



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
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MEMORANDUM

October 22, 2015

To: American Lobster Management Board
From: SNE Lobster Subcommittee
RE: Report from the Subcommittee's October 2nd Meeting

The Southern New England Lobster Subcommittee (Subcommittee) met on October 2, 2015 in Old Lyme, CT to review the status of the Southern New England (SNE) lobster stock and discuss potential objectives for management. The Subcommittee consisted of 16 individuals including representatives from the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, industry representatives from LCMT's 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, members of the technical committee (TC), and federal representatives.

Presentations on the status of the SNE stock from the 2015 Stock Assessment, recent changes in SNE lobster management, and preliminary projections on abundance estimates framed the discussion of the Subcommittee. Stock projections presented many scenarios under various levels of fishing mortality (F) and natural mortality (M). Scientists cautioned that these analyses were preliminary and had neither been vetted by the Lobster TC nor peer-reviewed. The projections also proved to be very sensitive to assumed natural mortality and recruitment rates, both of which are evidently changing in SNE and difficult to predict into the future. Nevertheless, the projections indicated that, with no fishing pressure, stocks would continue to decline with a natural mortality higher than 0.4; however, at $M=0.225$ (the natural mortality used in the 2015 Assessment for years after 1998) and in the absence of fishing pressure, the stock abundance could almost triple by 2025. Importantly, this tripled biomass would still be well below the stock rebuilding threshold. In other words, a five-year moratorium would not be sufficient to rebuild the stock even if natural mortality remains constant, which itself seems unlikely. The projections also indicated that a 75% reduction in fishing pressure would be needed to stabilize the stock at its present level given current but constant low levels of recruitment and $M=0.225$.

Some Subcommittee members argued the current stock level is in better condition than the assessment demonstrated. Specifically, they stated that, while there was a significant decline in the nearshore fishery (e.g. Long Island Sound, Buzzards Bay), the offshore portion of the stock remains viable and catches have been maintained. State data on landings and traps fished supported the conclusion that catch per unit effort has recently increased in portions of SNE; however, several members noted that this can be explained by the fact that effort in the fishery has decreased faster than the lobster population over the past two decades. Others noted the inevitable connection between the nearshore decline of lobsters and an overall decline in the SNE stock.

Given the severity of the projections, discussion of the Subcommittee focused on the feasibility of rebuilding and subsequent impacts on the stock and industry. The discussion was bracketed by possible alternatives at opposite ends of the spectrum. At one end, the Subcommittee discussed trying to rebuild the stock using alternatives which would reduce F to zero, such as a moratorium. This alternative would be potentially devastating to the lobster industry in the area. At the other end of the spectrum, the Subcommittee discussed the potential impacts of doing nothing beyond the measures already introduced in Addenda XVII and XVIII. This alternative could also be devastating since scientists suggest the status quo will quickly result in a fishery that is non-sustainable. The range of potential management objectives considered are expanded on below.

“Rebuild the SNE Stock” The preliminary stock projections suggested the SNE stock cannot be rebuilt to the current reference points; natural mortality is simply too high. The stock, however, could be stabilized at 2009 levels if F were reduced to zero. The Subcommittee discussed that the clear benefit of this approach is stopping the severe decline in lobster abundance and stabilizing the stock, albeit at 2009 levels which are considered depleted. Several drawbacks of this approach were also discussed, most notably, the loss of the SNE lobster industry. Members of the Subcommittee expressed concerns that a moratorium would result in the loss of critical fishing infrastructure, including loss of dock space to higher paying recreational and pleasure boats, loss of dealer income from lobsters, and loss of market space to lobstermen further north. As a result, if the fishery were to re-open, there would be no lobster industry left. Other Subcommittee members pointed out that the Jonah crab fishery, whose traps are capable of catching lobster, may impede the success of a moratorium. Finally, changing environmental conditions could reduce the effectiveness of a moratorium. Factors such as water temperature, ocean acidification, habitat loss, spawning success, and predation could all contribute to a higher natural mortality in the future, hampering the ability of the stock to rebound.

“Prevent Further Declines in Spawning Stock Biomass” Another objective considered by the Subcommittee was to stabilize the SNE stock at its current level. According to preliminary projections, achieving this goal would require a 75% reduction in current fishing pressure. Members of the Subcommittee expressed concern that such a large reduction would cripple the industry, similar to that of a moratorium. The economic and infrastructure losses from a 75% reduction in exploitation might be no different than shutting the industry down. Nor would this option offer any potential stock rebuilding according to the projections; it would only stop the downward stock trend. This projection assumes no increase in natural mortality, which some suggested is unlikely.

“Slow the Rate of Decline in Spawning Stock Biomass” In order to maintain some minimal component of the SNE lobster fishery, the Subcommittee also considered smaller reductions in fishing exploitation which could potentially slow the decline of the stock. This could take the form of another 10% reduction in exploitation, similar to the action taken by the Board when faced with comparable information following the 2009 stock assessment. A management response of this magnitude could help preserve fishing infrastructure. Several Subcommittee members felt this sort of objective should also focus on transitioning the industry to other species (ex: Jonah crab). Others commented that this more moderate response would allow scientists time to take account of measures in Addenda XVII and XVIII which are only now beginning to

be implemented. Some felt such a small response was no different than doing nothing. Accepting this objective would be accepting further declines in the SNE stock.

“Prevent Loss of Fishery Infrastructure” The Subcommittee discussed the social and economic objective of preserving the lobster industry. This objective would maximize short term economic gains at the possible expense of long term economic and resource sustainability in SNE. Given the implementation of a series of trap reductions in Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMA) 2 and 3 beginning in 2016, several Subcommittee members felt management should wait for these trap reductions to take place before taking further action. Others argued these trap reductions are to remove latent effort and may result in insufficient conservation.

