



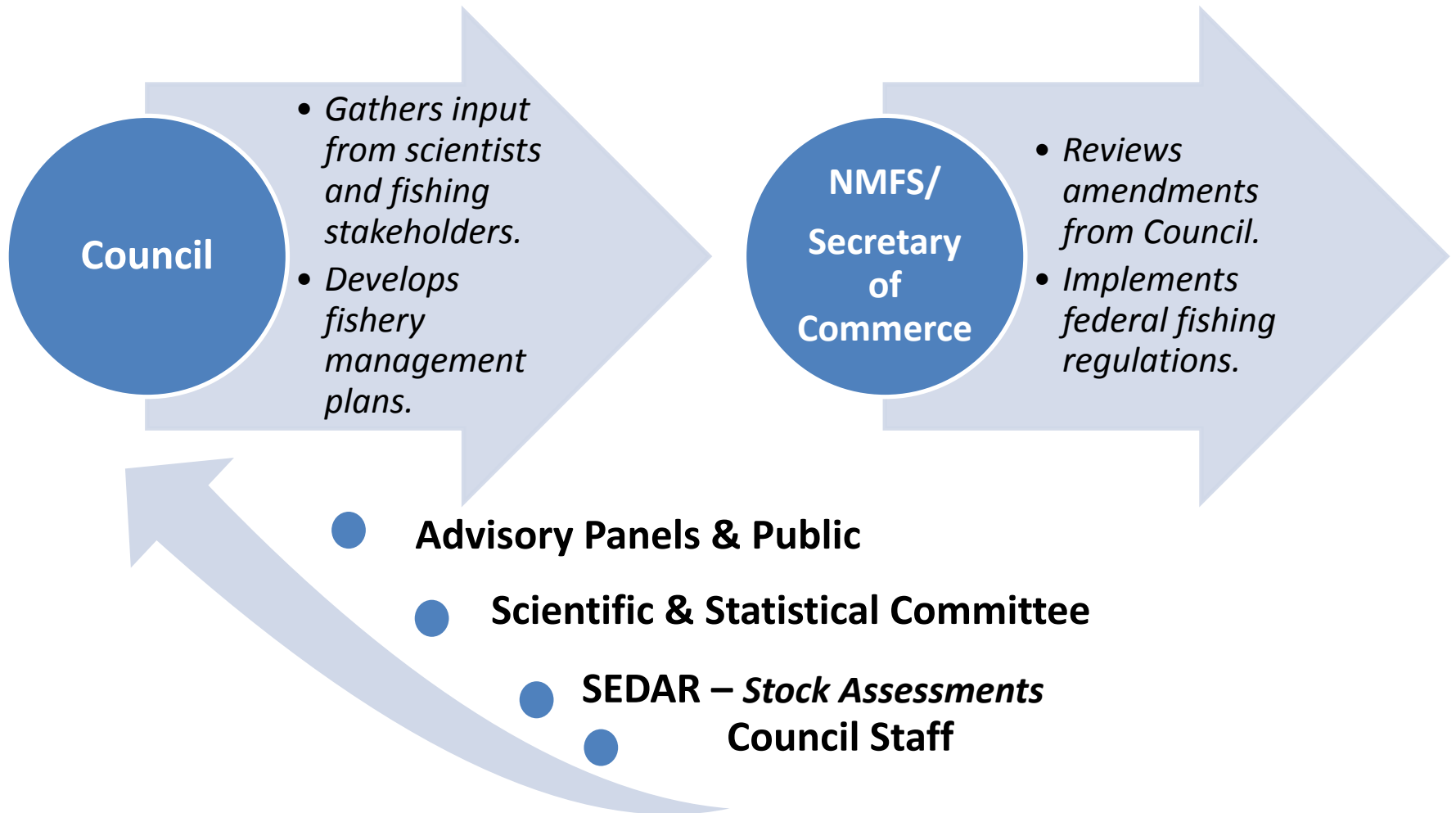
Public Hearing Summary

Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4



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Federal Fisheries Regulatory Process



Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4- Background

- The management benchmarks and catch limits were implemented in 2012 through Spiny Lobster Amendment 10:

Overfishing level (OFL)	Annual Catch Limit (ACL)
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	Annual Catch Target (ACT)

Maximum Sustainable Yield (proxy)	MSY = OFL = 7.9 mp
Overfishing Threshold (Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold)	MFMT = OFL = 7.9 mp
Overfished Threshold (Minimum Stock Size Threshold)	$MSST = (1-M) \times B_{MSY}$
OFL	7.9 mp
ABC = ACL	7.32 mp
ACT = 90%ACL	6.59 mp

- The OFL and ABC were calculated using the time period 2000/2001 through 2009/2-10 (the most recent ten years at the time), as recommended by the Gulf Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)



Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4- Background

- Spiny lobster landings exceeded the ACT in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- Spiny Lobster Review Panel was convened in 2015 and 2016. The 2016 Review Panel recommended updating the OFL/ABC using the time period 1991/92 through 2015/16 landings.
- Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs also recommended the same time period.
- Gulf and South Atlantic Spiny Lobster Advisory Panels supported using this time period, and also recommended convening a review when landings are below 5.3 million pounds.

