

**Spiny Lobster Committee Report  
January 29, 2018  
Martha Guyas, Chair**

*2016/2017 Spiny Lobster Landings*

Staff reviewed the landings summary for spiny lobster. The spiny lobster fishery exceeded the ACT in the 2016/2017 fishing season. In June 2017, the Council had approved Regulatory Amendment 4 which would increase the ACT to 8.64 mp, thus, the Committee and NMFS felt that a review panel at this time was unnecessary.

*Joint Draft Options Spiny Lobster Amendment 13*

Staff reviewed the actions and alternatives in Spiny Lobster Amendment 13. There were several items that staff will need to address in the public hearing draft. In Action 1, staff will reword the alternative so that it is clear that a bully net gear endorsement from Florida is required, and not a separate federal endorsement. In Action 3, there was discussion on the length of time that a degradable panel would take to degrade; it was clarified that the length of time is dependent on location and ocean conditions, but it was within the range of one to two years. There was concern on the need for Action 4 in federal waters, and noted that the wording of the alternative would need to be specific to the EEZ off Florida. The Committee discussed the procedure outlined in Action 5, and staff will amend the language as recommended by FWC and NOAA GC. Staff will also possibly amend the timeline to be more consistent with the federal rulemaking process, if necessary. The Committee was provided the LETC comments which indicated it approved of making state and federal regulations consistent. Staff intends to bring the revised options paper with the three new actions to the Spring LETC for comment before the April Council meeting. Lastly, the committee discussed the timeline of the document, and determined that a webinar and video will be sufficient for public hearings since the document would be discussed at the June Council meeting in Key West.

Madam chair, this concludes my report.