The Subcommittee was not able to find consensus on a single objective; however, they did agree on the following:

1. While a moratorium is not an appropriate management response, neither is no action. The Subcommittee eliminated these extreme alternatives as potential responses, but acknowledged that the Board may want to include these rejected alternatives in discussions as a frame of reference.
2. A uniform management response for all of SNE may not be appropriate. While having separate management regimes for each LCMA will add complexity to the management scheme, uniform action may not work given the different fishery composition and potential stock dynamics between the various LCMA's. Once an objective is chosen, further discussion will be needed to determine if management responses should be uniform across SNE or unique to each LCMA.
3. Natural mortality in the SNE stock is increasing as the result of multiple factors including changing water temperatures and predation. In particular, human changes to the coastal ecosystem and increasing water temperatures are seen as shrinking the viable habitat of the stock. Furthermore, predation, especially from black sea bass, is considered an important and growing source of natural mortality. The Board and Technical Committee should research ways to minimize this increase in natural mortality.
4. The current reference points may no longer be relevant to the SNE stock due to changing conditions. New reference points may need to be developed in light of these changing conditions.

During the group's discussion, the Subcommittee requested some additional work from the TC. This included reviewing the stock projections with the TC, transferring the projection units from spawning stock biomass to reference abundance, and determining the relationship between the number of traps fished and the exploitation rate, so as to better understand the relationship between trap levels and fishery exploitation.

For questions regarding the Subcommittee composition or meeting, please contact Megan Ware, FMP Coordinator, at mware@asmfc.org



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MEMORANDUM

October 27, 2015

To: American Lobster Management Board
From: Burton Shank; NMFS/NEFSC
Re: Update on SNE Stock Projections Presented at SNE Subcommittee Meeting

Two different stock projection runs were presented at the SNE lobster subcommittee meeting on October 2nd. In that presentation, population abundance was presented in units of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB), as that was the only abundance proxy available in the projection software at the time. It was suggested that these plots be updated, using the reference abundance and include the abundance reference point for better interpretability. The updated plots are attached below.

For both runs, recruitment was assumed to remain constant at levels similar to those observed from 2011 – 2014, based on the basecase model output. Thus recruitment is independent of the dynamics of the adult population.

In the first run, we examined population projections assuming different levels of natural mortality (M ; non-fishing mortality) and no fishing pressure. Reference abundance was stable around $M=0.3$ with populations recovering some at lower values of M and further decreasing at higher M values (Figures 1 & 2). This is in contrast to SSB which was stable at values just below $M=0.4$ for this run. Recall that M was assumed to be 0.15 at the beginning of the population model (1982) and stepped up to 0.225 in the mid 90's.

In the second run, we held $M=0.225$, the value assumed at the end of the accepted basecase model run, and varied fishing pressure from 0 to 100% of current landings. It is important to note that this projection forces the extraction of the same number of lobsters in each year until there are no legal lobsters left in the population. Thus, declining populations tend to decrease rapidly. The reference abundance stabilizes at 15% of current fishing pressure, again in contrast to SSB which stabilized at ~25% of current fishing pressure.

In both of these projections, SSB shows greater recovery potential than Reference Abundance (all lobsters ≥ 78 mm CL). This is because SSB is the product of abundance at size, probability of maturity at size, and fecundity at size, so a single large lobster has the reproductive capacity of several smaller individuals. Both projection runs assume decreased fishing pressure, which affects only lobsters above legal size. Decreasing fishing pressure results in a greater proportion of the population remaining above legal size, positively affecting SSB calculations. This is evident in Figure 5, where mean carapace length in the population increases at low fishing pressure but decreases at higher fishing pressure.

