

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPINY LOBSTER COMMITTEE

**King and Prince Hotel
St. Simons Island, Georgia**

March 3, 2015

SUMMARY MINUTES

Spiny Lobster Committee

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Dr. Roy Crabtree

Ben Hartig, Vice-Chair
Jack Cox

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Monica Smit-Brunello
Erika Burgess
Dr. George Sedberry
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Other Participants Attached

The Spiny Lobster Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the King and Prince Hotel, St. Simons Island, Georgia, Tuesday morning, March 3, 2015, and was called to order at 11:40 o'clock a.m. by Chairman Jessica McCawley.

MS. McCAWLEY: Spiny Lobster Committee; the first order of business is approval of the agenda. Are there any modifications, changes, or edits to this agenda? Seeing none; the agenda stands approved. We also have some minutes from March of 2012 to approve. Are there any changes or edits to the minutes from the March 2012 committee meeting? Seeing none; those minutes stand approved. The next order of business is the status of commercial and recreational catch versus ACL.

DR. McGOVERN: This is Tab 7, Attachment1; and these are landings that Sue Gerhart put together. The table shows landings by fishing year, which is August 6th to March 31st of each year. It shows the OFL, the ABC which is equal to ACL, and the ACT. There is one commercial and recreational OFL, ACL, and ACT for the Gulf and South Atlantic.

The thing to notice is that the total landings for the 2013/2014 fishing year are over 7.9 million pounds, which exceeds the OFL and also exceeds the ACT. There is an accountability measure that if the ACT is exceeded; there is a review panel that is convened by the Gulf and the South Atlantic Council. That review panel met in February, and I think Kari is probably going to talk about that because she was there.

MS. McCAWLEY: Kari, do you want to give us a report from that meeting?

DR. MacLAUHLIN: You have two attachments in here; the first one, Attachment 2. That is the landings that were presented to the review panel. Then Attachment 3 is the review panel report. We met ON February 9th in Key West and had several presentations, reviewed landings for many years that you can see in Attachment 2.

We discussed different factors that affected the landings, why the landings were higher this year. In Attachment 2 you also see we have an ACT, which is the AM. It is 6.59 million pounds. The ACL is set at ABC and that is 7.32 million pounds; and then the OFL is 7.9 million pounds. In Amendment 10, the council set up – the accountability measure was if landings exceeded that ACT, the councils would convene a review panel to look at the landings, talk about what is going on and make recommendations to the council about any action that would be necessary.

But then also landings exceeded the OFL in 2013/14. This is a chart that shows we have – this top green line is the OFL. The ACL is the blue dashed line, and then the ACT is the purple dashed line. The light blue line on the bottom here is recreational. Then the darker blue is commercial, and then the black line is total spiny lobster landings. You can see in the nineties from '91 to about 2000, in general total landings were higher than the OFL and the ACL. Then around 2000 landings dropped and they fluctuated between 4 and 6 million pounds; but in general they didn't go back to the level that they were in the nineties.

At the panel we talked about a lot of reasons why possibly those landings dropped in 2000. You have a trap certificate reduction program, so there are a lot less traps over those years. Then you also have the virus that affects juvenile lobsters that maybe was affecting that. There was an economic downturn overall in the national economy, lots of market forces.

There were lots of factors, probably not one thing, but the panel reviewed all the biological information and genetic information and talked about that. Moving over to Attachment 3, this is the Review Panel. It was made up of folks from the Regional Office, the Gulf Council, and then we had representatives from the Gulf Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel and the South Atlantic Advisory Panel. We also had some folks from the SSCs on there and then FWC.

Then we had folks that were in attendance; some of the fishermen around there came by. Some of them were advisory panel members and so we talked to them. We reviewed everything we just talked about. Overall the recommendations from the panel were that the panel does not recommend a new stock assessment.

They felt that there was no new information that we would get out of a stock assessment, so they didn't recommend that. They did discuss and conclude that the ACL is maybe the wrong methodology to manage this fishery and recommended that the councils explore being exempt from the ACL requirements; so we can talk about that.

They have a unique life history in that they are not an annual crop, but there is a lot of external recruitment. There is some information that suggests that there is possibly up to 40 percent recruitment in the Keys. There are studies, but the data really ranges, and nobody really knows where the spiny lobster come from that are caught in the Keys.

Additionally, the panel recommended that the OFL be redefined as MFMT. One thing that came up when we talked about is the OFL; is that an accurate measure of overfishing for spiny lobster? Should the SSCs review that OFL and maybe talk about maybe it is too low? Is it a problem that landings went over that?

One thing that came up with the panel members, particularly our folks from FWC, is they talked about when it was set – you know, here we had the landings in the nineties that were high, they were above what our OFL is now. They dropped in 2004; many, many reasons that could happen in addition to the hurricane years. There was tons of stuff that happened.

They didn't go back up for now or about 15 years. Their question was we don't know if this is the new norm. When you set the OFL and those ACLs; the 2000s all the way up to 2012; that was the new norm for this fishery. That is what it was going to look like. That was their capacity for what they could produce. Maybe it is going to go up, so maybe something is changing with the stock or the fishery; but for now they didn't feel comfortable saying there is a new norm coming into play.

They wanted to wait and see how this happened; because they felt like maybe it was just a bump; that really those four to six million pounds a year is the norm in what the fishery can produce. What is next for you guys I think would just be to direct staff on actions you want to take or have a discussion.

MS. McCRAWLEY: Let's take any questions first. I had a question about isn't the Lobster SSC meeting in March in Tampa to talk about this also, or no? Isn't there a Lobster SSC meeting that is coming up to talk about this more?

DR. MacLAUHLIN: We don't have an SSC component. Okay, I don't know actually.

MS. McCAWLEY: Are there any questions about the report from this meeting? What is the pleasure of the committee, because I am wondering if we should try to petition this species for a species that should not have to have an ACL?

DR. CRABTREE: Well, I think the only way this would become a species that would not be required to have an ACL is if Congress did that through Magnuson revisions. I think you've been asked on occasions to comment on Magnuson in things like that. I guess if you were asked to comment, you might could raise it there.

I think right now what we need to do is continue to monitor the fishery. It looks like the landings now are back down and going to be below the targets. I think that you are going to get a letter from the Fisheries Service relatively soon going over what the Fisheries Service thinks you should do.

But the key thing to me right now is this just a one-time event or is this going to be something that happens more than every four years or so? I think if it continues to happen, then we're going to have to come in and either work with the SSC to make revisions to the catch level or we're going to have to take some sort of step to better constrain the catches.

I don't think we're at the point of doing that yet. I guess one thing, though, that would be helpful from Florida, Jessica, is to continue to work with you to keep tabs on the catches and particularly to get previews and projected catches like we've gotten this time around and keep on it.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: It might help the council, I guess, if I would read a little bit from the Act and then the National Standard 1 Guidelines on these annual catch limits and what is accepted out of them. Congress stated that the annual catch limit requirement shall not apply to a fishery for a species that have a life cycle approximately one year unless the secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing for that species.

I believe it was determined that when we did the annual catch limits for spiny lobster; that spiny lobster, because it did not have a life cycle of a year, it had a longer life cycle; that it needed annual catch limits. Now the National Standard 1 Guidelines defined life cycle as follows, or it discusses at least the exception.

“This exception applies to a stock for which the average length of time it takes for an individual to produce a reproductively active offspring is approximately one year and that the individual has only one breeding season in its lifetime.” That is the current National Standard 1 Guidelines on life cycle.

DR. DUVAL: Just to comment on that; the Chairman and the Council have submitted comments to the Council Coordinating Committee regarding those types of provisions within Magnuson and particularly invertebrate species that may have short life cycles, requesting extra flexibility. We're sort of in a no man's land right now with regard to Magnuson Reauthorization, but I just want to address that point.

MS. McCAWLEY: I appreciate that. I guess there is no mechanism to send a letter to the secretary requesting an exception to that provision by explaining the uniqueness of the life cycle of spiny lobster, Monica?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I guess you could always send a letter to the secretary asking for all kinds of things. There is nothing that tells me that you can't do that; but what you're likely to hear back is that because the life cycle for spiny lobster is longer than a year, it doesn't fit within the exception. Now, if you could build a record as to why it fits within the exception somehow, then you are more likely to get a more positive response.

We could go back and look at the amendment that set up the ACLs for spiny lobster and see what is in there. Then you would look to see whether you have any new information or anything like that. You could request a letter. I would think, though, because Congress has specifically spoken to the exception that it allows from this ACL requirement; that you are likely to not get a positive response back.

