



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

Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Spiny Lobster Committee

Bahia Mar Doubletree by Hilton
801 Seabreeze Boulevard
For Lauderdale, FL 33316

Monday, June 11, 2018 – 4:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Jessica McCawley

Approval of March 2018 Committee minutes – Jessica McCawley

1. Status of Spiny Lobster Catches vs. ACL (*Attachments 1*)
 - a. Letter from NMFS regarding 2016/2017 landings – Christina Wiegand
2. Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel Report – Bruce Irwin (*Attachment 2*)
3. Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
 - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
 - b. **Committee action:** review draft document, select preferred alternatives, and approve for public hearings – Jessica McCawley

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 2017/2018 landings

Attachment 2: Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel Meeting Report

Attachment 3a: Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 Public Hearing Draft

Attachment 3b: Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 Decision Document

Staff: Christina Wiegand

OVERVIEW

Spiny Lobster Committee

The Committee will approve of minutes from March 2018 meeting and agenda.

1. **Status of Spiny Lobster Catches vs. ACL – (Attachment 1)**

Description: Council staff will present an overview of 2017-2018 landings for spiny lobster. Spiny lobster harvested 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 2017-2018 landings, as of May 14, 2018. Note: recreational landings estimates for the 2017-2018 season are unavailable due to hurricanes.

Required Committee Action: None.

2. **Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel Report – (Attachment 2)**

Description: The Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel met via webinar on May 7, 2018. Bruce Irwin, AP Chair, will provide a summary of the Advisory Panel’s discussion and recommendations.

Required Committee Action: None.

3. **Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 – (Attachments 3a and 3b)**

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 need to be updated before federal regulations can be revised to align with FWC regulations.

At the March 2018 meeting, Council staff presented an updated options paper for Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 which contains actions that would update federal regulations to align with State of Florida spiny lobster regulations, including: the new bully nets regulations, trip limits for bully nets and divers, degradable panel specifications, and artificial habitat definition and restrictions. The amendment also contains an action that would update the enhanced cooperative management procedure between Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the NMFS. Staff will present a public hearing draft for consideration and

approval for public hearings. If approved, public hearings would be held prior to the September meeting.

Status of Amendment: Draft public hearing document.

Required Committee Action: Review draft document, select preferred alternatives, and approve for public hearings.

Other Business