

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE SPINY LOBSTER COMMITTEE MEETING
Atlantic Beach, NC
December 7, 2009

INCLUDING COUNCIL ACTIONS 12/11/09

The Spiny Lobster Committee met on December 7, 2009 in Atlantic Beach, NC. The committee received presentations by:

1. Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, reviewed public comments from the Gulf Council scoping for Amendment 10. Forty three members of the public attended the hearing in Key West, FL on September 21st and six individuals spoke. Thirty six members of the public attended the hearing in Marathon, FL on September 22nd and 6 individuals spoke. Nine letters were received. Gregg also reviewed the Gulf Council motion that deleted the action to repeal the Spiny Lobster FMP from Amendment 10.
2. Jennifer Lee, NMFS Staff, presented the NMFS Biological Opinion for the Spiny Lobster Fishery. The Councils need to consider the following items in Amendment 10:
 - a. Establish new closed areas or expand the size of existing closed areas in waters under their jurisdiction where *Acropora* coral is present to prohibit spiny lobster trap fishing.
 - b. Implement measures requiring that all spiny lobster trap rope be a specific color or have easily identifiable patterns/markings, not currently in use in other fisheries, along its entire length.
 - c. Explore allowing the public or other entities to remove trap line, buoys, and make unfishable, any spiny lobster trap gear found in the environment when the fishery is closed and all traps must be out of the water (April 1 – August 5).

The Committee discussed how to proceed with development of Amendment 10 and also reviewed the SEDAR Update schedule, appointments, and Terms of Reference.

No motions were made but the committee provided the following direction to staff:

Direction to Staff/Team

1. Staff is requested to present a summary of information available from the State of Florida's work on spiny lobster at the next meeting; this could include having Florida scientists presenting information. The intent is to determine how much of the work can be used in developing Amendment 10 in order to avoid duplicating effort.

Council Action: Directed staff to schedule a Joint Spiny Lobster Committee/Advisory Panel at the June 2010 meeting and have staff from Florida report on their work over the past several years. Also, work with the Gulf

Council to explore making this a Joint SA/GM Spiny Lobster Committee/AP meeting.

2. SEDAR Update Appointments:
 - a. SAFMC SSC (2) – Sheri Larkin (SSC) and Dave Eggleston (NC State Scientist)
 - b. SAFMC AP (2) – Commercial: Tony Iarocci (not on AP) and Bruce Irwin (AP) as alternate. Recreational: Bob Burton (AP) and Michael Adams (AP) as alternate.
 - c. SAFMC Staff – Gregg Waugh
 - d. SAFMC Council Member – Mark Robson/George Geiger is alternate.

Council Action: Approved by Council

3. SEDAR Update Timing – the timing shown below was reviewed and staff was directed to work to have a subgroup of SAFMC SSC members meet jointly with the GMFMC Special Spiny Lobster SSC to review the SEDAR Updated Assessment prior to the SAFMC’s December 6-10, 2010 meeting. The intent is for the SAFMC to approve Amendment 10 for public hearings at their December 2010 meeting.

Council Action: Approved by Council

4. SEDAR Update Terms of Reference – the attached Terms of Reference (TOR) were reviewed and the modifications by the SSC were discussed. The Committee agreed to review the TOR during the Council session.

Council Action: Approved by Council

5. Directed staff to add actions to Amendment 10 to address the NMFS Biological Opinion items.

**Preliminary Project Schedule
Gulf and South Atlantic Spiny Lobster Assessment Update**

- SA Council and SSC approve TORs December 6-11, 2009
- SA Council approves participants December 6-11, 2009
- Gulf Council approves TORs February 1-4, 2010
- Gulf SSC approves TORs December 1-2, 2009
- Gulf Council approves participants February 1-4, 2010
- Data scoping webinar March 16, 2010
- Preliminary data through 2008 compiled by April 22, 2010
- Base run model adjustments developed May 1 to June 18, 2010
- Final data through 2009 compiled by June 1, 2010
- Update Webinar 1 – finalize data; preliminary model discussion June 22, 2010
- Update Webinar 2 July 13, 2010
- Update Webinar 3 July 27, 2010
- Draft update report distributed by teams for review August 11, 2010