MR. BREWER: I agree with Roy; you've got one instance here where it has gone over, and it was a commercial overage, if you look at it. The recreational take has been pretty flat. It seems to me that it does need to just be monitored. I'm sure the state of Florida is going to do that. There might be some emphasis made with regard to watching what is going on in the commercial market.

As I understand it, there is a growing market in China for these things alive. They fly them over actually in tanks. I think they do the same thing with Maine lobsters. There is going to be in all probability a growing demand, and so it needs to be watched; but right now it does not seem to be a problem, really.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: It was pointed out to me I ought to read a little bit further for you in the National Standard 1 Guidelines. There is something called in the guidelines flexibility in application of the National Standard 1 Guidelines. If you would allow me to read a little bit of that, maybe that would be helpful.

“There are limited circumstances that may not fit the standard approaches to specification of reference points in management measures set forth in these guidelines. These include, among other things, conservation management of ESA-listed species, harvest from aquaculture operations, and stocks with unusual life history characteristics.”

The examples they give is “Pacific salmon where the spawning stock potential for a stock is spread over a multi-year period. In these circumstances councils may propose alternative approaches for satisfying the NS1 requirements of the Magnuson Act than those set forth in the guidelines.

“Councils must document their rationale for any alternative approaches for these limited circumstances in an FMP or FMP amendment which will be reviewed for consistency with the Magnuson Stevens Act.” I will be glad to clip that piece out of the guidelines and send it to you. Maybe that would give you additional rationale for requesting any changes to the Fisheries Service.

DR. CRABTREE: And I think that is how we got to where we are. This is I think a unique accountability mechanism that we have for spiny lobster. I think we put it in place in the context of the unique life history of spiny lobster, and so we tried to show some flexibility on it. I think we followed the guidelines on that; but I am not sure where else we could go with that.

If people have thoughts on alternative ways to manage within the concept of ACLs, then that would probably be worth looking at; but I wouldn't read that language as saying you get out of the ACL. You still have to have it, but you can exercise some flexibility in how you deal with it, which I think is what we're doing here at this point.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, I would say that the lack of hands and lack of comments means that we don't want to take any action on this item at this time. Moving on to other business, Michelle.

DR. DUVAL: Madam Chair, I am not on your committee, but an item was brought to my attention by a constituent in North Carolina who is actually on the Spiny Lobster Review Panel. I think there has been some – it has to do with the two lobsters per person per day recreational and commercial bag limit north of Florida.

I think there has been some misunderstanding by recreational divers that this was two lobsters per person per day limit rather than a two lobsters per person no matter how many days you stayed out diving. The situation that we have is we have divers who will go out, will go to Frying Pan Tower. They will spend a couple days out there and then come back with two limits.

We've had just recently someone get cited by law enforcement for doing that. I think they were unaware that this was a two per trip; and Kari had provided me with the Amendment 4 language when the two lobster limit was established outside of Florida.

The original action read, "modify the recreational season and bag limits; allow the harvest of two lobsters per person per day for all fishermen all year long, but only north of the Florida/Georgia border. This measure will be added to the framework procedure in the next amendment so that future potential changes to the limit would not require a plan amendment.

"The prohibition on retention of berried lobsters with eggs remains in effect; and the reference to two lobsters per person per day above is in effect two lobsters per person per trip, because the councils have not made provisions for multiday limits in the spiny lobster fishery." It seems like this was something the council intended to address and just never did in terms of multiday limits for recreational fishermen.

I am not on your committee, so I can't make a motion; but I was wondering if that was something that the committee would entertain considering through a framework. We do have provisions for multiday recreational limits in other fisheries such as coastal migratory pelagics and also in snapper grouper. I would put that forward for the committee's consideration.

MS. McCAWLEY: I haven't seen that language that you're talking about that Kari sent you, but let me see if I understand the ask; so is the ask that people be able to retain multiday bag limits? Is that the ask; and how many day bag limits?

DR. DUVAL: That is the ask, and it would only be I think two days, which is similar to if you are out on a trip for 48 hours, which I think is what we have for I think both snapper grouper and coastal migratory pelagics, is that you be allowed to retain two bag limits worth of species, which would be four lobsters. If that is something you want to come back to at full council, I understand. I know we're pressed for time here.

MR. BREWER: What is being pointed out here is the same problem that Charlie pointed out when we were talking about fillets from the Bahamas and the language that is used. A lot of our regulations speak to so many per day. The question then arises because that word is used; does that mean per trip or does that mean if you're out on a multiday and you can prove it, you can have a multiday possession?

