

Spiny Lobster Committee Report
January 30, 2017
Martha Guyas, Chair

Draft Options Joint Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4

Staff presented the options paper for Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4. When the OFL was set in Amendment 10, it was set using a time period of landings that was a historic low. During the development of Amendment 10, it was thought the fishery had changed and that the low landings were a new normal. Since implementation of the management benchmarks set in Amendment 10, the ACT has been exceeded in three of the last four years and the ACL has been exceeded twice. Both the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs have recommended that the landings data from 1991/92-2015/16 be used to calculate the ABC and OFL. Action 1.1 modifies the current definitions of management benchmarks for MSY, overfishing threshold, overfished threshold. Action 1.2 modifies the current definitions for the ACL and ACT.

The Committee recommends and I so move: To make Alternative 2 the Preferred Alternative in Action 1-1.

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.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recommends and I so move: To make Alternative 2 the Preferred Alternative in Action 1-2.

Alternative 2: The ACL is equal to the ABC as recommended by the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs using the mean landings from the years 1991/92-2015/16 plus 1.5 standard deviations (9.6 mp). The ACT is 90% of the new ACL (8.64 mp).

Motion carried unanimously.

For future documents, staff will include the pounds associated with these alternatives in the document and make other editorial changes to the document that the Committee suggested.

Staff reviewed Action 2, which is a South Atlantic Council action, that would prohibit the use of recreational traps in the EEZ for all states, not just the State of Florida, in the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction. The Committee made no motions relative to Action 2.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.