

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SPINY LOBSTER COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Ponte Vedra, FL
June 12, 2017

The Committee approved minutes from the March 2017 meeting and the agenda.

Status of 2016-17 catches v. ACL

Council staff presented an overview of 2016/2017 landings (commercial and recreational) for spiny lobster, through June 4, 2017. The landings from the 2016/2017 fishing season are 6,834,531 lbs, which exceeds the current annual catch target of 6.59 million pounds.

Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4

Regulatory Amendment 4 includes actions to revise the biological parameters and overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL) for spiny lobster, and an action to prohibit traps for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in the South Atlantic EEZ.

The Committee approved the following motions:

**MOTION #1. APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this amendment is to modify the stock status determination criteria and catch levels for spiny lobster based on updated information and revised scientific recommendations, and to consider restrictions on the use of traps for recreational harvest.

The need for this amendment is to ensure that the stock status determination criteria and catch levels for spiny lobster are based on the best scientific information available, to prevent overfishing, and to minimize negative effects of recreational traps in the South Atlantic. The proposed actions would contribute to increased social, economic, and biological benefits through sustainable and profitable harvest in accordance with provisions set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

**MOTION #2. APPROVE SPINY LOBSTER REGULATORY AMENDMENT 4 FOR 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 COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

Updates to align Federal Regulations with FWC Regulations

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 their last meeting, the Gulf Council directed staff to start work on a plan amendment to update the federal regulations to align with Florida regulations, and to also update the protocol and procedure.

The Committee approved the following motion:

MOTION #3. DIRECT STAFF TO START WORK ON A PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS THE BULLY-NET ISSUES AND UPDATE THE PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOL WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

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 # 4. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

- 1) Work with Gulf Council staff to finalize Regulatory Amendment 4 to be sent to NMFS for formal review.
- 2) Work with Gulf Council staff on an options paper for the new plan amendment.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.