



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Acting Chair | Mel Bell, Acting Vice Chair  
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

## **REVISED AGENDA** **Spiny Lobster Committee**

Town & Country Inn  
2008 Savannah Highway  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

**Tuesday, October 2, 2018 – 8:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. (Times subject to change)**

Approval of Agenda – Jessica McCawley

Approval of June 2018 Committee minutes – Jessica McCawley

1. Status of Spiny Lobster Catches vs. ACL (*Attachments 1*)
2. Status of Amendments under Formal Review – NMFS SERO
  - a. Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4 – sent to NMFS on July 12, 2017
3. Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (*Attachments 2a-2c*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. **Committee action:** review draft document, confirm preferred alternatives, and consider approval for formal review – Jessica McCawley

Other Business – Jessica McCawley

Adjourn – Jessica McCawley

### **Committee Members**

Jessica McCawley, Chair  
Chester Brewer, Vice-Chair  
Kyle Christiansen  
Chris Conklin  
Roy Crabtree  
LCDR Jeremy Montes  
Art Sapp

### **Attachments**

**Attachment 1:** Spiny Lobster Landings

**Attachment 2a:** Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 Final Draft

**Attachment 2b:** Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 Codified Text

**Attachment 2c:** Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 Decision Document

**Staff:** Christina Wiegand

# OVERVIEW

## Spiny Lobster Committee

The Committee will approve of minutes from the June 2018 meeting and the committee agenda.

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

**Description:** Council staff will present an overview of 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.

**Committee Action:** None required.

2. **Status of Amendments under Formal Review – NMFS SERO**

**Description:** SERO staff will brief the Committee on the status of Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4 which was submitted for formal review on July 12, 2017. The proposed rule was published on February 2, 2018. The final rule was published on June 22, 2018 with an effective date of July 23, 2018.

**Committee Action:** None required.

3. **Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 – (Attachments 2a-2c)**

**Description:** In response to stakeholder comments, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently approved a set of regulations to address concerns and conflicts as well as quantify participation in the commercial bully net fishery while continuing to allow entry. The Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP) had included a protocol and procedure for Enhanced Cooperative Management for spiny lobster, which included circumstances under which NMFS can update the federal regulations with no formal action required from the Councils. However, the protocol and procedure need to be updated before federal regulations can be updated to align with current FWC regulations.

At the June 2018 meeting, Council staff presented a decision document for Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 which contained actions that would update federal regulations to align with State of Florida spiny lobster regulations, including: the new bully nets regulations, trip limits for commercial 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 FWC and NMFS. Based on comments from the Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel, Law Enforcement Advisory and FWC, the Council chose to move the actions related to degradable panel specifications and artificial habitat to the considered but rejected appendix.

At their August 2018 meeting the Gulf Council approved Amendment 13 for formal review. Council Staff will present a final draft for consideration and approval for formal review.

**Committee Action:** Review draft document, confirm preferred alternatives, and consider approval for formal review – Jessica McCawley

### Other Business