It is a problem that runs throughout a lot of these regulations. The law enforcement guys that explained it to us said, no, they interpret that to mean per trip. In other words, if you're stopped, you better just have one day's bag on board. It may be something that needs to be visited throughout.

I am not in favor quite frankly, though, of having a greater retention limit for spiny lobster. Most of that stuff is very much inshore, and you've already got a problem with people that will go out. They will hit it in the morning and then they will hit it in the afternoon. They are taking more lobster than they should. I am not really much in favor of that.

MR. COX: I do some diving for lobsters, too. Off of North Carolina we're in about 120 feet is the depth, the range that we find these lobsters in. I don't know if it wouldn't be easier rather than have a multiday bag limit maybe just to have increase our bag limit from two say to four or something like that.

MS. McCAWLEY: You're talking about in the area north of Florida?

MR. COX: Yes.

MR. HARTIG: Yes; those were the same thoughts I had; have a couple of options, have a multiday bag limit of four or just move it to four, if we want to go forward with this. I don't have a problem going forward with it. I don't know where we would.

MR. COX: Monica, I've got a question for you I was just thinking about. On the permit process on the lobster tailing, there is an affidavit on there where you have to prove so much of your income has to come from commercial fishing I think or something to be eligible to apply for an LC permit. Are you familiar with that?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I'm familiar with that and I know that was a requirement; but if you'll give me a second, I'll look at the regulations and see whether that is a requirement now.

MR. COX: I was just thinking for the guys north of Florida, it really doesn't pertain to them very much, does it, because there is not much of a commercial fishery for the spiny lobsters?

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, the bag and possession limits for federal waters off of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina is two per person per day. It is a daily bag limit for commercial or recreational. The council decided to deal – it's kind of like cobia, whether you're commercial or recreational; it is two per person per day.

MR. COX: Right; I think a lot of people sending in the permit fee north of Florida are thinking that if they want to keep those lobsters; then they have to pay that fee. Maybe on that permit in that particular area, it should say this just applies to folks from Florida, if that makes sense.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I'll get you a little bit more information what the regulations currently say.

MR. PHILLIPS: I'm not on your committee either. To Chester's point, I don't think anybody north of Florida is going to be able to make a multiday – two trips in one day. It is just way too far. But, yes, four lobsters per trip would probably make sense. I don't think it would affect the stocks.

MR. BELL: I'm not on your committee either. The same point; for us it is a 30- or 40-mile trip offshore. I've never really heard anybody complain about – I mean, if they can get two, they're happy. There may be some cases where they could get more, but it is certainly not multiple trips in a day.

DR. PONWITH: I may have missed a step in here. We just saw that we're pressing up against the ACL and we're talking about modifying regulations north of the Florida border for the recreational sector. Is there something happening elsewhere to make that possible?

DR. DUVAL: I think the point that has been made to me is that those lobsters that we get up our way have long since left Florida. They are not contributing to any recruitment or anything. You have an ACL in place and you have an accountability measure in place.

Modifying a bag limit or making, as Chester stated it, your regulation match up with how it is being interpreted by the public in terms of a daily bag limit match up with something that we already have in rules for other fisheries is the ask here. I don't really see it as necessarily a resource issue. I raised the same concern myself, but it didn't sound like the Spiny Lobster Review Panel had any concerns about the biological capacity of the stock at this point.

MS. McCRAWLEY: Well, I think that the reason that they didn't have concerns is because our recruits are not coming from Florida. They are coming from elsewhere in the Caribbean. It is not fully known exactly where they are coming from. I did note from the report or from what Tom Matthews told me about the meeting; that they are anticipating likely exceeding that ACL maybe by one million pounds or more each year here on out because of the years that were used to set the ACL were such low years for whatever reason; whether it was the virus or what have you.

I suspect that we're going to be in this same scenario, which is why I brought up the fact that maybe we request some exemption, because I suspect we're going to continue going over and continue meeting this panel; and I don't suspect that they are going to have anything much different to say to us. I also agree with what you're saying that I don't necessarily think that those lobsters that you guys are getting are maybe not even coming from the same stock.

MR. HARTIG: We talked about a couple of options, the multiday bag limit. The only thing about the multiday from a recreational perspective, how does law enforcement ever prove how long you have been out unless you have a hail-in and hail-out requirement for the recreational sector, I don't know. We do allow multiday bag limit trips for those excursion vessels in Key West, and that is the only people I know that we have that exception for.