- Update Workshop August 23-25, 2010
- Update Webinar 4 September 8, 2010
- Update Workshop report sent to council staff for SSC October 18, 2010
- Update Review by Joint SA/Gulf SSC – scheduled so that SSC Review Report can be included in SAFMC December 2010 briefing book (by COB on November 15, 2010). Meet early in 1st week in November (Nov 1-5) and finalize report by COB on November 15th.

Terms of Reference
Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Spiny Lobster
Update Assessment Workshop - August 23-25, 2010

1. Update the SEDAR 8 assessment of Southeastern US spiny lobster with data through 2009-2010. Prepare a continuity scenario and consider additional sensitivity runs to address assessment concerns raised since the benchmark.
2. Evaluate any relevant data and parameters to be included into the stock assessment model. This evaluation should be conducted with all relevant scientific input. Include life history, indices of abundance, and fishery data.
3. Evaluate the relative reliability of fishery dependent and independent data sources and adjust model input appropriately.
4. Update the approved SEDAR 8 Southeastern spiny lobster model base configuration with data through 2008-09. Employ the SEDAR 8 SAR 3 statistical catch-at-age model (Integrated Catch-at-Age) as the base and the DeLury model as a check for consistency. The DeLury model used numbers of lobster and effort by fishing year extended back to the 1978-79 fishing year. Both models used fishery-dependent (observer and Biscayne National Park creel survey) and fishery-independent (puerulus and adult monitoring) tuning indices. Sensitivity runs included running the age-structured model with two lipofuscin growth curves and with two alternative natural mortality rates. Retrospective analysis compared patterns in fishing mortality rates, recruitment, and population sizes in terminal years from 1997-98 to 2002-03 to the base run results. Document any changes in assessment methodology incorporated in the update.

5. Document any changes or corrections made to input datasets, all additional data added for the update, and any modifications applied to the additional data. Tabulate complete updated input datasets. Provide tables of commercial and recreational landings and discard in the units used in SEDAR 8, SAR 3. Specify units of measurement in all tables.
6. Estimate and provide complete updated tables of stock parameters.
7. Update measures of uncertainty and provide representative measures of precision for stock parameter estimates. If time, resources, and available information permit, conduct a P* analysis as needed to determine ABC.
8. Update estimates of stock status and SFA parameters; provide declarations of stock status relative to current SFA criteria. Provide clear statements of stock status relative to 'overfishing' and 'overfished'. If a status of 'overfished' or 'overfishing' is determined, run the standard range of projections.
9. Specify OFL, and may recommend a range of ABC for review by the SSC in compliance with ACL guidelines.
10. Evaluate and project future conditions for eleven years (2009-10 through 2019-20 inclusive) beyond the terminal year of the update (2008-2009). Run at least these three projection scenarios:
$$F = F_{\text{current}}, F = F_{\text{msy}}, \text{ and } F = F_{\text{oy}}.$$
11. Review the research recommendations from SEDAR 8 SAR 3 (2005), note any which have been completed, and make any necessary additions or clarifications. Focus on those items which will improve future assessment efforts. Provide details regarding sampling design, sampling strata and sampling intensity under current exploitation allowances that will facilitate collection of data that will resolve identified deficiencies and impediments in the 2005 assessment. Recommend sampling intensity in terms of the number of sampling events and appropriate elements in order to complete the ACCSP sampling design matrix.

12. Develop an update stock assessment workshop report in SEDAR outline to fully document the input data, methods, and results of the stock assessment update. Address these Terms of Reference. Submit the report to SEDAR no later than October 1, 2010. The report shall be provided to the GMFMC and the SAFMC no later than October 18, 2010.