

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**SPINY LOBSTER COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Charleston, SC**  
**October 2, 2018**

The Committee approved minutes from the June 2018 meeting and the agenda.

**Status of Spiny Lobster Catch vs. ACL**

Council staff presented an overview of 2017/2018 commercial landings for spiny lobster. Recreational landing estimates for 2017/2018 are unavailable due to the active hurricane season. The landings report also included a summary of hurricanes that have made landfall in Florida during or directly before spiny lobster seasons from 1992 through 2017.

**Spiny Lobster Amendment 13**

Staff presented a decision document for Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 which contains actions that would update federal regulations to align with State of Florida spiny lobster regulations, including: bully nets regulations and trip limits for bully nets and divers. The amendment also contains an action that would update the enhanced cooperative management procedure between Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Committee reviewed the final document and codified text.

It was clarified that, while not explicit in the codified text, the enhanced cooperative management procedure states that the State may propose changes to specification of gear that may be utilized or prohibited in the directed fishery, specification of bycatch levels that may be taken as incidental catch in non-directed fisheries, and changes to soak or removal periods and requirements for traps. It is FWC's intent to use the enhanced cooperative management procedure to implement changes to the spiny lobster trap soak period and trap removal period in federal waters starting in the 2019/2020 season.

**MOTION # 1. APPROVE SPINY LOBSTER AMENDMENT 13 FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

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Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

**Timing and Task(s)**

**MOTION # 2. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:**

1. Work with Gulf Council staff to prepare Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL