

OVERVIEW

Spiny Lobster Committee Meeting

September 14, 2009
Charleston Marriott
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, South Carolina

The Spiny Lobster Committee needs to: (A) receive a status report on the Gulf Council's scoping for Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment 9 and (B) receive a presentation from NOAA GC on withdrawing or partially withdrawing the Spiny Lobster FMP and then provide guidance to staff.

A. Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment 9

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 preparing a scoping document 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 has scheduled scoping meetings as shown below. Gregg Waugh will be attending the Key West and Marathon, Florida meetings.

Meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end no later than 9:00 p.m.

September 21, 2009

Monroe County Govt. Center
1200 Truman Avenue
Key West, FL 33040

Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries
195 Ludwig Annex
Grand Isle, LA 70358

September 22, 2009

Banana Bay
4590 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050

September 23, 2009

City of Madeira Beach
300 Municipal Dr
Madeira Beach, FL 33708

SpringHill Suites
7922 Mosley Rd
Houston, TX 77061

City of Orange Beach
27235 Canal Road
Orange Beach, AL 36561

Best Western
7921 Lamar Poole Road
Biloxi, MS 39532

September 24, 2009
NMFS Lab
3500 Dellwood Beach Dr
Panama City, FL 32408

Holiday Inn – Emerald Beach
1102 S Shoreline Blvd
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Gregg Waugh will review the Gulf Council’s draft scoping document (**Attachment 1**).

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

- SAFMC – Gregg Waugh (SAFMC & Council Lead) and Kate Quigley.
- (i) GMFMC – Rick Leard (GMFMC Lead) and Carrie Simmons.
- (ii) NMFS SERO – Sue Gerhart (NMFS Lead); Denise Johnson (Economist); David Dale (HCD); Kate Michie, Karla Gore, and Nik Mehta (NMFS); Otha Easley (OLE); Jenny 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 will complete 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 in mid to late 2010 and reviewed by the Councils’ Scientific & Statistical Committees by December 2010. This will provide the 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.

B. Withdrawing or Partially Withdrawing the Spiny Lobster FMP

The committee will receive a presentation from Monica Smit-Brunello, NOAA GC, on issues related to withdrawing or partially withdrawing the FMP. The Councils are interested in considering withdrawing the FMP but do not want to lose the recently implemented regulations prohibiting imports less than the U.S. minimum size limit. There is some interest in modifying the fishery management unit to only include the EEZ off the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. This may allow for the continuation of the import regulations.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

- 1. Receive report from NOAA GC.
- 2. Provide guidance to staff on how to proceed:
 - Option 1. Include options to modify the fishery management unit in Amendment 9.
 - Option 2. Write the Secretary of Commerce and request the FMP be withdrawn except off North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.
 - Option 3. Write the Secretary of Commerce and request the FMP be withdrawn.
 - Option 4. Others??