	Current	Proposed in this amendment
MSY (proxy)	MSY = OFL = 7.9 mp	MSY = OFL = 10.46 mp
Overfishing Threshold (MFMT)	MFMT = OFL = 7.9 mp	MFMT = OFL = 10.46 mp
OFL	7.9 mp	10.46 mp
ABC = ACL	7.32 mp	9.6 mp
ACT = 90%ACL	6.59 mp	8.64 mp



Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4- Background

Recreational Trap Prohibition:

- Recreational spiny lobster traps are prohibited in the state and federal waters off Florida.
- Recently there was interest in using traps for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in North Carolina.
- Level of harvest using traps in the EEZ off Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina is unknown, but is likely minimal.
- Concern about potential habitat impacts and protected species interaction from traps on recreational traps in the EEZ off other states in the South Atlantic.
- The Councils are proposing extending the prohibition into the EEZ off Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.



Process for Regulatory Amendment 4

- ☑ **Jan/Feb 2017-** Gulf Council reviewed the draft actions and alternatives
- ☑ **March 2017-** South Atlantic Council reviewed the draft actions and alternatives, and approved for a webinar hearing
- **May 2017-** Webinar public hearing (S Atlantic)
- **June 2017-** South Atlantic and Gulf Councils will review public input, select preferred alternatives, and approves for formal review by the Secretary of Commerce
- **Late 2017-** Changes implemented



Regulatory Amendment 4 - Actions

ACTION 1 - Modify the Current Definitions of Management Benchmarks

Action 1.1: Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and Overfishing Threshold (Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold [MFMT])

Action 1.2: Modify the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Spiny Lobster

ACTION 2- Prohibit the Use of Traps for Recreational Harvest of Spiny Lobster in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)



ACTION 1 - Modify the Current Definitions of Management Benchmarks

Action 1.1: Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and Overfishing Threshold (Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold [MFMT])

Alternative 1: No Action - The MSY proxy and MFMT are equal to the previous overfishing limit (OFL) as set by the Gulf and South Atlantic Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) using the mean landings from the years 2001/2002 - 2009/2010 plus two standard deviations (7.9 mp).

Preferred Alternative 2: The MSY proxy and MFMT will be equal to the revised OFL as recommended by the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs using the mean landings from the years 1991/1992 - 2015/2016 plus two standard deviations (10.46 mp).



ACTION 1 - Modify the Current Definitions of Management Benchmarks

Action 1.2: Modify the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Spiny Lobster

Alternative 1: No Action – The current ACL is equal to the ABC recommended by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils' SSCs using the mean landings from the years 2001/2002-2009/2010 plus 1.5 standard deviations (7.32 mp). The ACT is 90% of the ACL (6.59 mp).

Preferred Alternative 2: The ACL is equal to the ABC as recommended by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils' SSCs using the mean landings from the years 1991/1992-2015/2016 plus 1.5 standard deviations (9.6 mp). The ACT is 90% of the new ACL (8.64 mp).