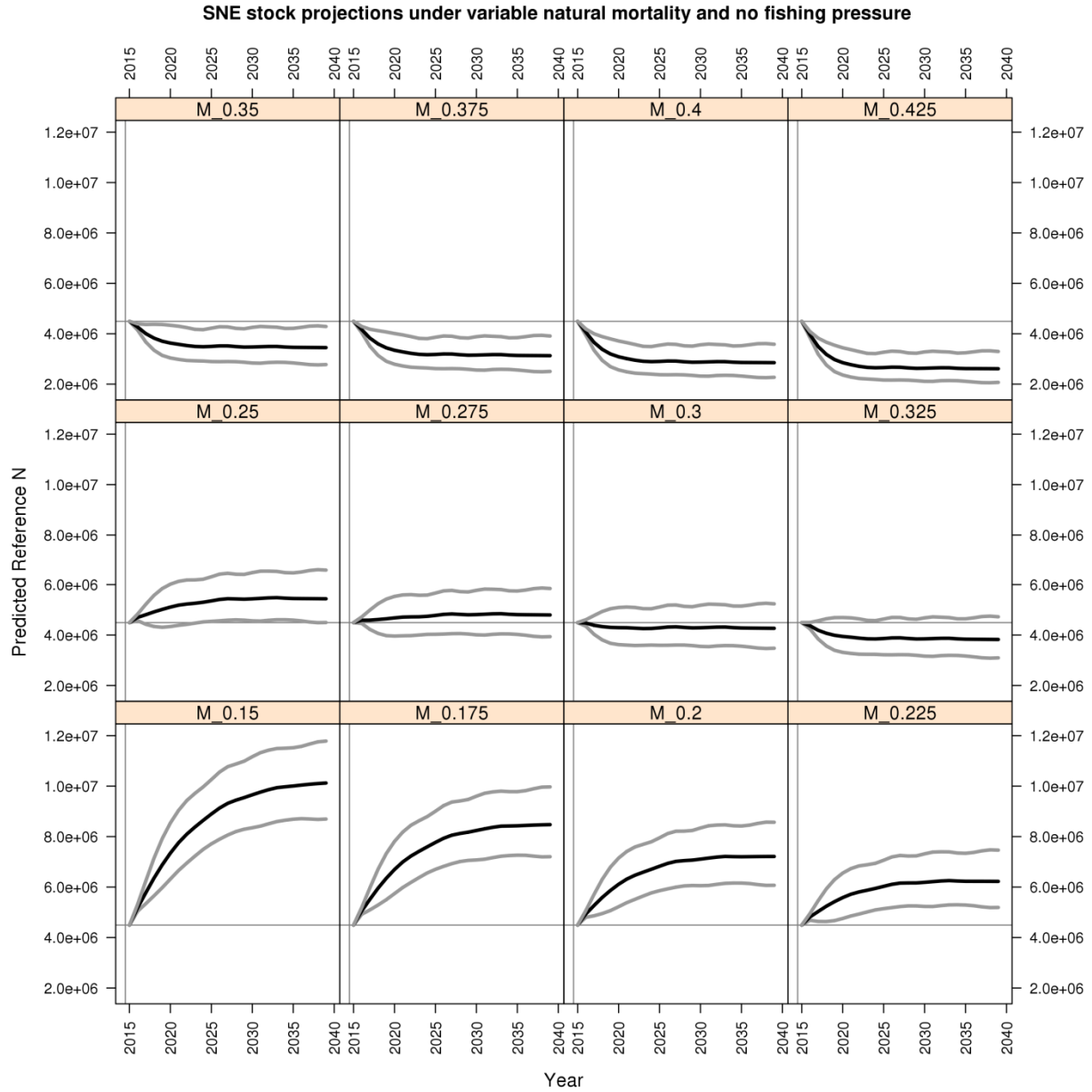


Figure 1. Projected changes in reference abundance assuming no fishing and different levels of natural mortality. Black line is the mean trend \pm 2SD (gray lines). Recall that M was assumed to be 0.15 at the beginning of the population model (1982) and stepped up to 0.225 in the mid 90's.

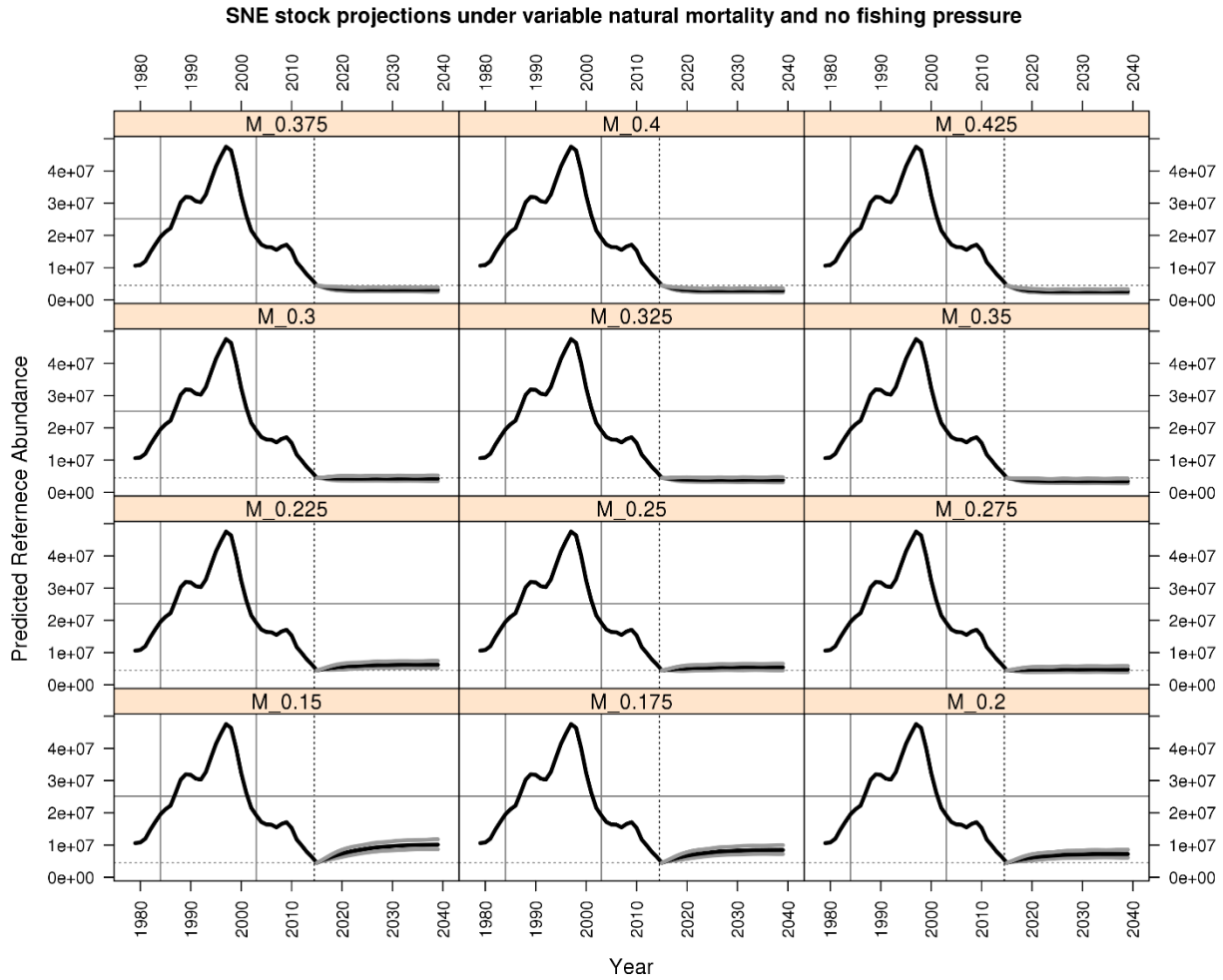


Figure 2. Model time series and projected changes in reference abundance assuming no fishing and different levels of natural mortality. The reference period and trend-based reference point are shown in solid gray lines. Recall that M was assumed to be 0.15 at the beginning of the population model (1982) and stepped up to 0.225 in the mid 90's.