DR. DUVAL: Well, my understanding based on reading the regulations is that those multiday limits are specifically for for-hire vessels everywhere. As long as you can document that you were on a trip for 48 hours or 72 hours and fishing occurred on at least two of those days, you can have those multiple day limits, I think.

I see what you're saying, if that was spiny lobster it might be a little bit more difficult just because those are dive harvest landings. You could be going out on your own boat or you could be going out on a dive vessel, so how would you do that? The solution might be to simply look at potentially increasing the bag limit to either three or four lobsters.

MR. COX: I was just going to quickly say this is another example of the regional differences in our fisheries and how – I certainly think this is a different stock. These lobsters that we dive on and get are like 4 to 12 pounds. They look prehistoric, they are so old. They are huge. The depth of water that we go, we don't ever see these things in less than 120 feet of water, so you can't do but so much damage diving. If we were talking about potting or something, it would be completely different.

MR. BROWN: Yes, the slipper lobsters or the shovel nose; are they managed anywhere in the South Atlantic?

MS. McCAWLEY: We manage them in state waters off of Florida.

MR. BROWN: But in federal waters they are not managed?

MS. McCAWLEY: I don't think so.

DR. MacLAUHLIN: We took them out of the FMU in Amendment 10.

MR. HARTIG: What do you need; do you need a motion to develop an options paper?

MS. McCAWLEY: It would either be a motion now or we wait until full council and then Michelle would make a motion since she is not on this committee. If you want to go ahead and make a motion now, we might be able to do this with a framework, I think.

MR. HARTIG: I would move that we develop a framework amendment to increase the bag limit for spiny lobsters north of the Florida/Georgia line. Do we want that specific to numbers in this amendment or not; not if we're developing a framework amendment? Well, yes. How specific do you want to be, Michelle?

DR. DUVAL: Well, you would probably need options just to satisfy NEPA, but I can't imagine going above four; so Alternative 1, status quo; Alternative 2, three; Alternative 3, four; I can't imagine going above that.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, that sounds fine; that sounds fine with me.

MS. McCAWLEY: Would this be for recreational and commercial since they have the same bag limit or is this just recreational only?

MR. HARTIG: No, it would be the same bag limit for both, because that is how the species is managed throughout north of Florida. The intent of this is not to change the commercial and recreational management options we have currently – or not options but way we manage the fishery.

DR. MacLAUCHLIN: Okay, so I added “and possession limit” in the motion.

MS. McCAWLEY: Do you want to go ahead and add the options that we were talking about? Do we have a second to this motion? Seconded; Chester.

MR. BREWER: You might want to have another option that would have like a boat limit on it, so that somebody wouldn’t put all their cousins and everything else on board and go out and hammer it; have one guy diving and the rest of the guys up drinking beer, you know.

MS. McCAWLEY: We’ve had a request to add an overall maximum vessel limit. Do you have a suggestion for what that might be?

MR. BREWER: I have never gone 120 feet deep looking for lobster in my life, so I don’t have a clue; but I can see it might be a problem. I would defer to Jack to give us some thoughts on that.

MR. COX: One of the commercial boats last year caught 20 of them in one day hook-and-line fishing out in the deep water. It can happen in rare situations. But I would think – they are big lobsters, so think about how much you’re taking when you take one. I don’t know, eight, ten; I don’t know, ten? They are huge. I will bring you a picture of one next time.

DR. DUVAL: You could probably have options of a maximum of 10, 12, 14 or something like that.

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, I don’t know if people are still buddy-diving out there; but if you’ve got two pairs of two people and you’ve got four people diving, then your multiples turn out to 16. Like I say, I don’t know if they are still doing that or not, but it is just a thought.

MS. McCAWLEY: Maybe the options are 10, 12, and 16; or 8, 12, and 16?

MR. BELL: I’m not on your committee, but you might want to just leave a blank or something and direct staff to research it and come up with something? I don’t know; you are kind of doing it on the fly here.

MR. COX: That pretty much covers it, I think. I would think 16 would be a plenty for a maximum range.

DR. MacLAUCHLIN: In general this is I think going to need input from you guys on what you feel comfortable with, because the data are really limited for spiny lobster caught outside of Florida waters. I don’t even know what we can get our hands on, really.

