

**FINAL SUMMARY REPORT
SPINY LOBSTER COMMITTEE
December 5, 2016
Atlantic Beach, NC**

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the June 2016 meeting minutes.

Regulations and Management of Spiny Lobster in Florida

Jessica McCawley presented on current regulations and management for spiny lobster harvested in Florida state waters and the EEZ off Florida. The presentation provided context for the discussion on the potential action to restrict recreational traps in the EEZ off Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

Discussion Document for Action to Restrict Recreational Traps in the South Atlantic EEZ

Council staff reviewed a discussion document for a potential action to include in the developing Spiny Lobster amendment. The action would prohibit or restrict traps for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in the South Atlantic EEZ. The Committee directed staff to add the action to the options paper that the Gulf Council will review at their January/February 2017 meeting. The Committee recommended that the Councils consider prohibition of all recreational traps because there are concerns about the number of traps used per individual; lack of effectiveness of traps to catch spiny lobster outside of Florida waters; concern about negative effects on habitat without being effective gear; and concern about vertical lines that may interact with protected species.

The Committee voted on the following motion as recommendations to the Council:

**MOTION 1. ADD AN ACTION TO PROHIBIT RECREATIONAL TRAPS FOR SPINY LOBSTER IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC EEZ.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**

South Atlantic SSC Recommendations

The South Atlantic SSC met via webinar on November 21, 2016. Dr. Marcel Reichert, SSC Chair, presented the SSC recommendations for spiny lobster to the Committee. The South Atlantic SSC recommendations will be incorporated into the options paper to be provided to the Gulf Council at their January/February 2017 meeting.

TIMING AND TASK

Move to direct staff to:

- 1) Work with Gulf Council staff to prepare an options paper for Spiny Lobster Framework Amendment 1 to be presented to the Gulf Council at their January/February 2017 meeting.

**MOTION 2. ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK MOTION.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.**