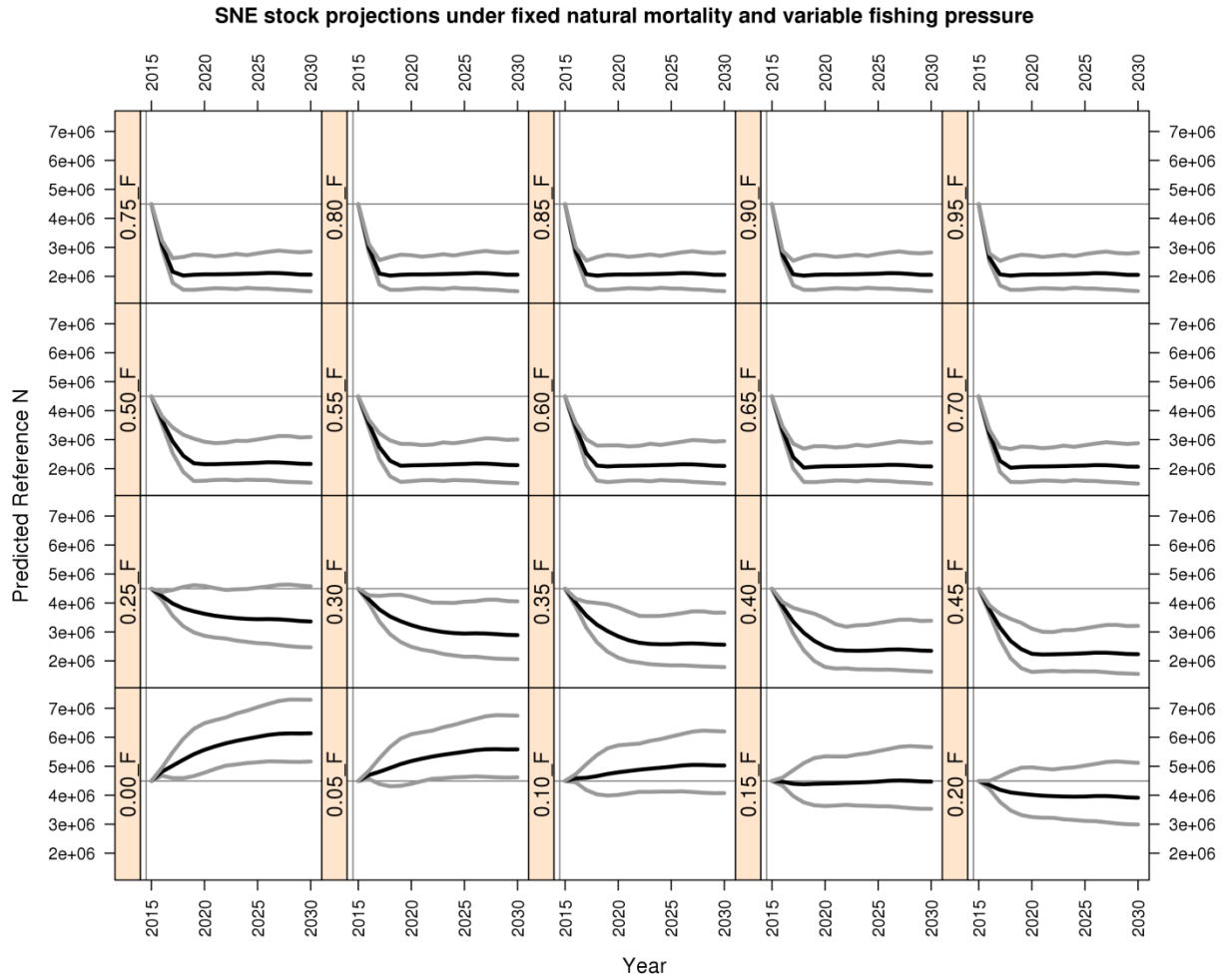


Figure 3. Projected changes in reference abundance assuming fixed natural mortality ($M=0.225$) and variable fishing pressure (0-95% of current landings). Black line is the mean trend \pm 2SD (gray lines).