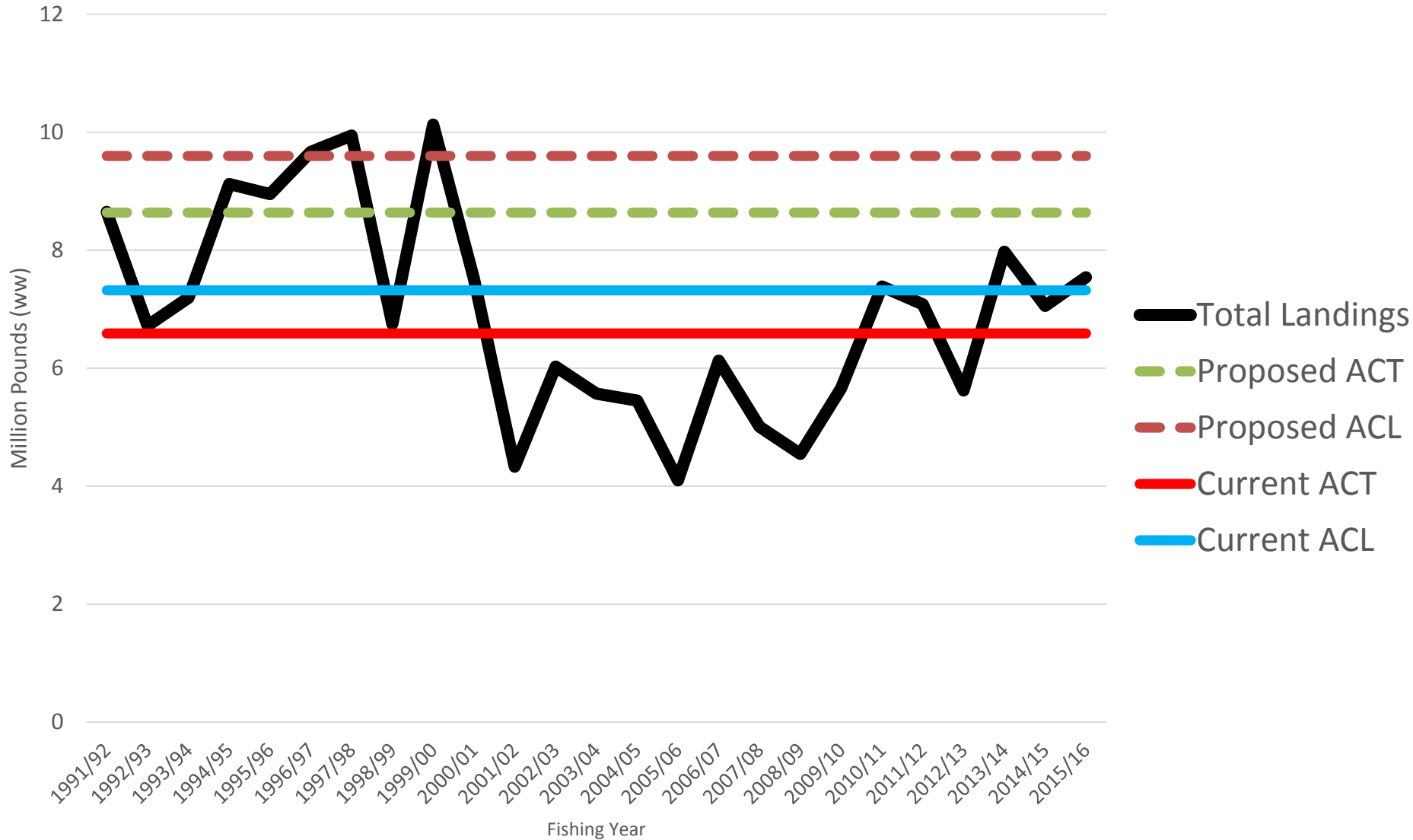


Figure 1. Spiny lobster landings compared to the proposed ACL and ACT in Alternative 2. Note that landings from 2004/05 include only commercial landings.



ACTION 2 - Prohibit the Use of Traps for Recreational Harvest of Spiny Lobster in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Alternative 1: No Action – Traps are prohibited gear for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in the EEZ off Florida waters, but are not prohibited for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in other parts of the South Atlantic EEZ. Traps must comply with requirements for vessel and gear identification, trap construction, and harvest limits as specified by [50 CFR Part 622](#).

Preferred Alternative 2: Prohibit the use of traps for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in the South Atlantic EEZ.

There are expected biological benefits by reduced likelihood of protected species interaction or habitat damage. The economic and social effects are expected to be minimal or none, because traps are likely not a popular gear type for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in these areas.



What Can the Public Do?

ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS OR PARTICIPATE IN THE WEBINAR:

May 9, 2017, 6pm EST: Webinar Q&A and Public Hearing

June 5-8, 2017: Gulf Council Meeting, Naples FL

June 12-16, 2017: South Atlantic Council Meeting, Ponte Vedra FL

Please see <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/> for webinar registration information and Council meeting details.

SUBMIT COMMENTS VIA OUR ONLINE FORM:

[http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/comment_forms/Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4.php](http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/comment_forms/Spiny_Lobster_Regulatory_Amendment_4.php)

OR MAIL COMMENTS TO: Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, SAFMC
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

***DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMENT OVERVIEW
FOR THE JUNE 2017 SAFMC MEETING: May 19, 2017***



Need more Information? Want to Get Involved in the Process?



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Regulatory Amendment 4

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