



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair  
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

## **AGENDA** **Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel** Webinar Meeting

Other than the starting and ending times of the meeting, times indicated on the agenda are approximate, and the order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated.

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment.

### **Monday, May 7, 2018 – 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

Approval of Agenda – Bruce Irwin

Approval of April 2016 Joint AP minutes – Bruce Irwin

1. Update on Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (*Attachment 1a*)
  - a. Overview – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Bruce Irwin
2. Regulatory reform for spiny lobster (*Attachment 2*).
  - a. Overview – Brian Chevront
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Bruce Irwin
3. Fishery Performance Report (*Attachments 3a-3b*)
  - a. Overview of spiny lobster information document and questionnaire – Christina Wiegand
  - b. Discuss and provide recommendations, as appropriate – Bruce Irwin

Other Business – Bruce Irwin

Adjourn – Bruce Irwin

**Advisory Panel Members:**

Bruce Irwin, Chair

Bill Mansfield, Vice Chair

Robert Burton

Richard Diaz

Sean Espenship

Tony Iarocci

Russell Moore

Gary Nichols II

Peter O'Bryan

Mimi Stafford

Mickey Whittington

**Attachments**

**Attachment 1:** Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 Summary

**Attachment 2:** Regulations Recommended for Removal

**Attachment 3a:** Spiny Lobster Information Document

**Attachment 3b:** Spiny Lobster Discussion Questions

**Staff:** Christina Wiegand

# OVERVIEW

## Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel will approve minutes from April 2016 meeting and the agenda.

1. **Update on Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 – (Attachment 1)**

**Description:** Recently, constituents expressed concerns to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) about increased participation in the open-access spiny lobster bully net component of the spiny lobster fishery along with growing conflicts between recreational bully netters, commercial bully netters, and other members of the public such as homeowners. Based on stakeholder input, FWC approved a set of regulations that would help quantify participation in the commercial bully net fishery, while continuing to allow entry into the fishery, and address other stakeholder concerns. The Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan had included a protocol and procedure for enhanced cooperative management for spiny lobster that allowed the National Marine Fisheries Service to update federal regulations to align with Florida regulations without formal action by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils. However, the protocol and procedure need to be updated before federal regulations can be revised to align with FWC regulations.

Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 contains actions that would update federal regulations to align with State of Florida spiny lobster regulations, including: bully nets regulations, trip limits for bully nets and divers, degradable panel specifications, and artificial habitat definition and restrictions. The amendment also contains an action that would update the enhanced cooperative management procedure between FWC and NMFS. The South Atlantic and Gulf Councils will review a draft document at their June 2018 meetings.

**Required Advisory Panel Action:** Provide input as appropriate.

2. **Regulatory reform for spiny lobster – (Attachment 2)**

**Description:** On February 24, 2017 the President issued Executive Order 13777 as part of efforts to lower regulatory burdens on the American people by implementing and enforcing regulatory reform. The NMFS requested that each of the fishery management councils identify a process to review/evaluate existing regulations by the end of December 2017. Each Council is to conduct the review/evaluation and provide recommendations on rules to be removed by the end of June 2018. The Council is reaching out to all its APs to get their recommendations. Attachment 2 contains the initial attempts by Council staff to identify regulations that could be considered for removal.

**Required Advisory Panel Action:** Provide input on spiny lobster regulations that may be outdated or unnecessary.

3. **Fishery Performance Report – (Attachments 3a-3b)**

**Description:** The intent of the Fishery Performance Reports (FPRs) is to assemble information from AP members' experience and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPRs will be provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP), and the Council to assist in their discussions. During this meeting AP members will be asked to provide input on a FPR for spiny lobster.

**Required Advisory Panel Action:** Provide input for development of FPR.