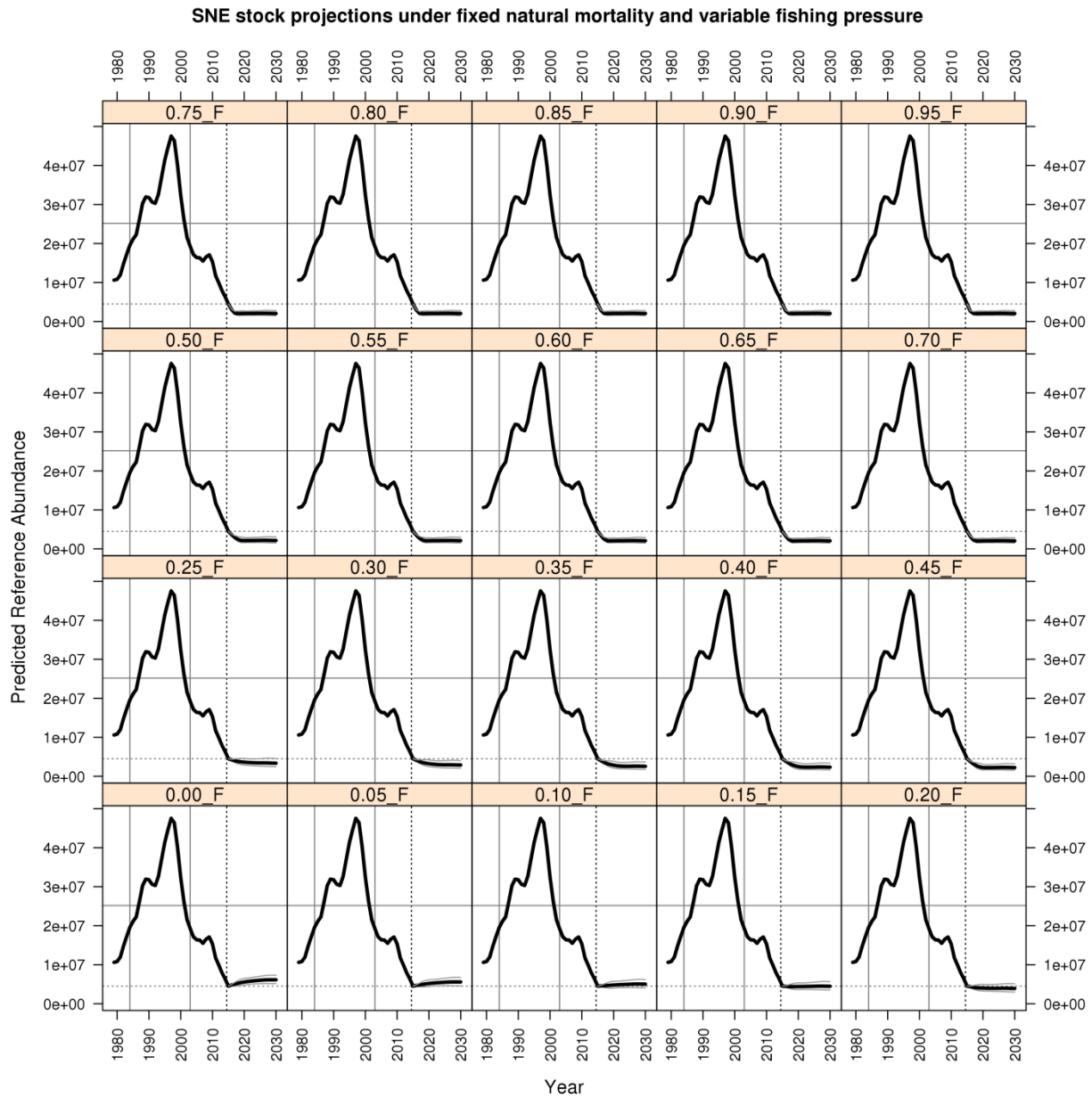


Figure 4. Model time series and projected changes in reference abundance assuming fixed natural mortality ($M=0.225$) and variable fishing pressure. Black line is the mean trend \pm 2SD (gray lines). The reference period and trend-based reference point are shown in solid gray lines.

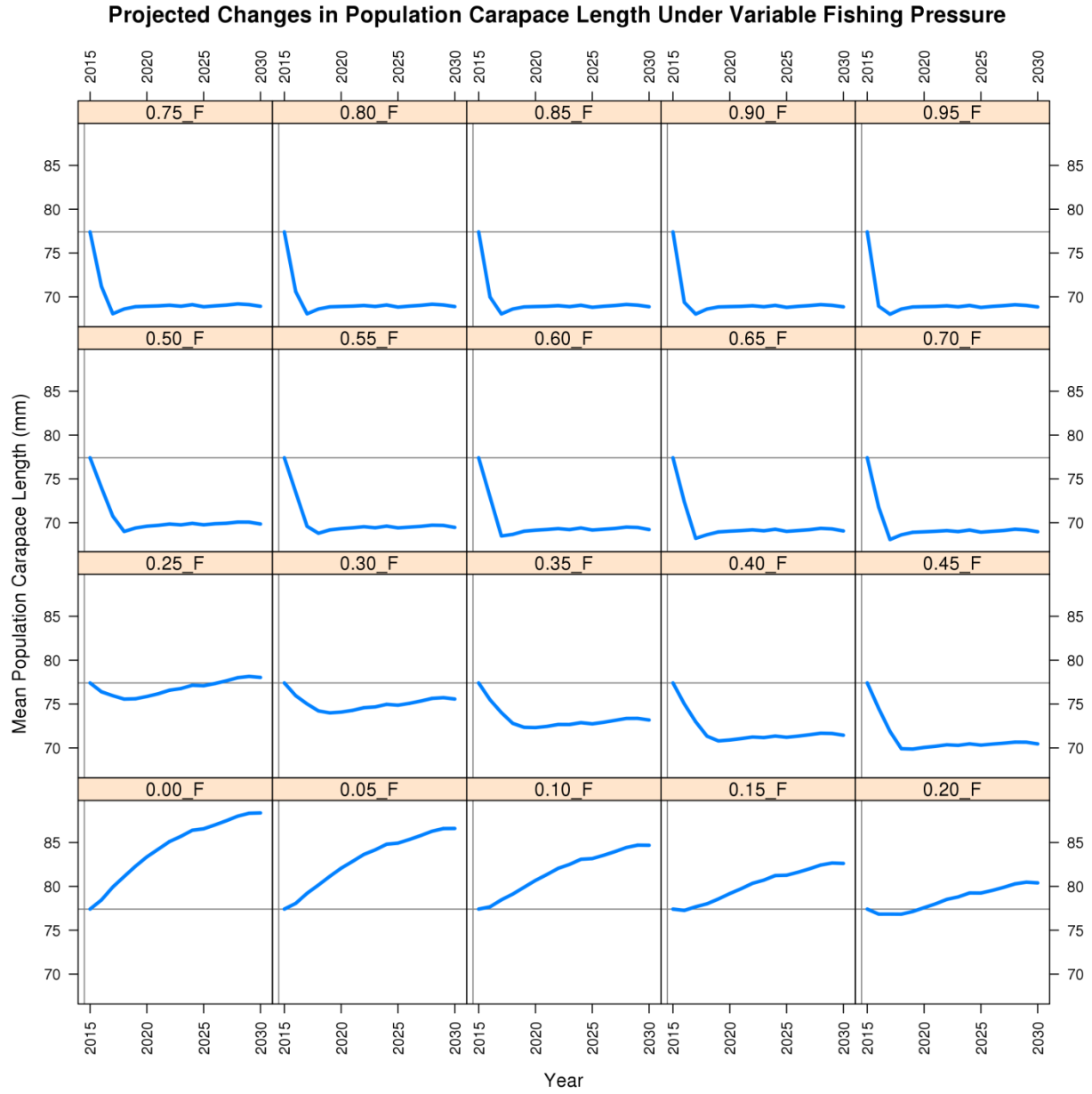


Figure 5. Projected change in mean carapace length for the run with fixed natural mortality and variable fishing pressure.



