

**REVISED SUMMARY REPORT  
FROM THE SPINY LOBSTER COMMITTEE MEETING  
Orlando, Florida  
June 10, 2008**

The Spiny Lobster Committee met on June 10, 2008 in Orlando, FL. The committee received presentations by:

1. Gregg Waugh, SAFMC Staff, reviewed the Import Amendment.
2. Bill Sharp, FWC, reviewed the status of Florida's actions on spiny lobster:
  - a. Regulations will become effective in July to extend the moratorium on further reductions in trap certificates for one more year and to extend the prohibition on harvesting egg-bearing lobsters to all species of lobsters.
  - b. In September, the commission will be considering a suite of regulations for the recreational fishery and potential changes to the commercial trap certificate program to reduce latent effort.
3. Bruce Irwin, SAFMC Spiny Lobster AP & Spiny Lobster Workgroup member, discussed items currently being considered by the workgroup:
  - a. Short Mortality – require one lath on a trap to be made of untreated wood; require aerators for live wells; escape rings in traps; and passive trap reduction.
  - b. Environmental Impacts – habitat protection by protecting high profile coral areas and trap movement cooperative research project to study different fishing practices and determine which practices result in the least amount of trap movement.
  - c. Unanimously supported
    - i. Alternative #2 in the Import Amendment
    - ii. FWC should include the Federal Park in the Emergency Trap Cleanup Plan
    - iii. Promote Cooperative Research by commercial trap industry and State/Federal scientists
    - iv. Support the State's Lobster Advisory Board's recommendation to allocate lobster landings according to historical averages
    - v. Trap rope recycling program

The committee reviewed the Import Amendment and approved the following motions:

**Motion 1. ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS OUR PREFERRED:**

**Action 1. Alternative 2.** No person in the U.S. would be allowed to import a spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*):

1. Less than 5 ounces tail weight (5 ounces is defined as a tail that weighs 4.2 – 5.4 ounces).
2. 3.0 inches (7.62 cm) or less carapace length if the animal is whole.
3. Less than 5.5 inches (13.97 cm) tail length if only the tail is present.

In Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, no person would be allowed to import a = spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*):

1. Less than 6.0 ounces tail weight (6 ounces is defined as a tail that weighs 5.9 – 6.4 ounces).
2. Less than 3.5 inches (8.89 cm) carapace length if the animal is whole.
3. Less than 6.2 inches (15.75 cm) tail length if only the tail is present.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION 2. FOR ACTION 2 MAKE ALTERNATIVE 2 OUR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

Alternative 2 - Do not allow the importation of spiny lobster tail meat which is not in whole tail form with the exoskeleton attached; and do not allow the importation of spiny lobster with eggs attached or importation of spiny lobster where the eggs, swimmerets, or pleopods have been removed or stripped.

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION 3. RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL THAT THE IMPORT AMENDMENT BE APPROVED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**  
**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

The committee discussed potential changes being considered by the State of Florida. Roy Crabtree suggested we consider delegating management of the fishery management plan to the State of Florida.

The committee also discussed a joint amendment with the Gulf Council as lead to specify the annual catch limits and address other measures. Delegation of management to the State of Florida as suggested at the last committee meeting is to be added to the list.

**Direction to Staff/Team**

1. Add text clarifying that in Action 1, Alternative 2 the term U.S. does not include Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also that in Alternative 3, the term U.S. does include Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
2. Add text explaining why the definition for a 5 ounce tail was changed from 4.2-5.4 ounces to 4.5-5.4 ounces.
3. Add text explaining why the 5.9 ounce tail in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands was changed to 6.0 ounces.
4. Council staff are to contact Gulf Council staff to discuss timing for Amendment 9.