

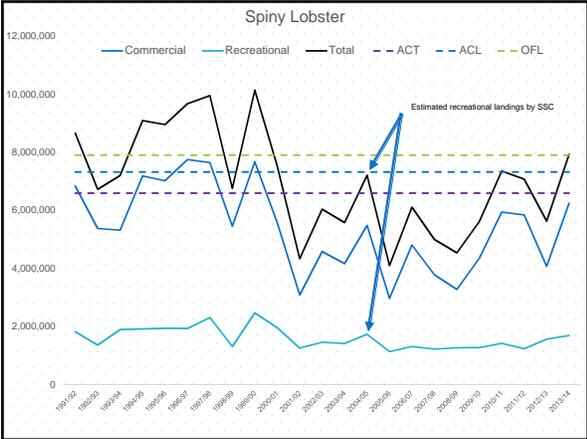
Spiny Lobster

Tab K, No. 4

- If landings exceed ACT, the Councils will convene a scientific review panel to determine if regulations need to change
- A framework will be used to implement the changes
- NMFS will work with FL on any regulatory changes
- If the catch exceeds the ACL more than once in the last four consecutive years, the entire system of ACLs and AMs would need to be re-evaluated

2013/2014 Landings*	7,803,644 lbs
ACT= AM	6.59 million pounds =90% of the ACL
ACL=ABC	7.32 million pounds =mean + 1.5 S.D.
OFL=MSY	7.9 million pounds = mean + 2 S.D.

*as of 2/9/15- provided by FWC.



Spiny Lobster

- Group Recommendations**
 - NOT to complete a new stock assessment
 - The ACL is the wrong methodology to manage spiny lobster- recommended an exemption or flexibility in applying the ACL
 - OFL should be defined in terms of MFMT
 - Change accountability measures instead of the ACT, ACL and OFL

Spiny Lobster

- Stock Assessment not recommended because:
 - It wouldn't provide any new useful information
 - No evidence that trends are due to population size
 - Same shortcomings from the previous assessment would still apply (majority of recruitment from external sources)
 - New assessment would only give status of stock, not cause of change in status (e.g. fishing pressure, disease, etc)

Spiny Lobster

- The ACL is the wrong methodology to manage spiny lobster- recommended an exemption or flexibility in applying the ACL
 - Biologically, stock is different from many species
 - Recruitment, while stable, is not linked to production or stock size
 - ~50% of larvae are lost to the north Atlantic, and 50% of recruitment is from external sources
 - Longest larval duration of any oceanic marine animal

Spiny Lobster

- OFL should be defined in terms of MFMT
 - Pound limit may hurt participants while a fishing mortality rate may not
- Other items to consider
 - Change in fisher behavior (fishing larger lobster later in the season for the live market).
 - Prior to the implementation, but after the reference years, the "ACT" was exceeded twice and the "ACL" was exceeded once
 - The 2014/2015 season is projected to be ~5-6 million pounds
 - With current trends, the ACL will be expected to be exceeded 1 out of every 3-4 years.