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To: American Lobster Management Board
From: Burton Shank; NMFS/NEFSC
Re: Relationship between fishing effort and fishery exploitation

At the SNE lobster subcommittee meeting on Oct 2nd, there were some requests for information on how the planned trap reductions over the next six years would affect exploitation rates. The assessment model calculates fully-recruited fishing mortality and exploitation rates by year. Both fishery mortality and exploitation rates show a general decline over the time series with increases in the late '90s / early 2000's and are currently around time series lows (Figure 1, top and center plots).

For the recent benchmark assessment, we assembled data on the number of traps fished in any given year for New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts (south shore). Unfortunately, data were not available from Rhode Island, New Jersey, or Maryland. Also, it would be ideal to have effort measured as trap soak days but this also was not available. The number of traps fished increased in the early years of the time series, peaking in 1998, and declined thereafter to reach a time series low in the recent years (Figure 1, bottom).

Because this time series represents two different dynamics, a fishery building in response to an increasing resource and contracting in response to a declining resource, I examined the relationship between exploitation and effort for both the entire time series and only the declining period. In both cases, there is generally a positive relationship between fishing mortality or exploitation and fishing effort (Figure 2 and 3). Neither relationship is necessarily trending towards the origin, suggesting that changes in fishing effort are not currently proportional to fishing mortality or exploitation. However, the trend is marginally steeper and the y intercept is closer to the origin for the recent years than for the entire time series.

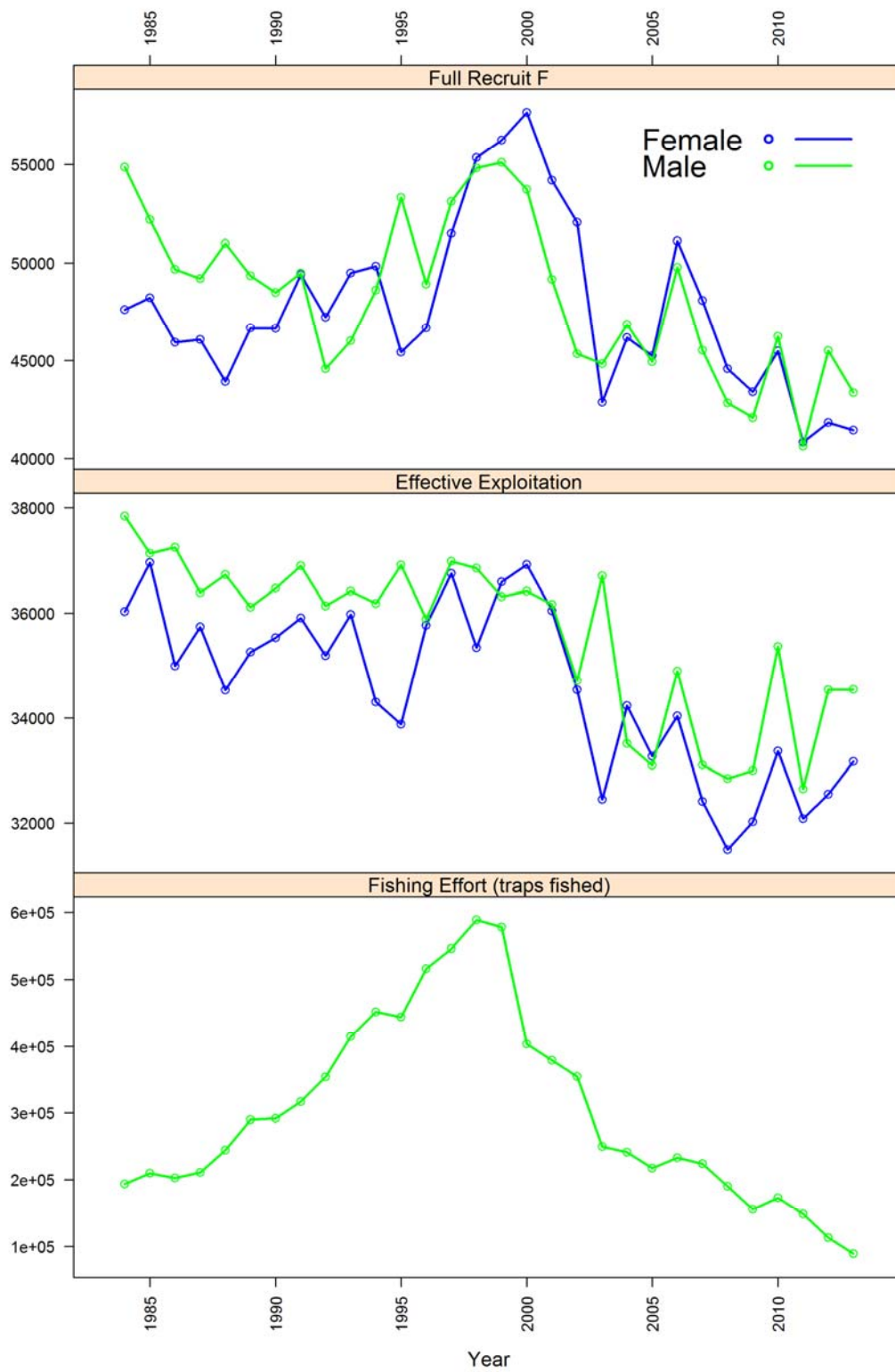


Figure 1. Time series of SNE exploitation and fishing effort.

