

Public Comment Summary
Spiny Lobster Amendment 13:
Modifications to the Spiny Lobster Gear Requirements
and Cooperative Management Procedures

Webinar Public Hearing
August 2, 2018

Council/Staff

Martha Guyas
Dr. Morgan Kilgour
Emily Muehlstein

3 Members of the public attended. 1 member of the public submitted comment.

Bill Kelly – Florida Keys Commercial Fishing Association

In Action 1, Mr. Kelly supports Alternative 2 – make the federal regulations consistent with the state bully net gear regulations. He expressed support for Action 2, Alternatives 2 and 3. A 250 lobster limit is a generous harvest limit for bully net and dive gear. Finally, he supports Action 3, Alternative 2. The cooperative management procedure should allow Florida to request federal regulation changes through the NMFS rulemaking process.

Written Comment

2 written comments were received.

- Support for Action 3, Alternative 2. Enhanced cooperative management between state and federal bodies is critical to ensure timely decisions can be made and acted upon. This will ensure the vitality of the species by encouraging appropriate management.
- Bully netting should not be open access. The number of lobster dive permits skyrocketed due to lack of proper permitting procedures and vetting. The permits were abused and trappers used their political power to pass stringent laws against divers. This penalized honest harvesters. Bully net permits need a serious vetting process to ensure part-time fishermen aren't taking advantage.