

**Sustainable Fisheries Committee Report
August 23, 2021
Mr. Dale Diaz, Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab E, No. 1**) and approved the minutes (**Tab E, No. 2**) of the June 2021 meeting as written.

Update on Historical Captain Permits Conversion (Tab E, No. 4)

Kevin McIntosh (NMFS SERO) provided an update on the conversion of historical captains permits into standard federal charter/headboat reef fish or coastal migratory pelagics permits. Mr. McIntosh indicated that a total of 61 historical captain permits were eligible for the conversion. To date, 59 of those historical captain permits were converted into standard permits. The Committee inquired about the two historical captain permits, registered to a single individual, that are not yet converted into standard permits. Mr. McIntosh indicated that these permits are from Florida. Mr. McIntosh also noted that the six historical captain permits issued after October 2018 are not eligible for the conversion. Committee members inquired about the number of persons holding non-convertible permits. Staff noted that three persons currently hold permits that cannot be converted. Committee members indicated that owners of non-convertible historical captain permits have reached out to them to inquire about opportunities to convert their permits. Staff noted that an abbreviated framework action may be a suitable avenue to address the conversion of these outstanding historical captain permits. The Committee unanimously approved the following motion:

The Committee recommends, and I so move, that staff initiate a document which allows conversion of the recently issued historical captain permits to conventional permits.

NS1 Technical Guidance Subgroup 3 Technical Memo – Managing with Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for Data-limited Stocks in Federal Fishery Management Plans (Tab E, No. 5)

Dr. Jim Nance (SSC Chair) discussed the technical guidance memo, which clarifies flexibilities in management to annual catch limits (ACLs) for data-poor or -limited stocks managed by the Council. Historically, ACLs are managed in numbers or weight of fish. Alternatively, depending on how data-poor a stock may be, an ACL could be expressed as a rate of exploitation in instances where the fishing mortality rate is known, and the maximum fishing mortality rate has been defined. In discussing the state of the stocks managed by the Council, the SSC thought that Caribbean spiny lobster may be a candidate for management under an exploitation rate, as opposed to its current management under an ACL measured in pounds.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.