GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPINY LOBSTER COMMITTEE

Hyatt Regency Birmingham                       Birmingham, Alabama

April 3, 2017

VOTING MEMBERS
Martha Guyas (designee for Nick Wiley)....................Florida
Doug Boyd...................................................Texas
Roy Crabtree..........................................NMFS, SERO, St. Petersburg, Florida
Dave Donaldson..............................................GSMFC
Campo Matens.............................................Louisiana
John Sanchez..............................................Florida

NON-VOTING MEMBERS
Kevin Anson...............................................Alabama
Leann Bosarge...........................................Mississippi
LCDR Leo Danaher...........................................USCG
Tom Frazer................................................Florida
John Greene...............................................Alabama
David Walker..............................................Alabama

STAFF
Steven Atran..........................................Senior Fishery Biologist
John Froeschke.................................Fishery Biologist-Statistician
Douglas Gregory......................................Executive Director
Karen Hoak........................................Administrative & Financial Assistant
Morgan Kilgour.....................................Fishery Biologist
Ava Lasseter..........................................Anthropologist
Mara Levy...............................................NOAA General Counsel
Emily Muehlstein.................................Public Information Officer
Bernadine Roy..........................................Office Manager
Camilla Shireman.................................Administrative Assistant
Carrie Simmons.................................Deputy Director

OTHER PARTICIPANTS
J.P. Brooker............................................Ocean Conservancy
Shane Cantrell........................................CFA, Galveston, TX
Chris Conklin........................................SAFMC
Levi Denham..........................................USCG
Tracy Floyd........................................MDMR
Susan Gerhart.........................................NMFS
Ken Haddad........................................ASA, FL
Chad Hanson........................................Pew
Alison Johnson........................................Oceana
Bill Kelly........................................FKCFA
Amanda Nimbish........................................CLS America
Bart Niquet..............................................Panama City, FL
Kirk Patterson................................................CCA
Rusty Pittman................................................MDMR
Bob Zales, II..................................................Panama City, FL

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The Spiny Lobster Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council convened at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, Monday afternoon, April 3, 2017, and was called to order by Chairman Marth Guyas.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS

CHAIRMAN MARTHA GUYAS: Folks on this committee would be John Sanchez, Doug Boyd, Roy Crabtree, Dave Donaldson, and Camp Matens. We have our agenda. Is there a motion to approve the agenda? It’s a short one.

MR. DAVE DONALDSON: So moved.

CHAIRMAN GUYAS: We have a motion, and I see a second from John. Any opposition to approving the agenda? Seeing none, the motion is approved. How about the minutes from our last meeting in January? I need a motion to approve the minutes. Motion by John Sanchez and second by Dave Donaldson. Any opposition to approving the minutes? Seeing none, the minutes are approved.

We won’t go through the action guide, and so we will skip right ahead to Item IV, which is review of Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4. Go ahead, Morgan.

REVIEW OF SPINY LOBSTER REGULATORY AMENDMENT 4

DR. MORGAN KILGOUR: Maybe I can get us back on track. The reason why this is coming before you today is because, at the time the FRN was due, it was unclear whether or not the South Atlantic was going to add some alternatives to Action 1.2. In Full Council, they did not, and so this document has not changed since you saw it in January, with the exception of there is one clarifying statement in Action 1.2, and the South Atlantic Council has selected preferred alternatives.

If it’s okay with the committee chair, I will just go on down to 1.2 and show you what has changed, and that is we have the note in 1.2 that says a review panel will be convened if there are two consecutive years of low landings, or, in other words, landings below 5.3 million pounds, and this will not replace the existing accountability measure, and so that’s highlighted right up there in the alternatives.

I also have in my notes that the South Atlantic has changed the wording on this just slightly, so that it says “a review panel
should convene if there are two consecutive years, but that’s just a wording difference. The intent is still the same. Is this acceptable to everybody?

CHAIRMAN GUYAS: Any discussion or opposition to this? I think we had discussed this several meetings ago, and so I think we’re -- It looks like we’re okay with this.

DR. KILGOUR: Okay. Then the only other thing that has changed that you might want to comment on is that the South Atlantic has selected a preferred alternative in Action 2, and that was Alternative 2, to prohibit the use of traps for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in the South Atlantic EEZ. If you wanted to select a preferred alternative, you may. If not, you can wait until I bring this back to you in June.

CHAIRMAN GUYAS: I think we had waited to select a preferred until after the South Atlantic had selected theirs, and so any interest in doing that now? Roy.

DR. ROY CRABTREE: I would move that we select Alternative 2 as preferred, to match the South Atlantic Council.

CHAIRMAN GUYAS: John seconds that. I will give it a minute to get on the board. Is there any discussion of this, in the meantime? While she is typing, Chris tells me that there is a webinar on this on May 9 from the South Atlantic, if anybody is interested. I think we have got it. In Action 2, to make Alternative 2 the preferred. Is there any opposition to this motion? Seeing none, the motion carries. Is there anything else?

DR. KILGOUR: I was hoping that there was going to be something else mentioned from NMFS or from the State of Florida regarding the bully-netting.

DR. CRABTREE: I guess there’s a separate protocol that we could do something like that that folks would have to be pulled out, but, when I’ve done bully-netting, it’s always in very shallow water. Is it really a gear that is used in the EEZ, and do you think it’s something we need to do?

CHAIRMAN GUYAS: No, and so, to fill everybody in, FWC recently made some changes to bully-netting regulations. It is something that occurs in shallow water, and so there’s been changes at the state level, and I guess, at the South Atlantic, you all have discussed whether there should be some similar changes to the CFR to deal with those bully-netting things, and I think maybe
some other issues that are outstanding. I guess there’s some discrepancies between state and federal regulations, and so did you all talk about bringing that back again at some point in a separate amendment?

MR. CHRIS CONKLIN: I will have to look back through our summary motions and get back with you on that.

CHAIRMAN GUYAS: Bully-netting is definitely a state water thing. It’s shallow water. I mean, you see the bottom, but, if there is other things that need to be fixed up, I guess that could come back in a separate amendment. Mara.

MS. MARA LEVY: I know that Roy mentioned the separate protocol, and so I know that NMFS and GC and the Southeast are looking at that, and so they are doing that, and I guess, when they figure it out, it will come back.

MR. CONKLIN: I do remember we had the conversation about it, and, if it actually occurred in federal waters, because I think I asked that question, and I think it was something that Jessica, who is FWC, said that they were going to take care of, but I am going to double-check and get back with you.

CHAIRMAN GUYAS: I guess, for the committee, at some point we could see, probably in a separate amendment, but some follow-up items that we need to do for spiny lobster in the future, but, for now, I think we’re good. Is that it for this amendment, Morgan, or do we need to walk through anything else? Okay. Is there any other business from anyone else on the committee? Then the committee is adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on April 3, 2017.)

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