

Tab H

**GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
JOINT LOBSTER/STONE CRAB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HOLIDAY INN EMERALD BEACH
SHORELINE CONVENTION CENTER BALLROOM
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009
2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

Members:

Teehan, Chair
Gill, V. Chair
Sapp

Simpson/Donaldson
W. Walker/Perret

The agenda was adopted as written. Minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting were approved with no modifications. Carrie Simmons reviewed the scoping meeting summaries (**Tab H, No. 4**) and Charlene Ponce gave a summary of the written/e-mail comments (**Tab H, No. 5**).

The committee reviewed the scoping document for Amendment 10 (**Tab H, No. 3**) and provided recommendations for the development of an Options Paper.

The committee recommends and I so move: **to delete action item number 3 to repeal the Spiny Lobster FMP.**

The committee also recommended leaving the remaining actions in the document. The committee discussed issues relative to the delegation of certain operational aspects of the Joint Spiny Lobster FMP to Florida FWC. Dr. Crabtree noted that for federal waters the only way managers can modify potential annual catch limits as well as bag and size limits was either through a plan or regulatory amendment. It was suggested that Mr. Teehan revisit the issue of delegation with Florida FWC and, if warranted begin specifying the list of items to be managed by Florida FWC. For the Options Paper, Mr. Grimes suggested rewording the action item addressing delegation to Florida FWC.

The committee discussed differences between the federal and state regulations relative to the possession and handling of undersized lobsters used in traps as attractants. The committee also discussed updating the Joint Spiny Lobster FMP management protocol to track changes in Florida FWC's management process. There was also discussion about the protection of endangered coral species including closing areas to the commercial lobster trap fishery. The addition of a framework procedure was also discussed. It was noted that the framework procedure was linked to the decision to delegate certain management aspects of the Joint Spiny Lobster FMP to Florida FWC. For the February 2010 Council meeting, staff was directed to add a framework procedure to the Options Paper.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my report.