MR. BROWN: To what Jack said; that is what we see off of South Carolina, too. They are really big. Compared to what I used to see down in Florida, these are like dinosaurs. I don’t

know what the age structure is on them or anything or how fast they can be depleted. They are a lot bigger.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: One idea is to gather all the information. Like Kari just mentioned, there may not be a lot, but gather it up, put it in an options paper and bring it back before you. Then you have a little bit more information to choose what a vessel limit would be. Then on Jack's question earlier about the tail separation permit; while the bag and possession limit is the same for commercial and recreational, it appears that you need a commercial permit in order to sell the spiny lobster.

To get that, you need to give a sworn statement that at least 10 percent of your earned income was derived from commercial fishing. Then if you want a tail-separation permit, you need to give another sworn statement that your fishing activity is routinely conducted in the EEZ on trips of 48 hours or more and that the tail-separation permit is needed to maintain a quality product. It doesn't look to be too onerous at least for the commercial fellows to get a commercial permit and a tail-separation permit.

MR. COX: The affidavit; is that effort control? Why go through those criteria having assigned something like that saying your income comes from that? Didn't we talk about at one time with king mackerel that you couldn't really pursue that to go into somebody's records? I'm just curious.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I can't tell you why it was originally put in. I can speculate, but we can figure that out. There have been occasions. Most recently I think the Gulf Council removed earned income requirements, and I think you all went along with that in mackerel; I can't quite remember.

This is maybe just a holdover from that time period when earned income requirements were required for many of your fisheries. I believe that was to get at the people who are really recreational, but then went out on weekends to harvest.

There was a lot of talk about that when some of those earned income requirements were put in way back when in the nineties, I guess. But I can't tell you exactly whether you should hang on to this. I am just reading you the regulations for what it is right now.

MR. COX: Right; and I appreciate you finding that for me. We're not going through that process of filling out of application, I'm just curious. Are we trying to reduce effort by doing that; and if so, why would we continue to have an open access permit? That is where my thinking is.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Those are great questions; and if you wanted staff to put that in an options paper and evaluate that, too, I guess they could. I can't answer those questions right now.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, we have a motion. Let me read the motion. **The motion is to develop a framework amendment to increase the bag limit and possession limit for spiny lobsters north of the Georgia/Florida line with alternatives for three per person and four**

per person and alternatives for max vessel limit of 8, 12, and 16. Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none; that motion stands approved.

DR. PONWITH: Just as you are contemplating the development of this, just being cognizant of the fact that the ACL does exist and that if modifications to those bag limits are changed, it could result in higher landings that would have to be accommodated somewhere else within the ACL, unless you chose to pursue some sort of exception under National Standard 1. I think that would be important.

DR. MacLAUCHLIN: My understanding, when we were just putting together the information for the Review Panel, is that Florida landings are ACL landings and nothing else is tracked. We were trying to pull landings from other places and then the official ACL landings were just the FWC landings.

MR. MAHOOD: Yes; we're putting a lot of effort into something that may not need that much effort. We tried to develop an offshore spiny lobster fishery back in maybe the middle seventies off of Georgia, because there were a few of them out there and there was some interest. This was looking at them commercially with pots. That didn't work.

But if you've ever dove that deep and tried to chase a lobster around, like Jack said, if you could catch two, you are quite the scuba diver and you are very happy. I am not sure that anybody is going to ever have the ability at that depth. You can make, what, maybe two dives a day to catch a whole lot of lobster. We do have – his name escapes me even though he's been on our Lobster AP for a long time.

MR. COX: Don DeMaria?

MR. MAHOOD: No, no, he's from up north – Bill Mansfield. Yes, Bill had a lot of input originally into this and he talked to a lot of the fishermen up there. We maybe need to talk to him, too, and then talk to some of the fishermen up there.

DR. DUVAL: That is who I talked to. He is the source of this issue of multiday trip limits and the interpretation of the regulations.

MR. MAHOOD: I personally agree with Ben and the other folks saying that this might be easier to – trying to do multiday trip limits is going to be very difficult to put into regulation. Raising the trip limit, if that is a feasible thing to do, is much easier to do. As far as how it may affect the overall ACL or the landings; I think if we can even find where the landings are recorded, I don't know if North Carolina has much on lobster landings. I suspect Georgia and South Carolina don't have a whole lot. They are such a minor component of any kind of landings. I'm not sure that you can find a whole lot, but I can't imagine it affecting the total ACL of spiny lobster.

