

Overview

Spiny Lobster Committee

DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront
2717 W. Fort Macon Road
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

December 6, 2016

Following approval of the agenda and the June 2016 minutes, Committee Chair Jessica McCawley will provide (A) a presentation on regulations and management of spiny lobster in Florida. Next, the Committee will review (B) the discussion document for an action to restrict recreational traps in the South Atlantic EEZ and provide direction to staff. Then SSC Chair Dr. Marcel Reichert will report on (C) the SSC recommendations for spiny lobster from the webinar meeting on November 21, 2016.

Lastly, the Committee will address issues under (D) Other Business if necessary.

A. Regulations and Management of Spiny Lobster in Florida (Attachment 1)

Jessica McCawley will present an overview of the current regulations and management for spiny lobster harvested in Florida state waters and the EEZ off Florida. Almost all spiny lobster harvest is from Florida, and specifically from south Florida and the Florida Keys.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

B. Discussion Document for Action to Restrict Recreational Traps in the South Atlantic EEZ (Attachment 2)

In June 2016, the South Atlantic Council directed staff to add an action to restrict the use of traps for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in the South Atlantic EEZ. This action will be included in Regulatory Amendment 4 that will also include actions to revise the overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL) for spiny lobster. At their January/February 2017 meeting, the Gulf Council will review an options paper for Regulatory Amendment 4, which will include these actions along with an action to consider the Spiny Lobster Advisory Panels' recommendation for a monitoring measure triggered by low landings. Direction to staff on the action to restrict recreational traps in the South Atlantic will be included in the Gulf options paper. The South Atlantic Council will review draft Regulatory Amendment 4 in March 2017.

Council staff will present the discussion document for the action (**Attachment 2**). The Committee will provide direction to staff on alternatives to include in Regulatory Amendment 4.

C. South Atlantic SSC Recommendations

The South Atlantic SSC reviewed spiny lobster at their October 2016 meeting, but did not make any recommendations on the Overfishing Limit (OFL) or the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) level. The SSC requested a webinar meeting to allow time to review additional information, which is scheduled for November 21, 2016. SSC Chair Dr. Marcel Reichert will

report on (C) the SSC recommendations for spiny lobster from the November 21, 2016 webinar. The webinar meeting report will be posted on the SSC meeting page (<http://safmc.net/meetings/scientific-and-statistical-committee-meetings>) as soon as it is available, and provided to the Committee at the meeting. The SSC recommendations will be incorporated into the options paper for Regulatory Amendment 4 that will be presented to the Gulf Council at their January/February 2017 meeting.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review and provide guidance to staff.

D. Other Business

The Committee will address items under Other Business as appropriate.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary