

OVERVIEW

Spiny Lobster Committee Meeting

December 7, 2009

Atlantic Beach Sheraton Oceanfront

Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

The Spiny Lobster Committee needs to: (A) review results of the Gulf Council's scoping for Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment 10; (B) receive a presentation from NMFS on the Biological Opinion for the spiny lobster FMP; (C) and then provide guidance to staff on items for the amendment and for the SEDAR Update.

A. Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment 10

The Gulf Council and the South Atlantic Council are preparing a joint amendment to address the new requirements of the Reauthorized-MSA. Rick Leard and Gregg Waugh discussed the two staffs' workloads and have proposed that Rick take the administrative lead for the Joint Mackerel Amendment and Gregg take the administrative lead for the Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment. Carrie Simmons, Gulf Council staff, is the Gulf staff lead for the spiny lobster amendment and prepared the scoping document used for the Gulf Council scoping meetings. The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils have approved this approach.

The South Atlantic Council has completed scoping as a part of the Comprehensive ACL Amendment scoping process. Scoping meetings were held as follows:

- (1) January 26, 2009 in Charleston, SC
- (2) January 27, 2009 in New Bern, NC
- (3) February 3, 2009 in Key Largo, FL
- (5) February 4, 2009 in Cape Canaveral, FL
- (5) February 5, 2009 in Pooler, GA

The Gulf Council held scoping meetings as shown below. Gregg Waugh attended the Key West and Marathon, Florida meetings. Summaries of the scoping meetings are included as **Attachment 1**.

- (1) September 21, 2009 in Key West, FL and Grand Isle, LA
- (2) September 22, 2009 in Marathon, FL; Biloxi, MS; and Corpus Christi, TX
- (3) September 23, 2009 in Madeira Beach, FL; Houston, TX; and Orange Beach, AL
- (4) September 24, 2009 in Panama City, FL

Gregg Waugh will review summaries of the scoping meetings (**Attachment 1**) and scoping letters (**Attachment 1**).

The Gulf Council reviewed scoping input and approved the following spiny lobster motion (Attachment 2) at their October 21-22, 2009 meeting:

Motion #1: To delete action item number 3 to repeal the Spiny Lobster FMP.
Motion carried.

The South Atlantic Council provided the following direction to staff at their September 2009 meeting: Do not work on alternatives that would withdraw, partially withdraw, or repeal the Spiny Lobster FMP.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss the Gulf Council's action for Amendment 10. Amendment 10 can now go forward with actions to meet the new requirements of the Reauthorized MSA.
2. Provide guidance to staff as necessary.

B. Biological Opinion for the Spiny Lobster FMP

The committee will receive a presentation from Andrew Herndon, NMFS, on the recently completed Biological Opinion (**Attachment 3**) on the spiny lobster fishery/FMP.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Receive report from NMFS.
2. Provide guidance to staff on any additional actions to include in Amendment 10

C. SEDAR Update for Spiny Lobster

Council staff will review the list of potential attendees (**Attachment 4; available in 2nd briefing book**) and the draft terms of reference (**Attachment 5; available in 2nd briefing book**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Recommend appointments for the SEDAR Update.
2. Modify/recommend approval of Terms of Reference.

D. Planning/Timing for Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment 10

An Inter-Disciplinary Team (IPT) has been formed:

SAFMC – Gregg Waugh (SAFMC & Council Lead) and Kate Quigley.

- (i) GMFMC – Carrie Simmons (GMFMC Lead) and Rick Leard.
- (ii) NMFS SERO – Susan Gerhart (NMFS Lead); Denise Johnson (Economist); David Dale (HCD); Kate Michie, Karla Gore, and Nikhil Mehta (NMFS); Otha Easley (OLE); Jennifer Lee and Andy Herndon (NMFS PR); Mike Jepson (Anthropologist); and David Keys (NEPA).
- (iii) **NMFS SEFSC – _____** Waiting for SEFSC to make appointments.
- (iv) NOAA GC – Monica Smit-Brunello.

A very rough timeline is proposed as follows:

- (i) SSC provides ABC – The South Atlantic SSC may provide some initial recommendation for a process to set values by December 2009. Their final OFL and ABC recommendations will be provided by December 2010 after the stock assessment update is available. The Gulf SSC will also need to provide their recommendations.
- (ii) Scoping – The SAFMC conducted scoping in January/February 2009. The GMFMC conducted scoping in September 2009.
- (iii) Options paper considered by Councils – during 2009 and 2010.
- (iv) Stock Assessment Update by staff working for the State of Florida – The spiny lobster stock assessment Data Workshop and Assessment Workshop were conducted by the State of Florida; the Review Workshop was conducted by SEDAR in 2005. An Update will be conducted by staff working for the State of Florida using the general schedule for updates recently adopted by SEDAR with data scoping in March 2010 and the final update report provided to the Councils' SSC for peer review in January 2011. This will provide the final MSY, OFL, and ABC recommendations which the Councils will use to develop the Annual Catch Limits (ACLs).
- (v) Draft Amendment prepared by South Atlantic and Gulf Council staff with assistance from NMFS staff – by March 2011.
- (vi) NMFS determines whether EA or EIS and prepares appropriate notices and analyses – by December 2010.
- (vii) Draft Amendment/DEIS or EA ready for public hearings – March or June 2011.
- (viii) Public Hearings – April/May or July 2011.
- (ix) Review public comments and provide final guidance on document – by September 2011.
- (x) Review and approve final document – by South Atlantic Council's September or December 2011 meeting _____.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

- 1. Provide guidance to staff as necessary.