input, FWC approved a set of regulations that would help quantify participation in the commercial bully net fishery, while continuing to allow entry into the fishery, and address other stakeholder concerns.

The Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan had included a protocol and procedure for Enhanced Cooperative Management for spiny lobster, including circumstances under which NMFS can update the federal regulations with no formal action required from the Councils. The protocol and procedure needs to be updated before federal regulations can be revised to align with FWC regulations.

At the June 2017 meeting, the Council directed staff to start work on a plan amendment that would update federal regulations to align with Florida regulations, and update the protocol and procedure. At their October 2017 meeting, the Gulf Council reviewed the draft options paper and additional inconsistencies between the State of Florida and federal spiny lobster regulations. The Gulf Council approved a motion to add actions addressing bag limits, degradable panels, and artificial habitat to Spiny Lobster Amendment 13.

**Status of Amendment:** Draft options

**Required Committee Action:** Review draft options; modify as needed.

### **Other Business**