MS. MacLAUCHLIN: What I am going to bring back to you the next time we have a Spiny Lobster Committee meeting, I'm assuming, in June, will be kind of a skeleton document framework amendment and then a decision document that will have these options of these alternatives for you guys to look over and approve.

MR. WAUGH: This request needs to be discussed by the Executive Finance Committee on Thursday and then we'll decide where it fits into the schedule. This is not on the 2015 work plan, so let's wait until that discussion.

MS. McCAWLEY: Okay, any other business to come before the Spiny Lobster Committee? Seeing none; the committee stands adjourned.

(Whereupon. the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 o'clock p.m., March 3, 2015.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

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March 23, 2015

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PLEASE SIGN IN

In order to have a record of your attendance at each meeting and your name included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown below.

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Spiny Lobster Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2015

NAME & SECTOR/ORGANIZATION: AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER: EMAIL ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS:

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Paul Nelson SFA

Caitlin Hanner Fisheries Forum



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	white, holly	holly.white@ncdenr.g...	Mar 03, 2015	2:56 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lloyd, Vic	vic_lloyd@bellsouth....	Mar 03, 2015	2:33 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Raine, Karen	karen.raine@noaa.gov	Mar 03, 2015	1:49 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	williams, erik	erik.williams@noaa.g...	Mar 03, 2015	1:18 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Engleby, Laura	laura.engageby@noaa.g...	Mar 03, 2015	11:26 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sedberry, George	george.sedberry@noaa...	Mar 03, 2015	11:16 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conley, John	thcjohn100@yahoo.com	Mar 03, 2015	10:39 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOLLAND, jack	JACK.HOLLAND@NCDENR....	Mar 03, 2015	10:35 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Takade..., Helen	htakade@edf.org	Mar 03, 2015	10:20 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mueller, Mark	mark.mueller@boem.gov	Mar 03, 2015	10:03 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bailey, Adam	adam.bailey@noaa.gov	Mar 03, 2015	9:34 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Powell, Jessica	jessica.powell@noaa....	Mar 03, 2015	9:21 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	L, I	captainira@att.net	Mar 03, 2015	9:12 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burgess, Tom	tbburgess@embarqmail...	Mar 03, 2015	9:07 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smart, Tracey	smartt@dnr.sc.gov	Mar 03, 2015	8:51 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clarke, Lora	lclarke@pewtrusts.org	Mar 03, 2015	8:51 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lee, Jennifer	Jennifer.Lee@noaa.gov	Mar 03, 2015	8:45 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c, m	mec181@yahoo.com	Mar 03, 2015	8:45 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DeVictor, Rick	rick.devictor@noaa.g...	Mar 03, 2015	8:33 AM EST

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bademan, Martha	martha.bademan@myfwc...	Mar 03, 2015	8:26 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	holliman, stephen	stephen.holliman@noaa...	Mar 03, 2015	8:23 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alvarado, Nicolas	Nicolas.Alvarado@noa...	Mar 03, 2015	8:21 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Timpy, Dave	captdave@wavelengthc...	Mar 03, 2015	8:20 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MacLau..., Bill	billmac@charter.net	Mar 03, 2015	8:11 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Swatzel, Tom	tom@swatzel.com	Mar 03, 2015	7:47 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neer, Julie	julie.neer@safmc.net	Mar 02, 2015	10:09 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mansfield, Bill	billman@ec.rr.com	Mar 02, 2015	7:55 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wilber, Pace	Pace.Wilber@noaa.gov	Mar 01, 2015	12:06 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erwin, Gwen	gwen.erwin@myfwc.com	Feb 27, 2015	2:29 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerhart, Susan	susan.gerhart@noaa.g...	Feb 27, 2015	10:53 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	kilgour, morgan	morgan.kilgour@guifc...	Feb 27, 2015	10:36 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sminkey, thomas	tom.sminkey@noaa.gov	Feb 23, 2015	10:50 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Herndon, Andrew	andrew.herndon@noaa...	Feb 13, 2015	8:12 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Byrd, J	julia.byrd@safmc.net	Feb 12, 2015	10:04 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Franco, Dawn	dawn.franco@gadnr.org	Feb 11, 2015	4:33 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FARMER, NICK	nick.farmer@noaa.gov	Feb 11, 2015	12:38 PM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mehta, Nikhil	nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov	Feb 11, 2015	11:53 AM EST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sandorf, scott	scott.sandorf@noaa.g...	Feb 11, 2015	11:47 AM EST

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