

ASMFC Lobster Advisory Panel

October 3, 2006

Meeting Summary

Meeting Participants

David Spencer (Chair)
Robert Baines (V-Chair)
Jon Carter
John Carver
Angelo Correnti
Bro Cote
Nicholas Crismale

Jack Fullmer
Robert Nudd
Arthur Sawyer
Lanny Dellinger
Steve Train
Jack Whittier

Other:

John Nelson (Board
Chair)
Penny Howell (TC
Chair)
Bonnie Spinazzola

ASMFC Staff:
Toni Kerns

Recommendations to the Board:

The AP did not reach consensus on all of the issues. On issues where consensus was not reached, all options of support are listed.

Amendment 5 Public Information Document

Issue One Non-Consensus

Support for managing by a biological stock area to provide better management advice based on more precise science. The GOM stock would be the GOM management area.

Support for status quo. Do not want to compromise the tools we have created with area management or the individual practices of the different management area.

Issue Two Consensus

Support to protect a v-notch lobster to allow for the most conservation benefit. Must move away from the ¼ without setal hairs and straight sided.

Support for option 3: 1/8". This allows for those areas that support zero tolerance to be more restrictive.

Issue Three: Minimum Size Consensus

Support for status quo. Minimum sizes should be adjusted for biological reasons by management areas.

Issue Four: Maximum Size Non-Consensus

Support for status quo. This allows for individual management areas to set regulations based on their stock conditions. Support for the recreational fishery to be managed as is, regulations set by the individual state.

Support for a maximum size, that can be area specific, to utilize the conservation benefit from a max size.

Issue Five: Restrictions on Effort Consensus

Option 2: States in area one should look into option 2 to see a problem exists.

Option 4: In area one, support to put a moratorium on the transfer of federal permits into area one. This would intend to limit the expansion of effort into area one. Include a control date for the moratorium for option 4 as an interim measure until NMFS can implement their plan.

Issue Six Non-Consensus

Support for a zero catch limit in the non-trap sector. If not a zero catch limit, then status quo.

Support status quo. There is continued support for the historic distribution of the catch among gear types. Better law enforcement would remedy the concerns addressed in the problem statement.

There is support for option three. All commercial fishermen, no matter gear type should be held to the most restrictive rule.

Issue Seven Consensus

Support for status quo. There is concern this objective would undermine area management plans.

Addendum VII Consensus

Implementation of Addendum VII, specifically Rhode Island.

Encourage the board to take the necessary steps for a timely implementation of the Area II effort control plan.