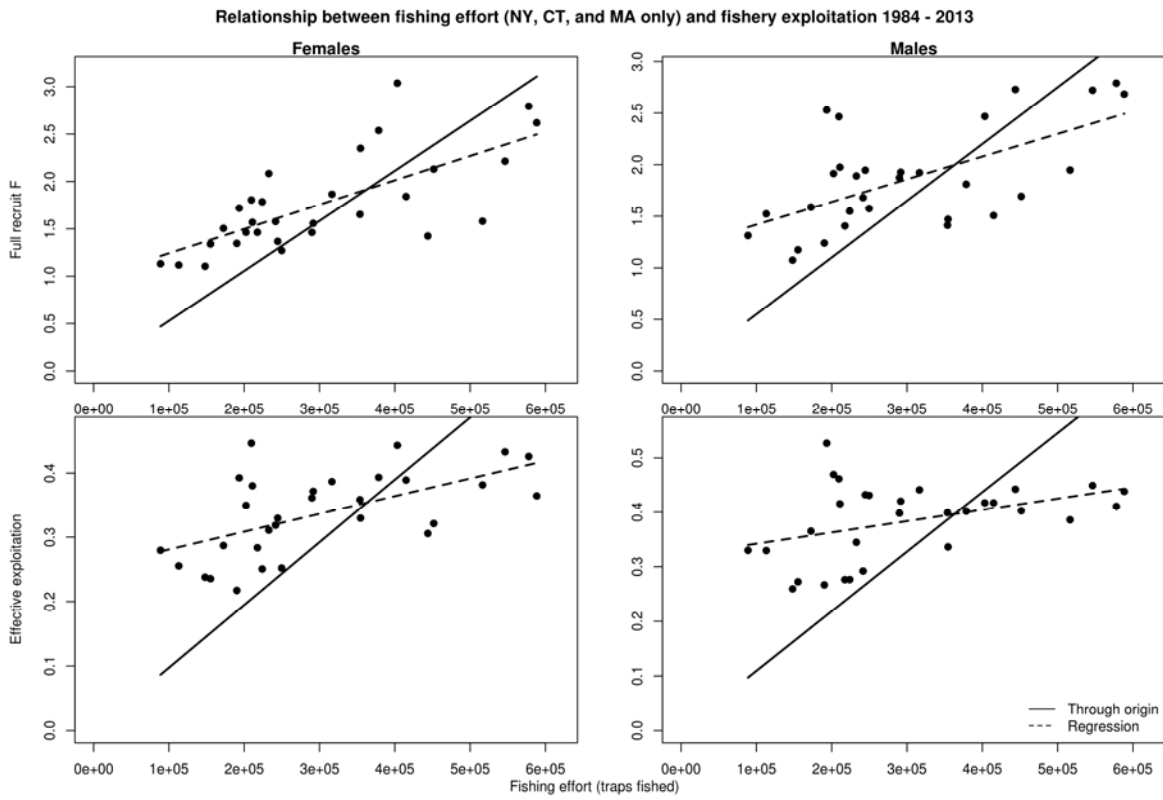


Figure 2. Relationship between fishing effort and exploitation for 1984 – 2013. Number of traps fished is only for NY, CT, and MA.

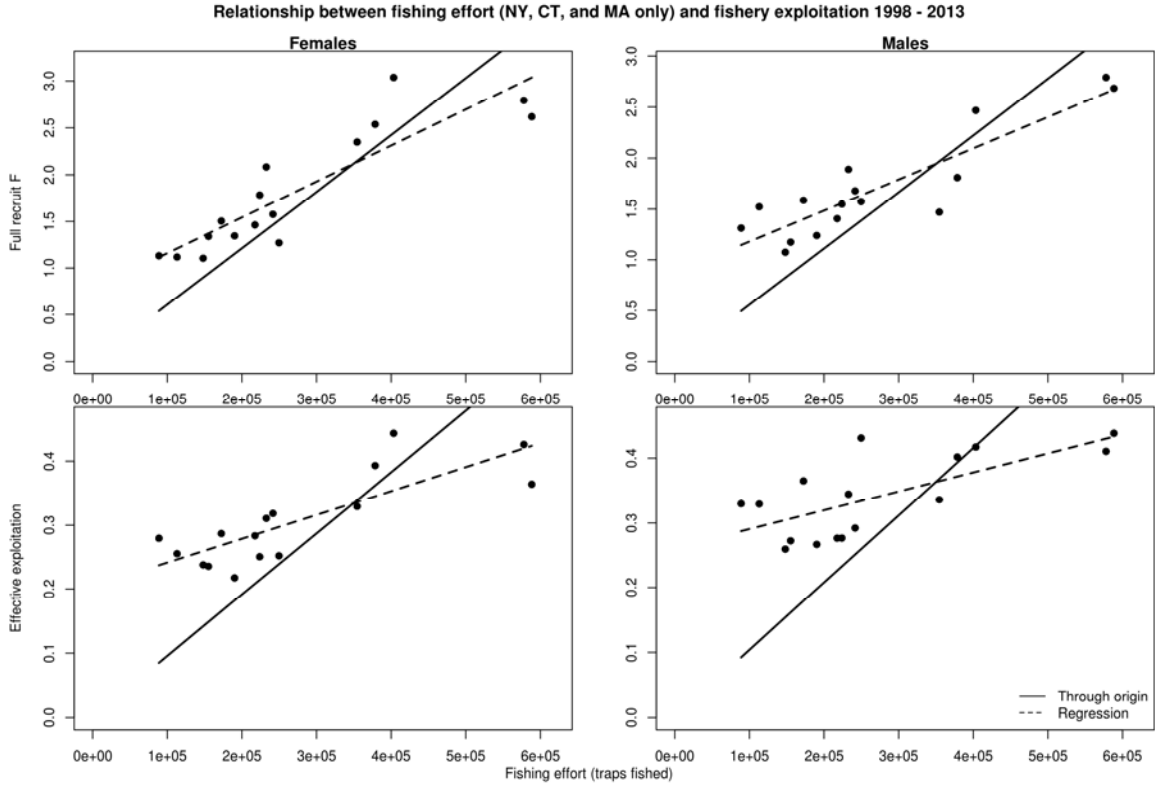


Figure 3. Relationship between fishing effort and exploitation for 1998 – 2013. Number of traps fished is only for NY, CT, and MA.



