

Spiny Lobster Committee Report
June 20, 2016
Martha Guyas, Chair

2014/2015 Spiny Lobster Landings and Preliminary 2015/2016 Spiny Lobster Landings

Staff presented spiny lobster landings from the 2014/2015 fishing season and the preliminary landings from the 2015/2016 fishing season. In the 2014/2015 fishing season, the ACT was exceeded. In the 2015/2016 fishing season, both the ACT and ACL were exceeded. Staff reviewed how the ACT, ACL, and MSY are calculated. The ACL has been exceeded two times in the past four years, and the ACT has been exceeded in three of the past four years. If the ACL is exceeded twice in a four year time period, the Council needs to take action, thus, the Council will need to take action to address the ACL and AMs for this fishery.

Review Panel Summary

Staff informed the Committee of the outcomes of the review panel which was convened on March 28, 2016. The review panel recommended using the entire time series to calculate the ACL for spiny lobster and also presented two alternate ways of calculating the ACL (i.e., using a rolling average and using a landings to effort).

Joint SAFMC/GMFMC Spiny Lobster AP Summary

Staff reviewed the Joint AP summary. The AP made the following three motions: to recalculate the ACL based on the entire landings time series (1991-2015/2016); to make the spiny lobster a priority fishery for data collection; and to create a lower landing trigger that would initiate a review panel if the fishery failed to meet a minimum landings value. Mr. Padron, Vice Chair of the Gulf Spiny Lobster AP, commented on how the fishery has changed in both how the lobster fishery is prosecuted and the market. Mr. Padron also commented on the lack of current scientific information on spiny lobster fishery such as size at age structure of the stock and working more closely with Caribbean counterparts.

Spiny Lobster SSC Report

Dr. Barbieri presented the SSC summary for spiny lobster. After reviewing the original justification for setting the ABC and OFL for spiny lobster, the SSC felt that the methodology that was used in calculating the ABC should be maintained, but the years used to calculate the ACL should include the entire time series.

The Committee discussed the recommendations that were presented.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, to direct staff to start work on an amendment to revise the ACL, including an option based on the Review Panel recommendation (1991-92 through 2015-16).

Motion carried with no opposition.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, that there be a lower landing trigger based on the average of the three low landings years (2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004) that would initiate a review panel, if below this average for two consecutive years (5.3 mp total catch).

Motion carried with no opposition.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.