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Dr. Louis B. Daniel, III, (NC), Chair Douglas E. Grout (NH), Vice-Chair Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

The following data was provided by NEFMC for Board consideration in regards to the incidental bycatch of Jonah crab by non-trap gear. The data shows Jonah crab landings by non-trap gear from 2010 to 2014. Information submitted by NOAA GARFO regarding this same topic can be found on page 10 of this document.

Jonah Crab Data (dealer data, and permit data used to verify unknown gear types)

Table 1: Species Landed on non-trap trips that landed Jonah crab (2014)

NESPP3	Species Name	Landings (lbs)	Value of
11	Monkfish	6,236	4,586
12	Monkfish (tails)	46,749	98,915
23	Bluefish	131	74
51	Butterfish	48	44
81	Cod	32,409	63,866
96	Cusk	545	616
115	Am. Eel	3	2
116	Congor Eel	59	36
120	Winter Fl.	28,747	38,741
121	Summer Fl.	9,028	25,680
122	Witch Fl.	6,192	14,719
123	Yellowtail Fl.	26,416	31,351
124	Dabs (Am. Plaice Fl)	9,885	16,240
127	Fourspot Fl.	285	124
147	Haddock	23,331	37,641
152	Red Hake	943	161
153	White Hake	19,335	28,288
159	Atl. Halibut	98	848
188	John Dory	650	715
212	Atl. Mackerel	3	2
240	Redfish	19,275	13,071
269	Pollock	18,715	17,648
326	Sculpins	49	37
329	Scup	816	286
335	Black Sea Bass	145	391
344	Weakfish	11	32
347	Am. Shad	4	3
351	Smooth Dogfish	211	125
352	Spiny Dogfish	385	113
365	Skates, unclassified	4,490	5,736
366	Little Skate	9,000	810
367	Winter Skate	27,462	24,009
438	Tautog	27	85

446	Golden Tilefish	62	128
509	Silver Hake	708	545
711	Jonah Crab	13,306	5,358
727	Lobster	18,758	88,083
775	Conchs	6	41
800	Scallops	68	841
801	Loligo Squid	2,087	2,088
Grand	All	326,678	522,079

Table 2: 2014 Jonah Crab Landings for Non-Trap Vessels, by State

State	No. of Permits	Sum of SPPLNDLB	Sum of SPPVALUE
RI	71	7,346	3,647
MA	18	5,433	1,107
NY	22	410	494
CT&NJ	4	117	110
All	115	13,306	5,358

Table 3: Number of non-trap vessels landing Jonah crab in 2014

Gear Code	Gear Type	Number of Permits	Jonah Crab Landings	Value (\$)
50	Bottom Otter Trawl	32	6,187	1,629
100	Gillnets	16	233	258
999/20	Other or not specified*	67	6,886	3,471
Grand	All	115	13,306	5,358

Note (Table 3): Gear code 999 (unknown gear) are landings by permit holders with non-trap and trap lobster permits, along with other permits. The landings from those trips are shown below in Table 4. These values are included in the tables above, because in other years (i.e. 2013, the permits landing with gear code 999 also have permits that include bluefish, herring, dogfish, fluke, tilefish, squid, mackerel, and other species confirmed in the landings), the landings include groundfish, which is not permitted on lobster trap trips. This information is used to make the inference that gear code 999 is non-trap gear when the permit data indicates that the permit holder holds non-trap permit, or non-trap lobster and trap lobster permits.

Table 4: Species Landed on trips with lobster trap and gear code 999/Unknown (2014)

Species	Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings (\$)
Jonah Crab	6801	3403
Lobster	191	1146
Grand Total	6992	4549

Table 5: Species Landed on non-trap trips that landed Jonah crab (2013)

NESPP3	Species Name	Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings (\$)
12	Monkfish (tails)	75,964	130,601
121	Summer Fl.	28,143	81,639
367	Winter Skate	26,228	13,710
509	Silver Hake	22,203	21,600
365	Skates (not specified)	18,045	11,558
153	White Hake	15,719	26,770
269	Pollock	13,630	23,698
11	Monkfish	11,472	5,911
240	Redfish	11,419	7,813
123	Yellowtail Fl.	10,111	16,393
124	Am. Plaice Fl.	9,838	15,019
711	Jonah Crab	6,081	3,828
727	Lobster	4,588	16,198
352	Spiny Dogfish	3,430	636
329	Scup	2,678	2,181
122	Witch Fl.	2,153	5,956
81	Cod	2,145	6,212
366	Little Skate	1,560	1,560
152	Red Hake	1,509	976
147	Haddock	1,506	3,180
51	Butterfish	1,115	879
801	Loligo Squid	1,072	1,984
351	Smooth Dogfish	976	723
800	Sea Scallops	475	4,867
335	Black Sea Bass	414	1,643
188	John Dory	349	417
341	Sea Robin	306	68
23	Bluefish	242	156
120	Winter Fl.	175	354
105	Dolphinfish	68	37
234	Mulletts	60	47
159	Atl. Halibut	55	440
446	Golden Tilefish	45	68
116	Congor Eel	40	20
93	Cunner	39	9
212	Atl. Mackerel	34	30
344	Weakfish	21	40
96	Cusk	20	15
712	Rock Crab	14	8
456	Triggerfish	6	7
90	Atl. Croaker	4	3
155	Hake (Red/White)	4	2
NA	Other	6	8
Grand Total	All	273,962	407,264

Table 6: 2013 Jonah Crab Landings for Non-Trap Vessels, by State

State	Number of Permits	Jonah Crab Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings (\$)
RI	38	3,542	2,120
MA	22	1,880	887
NY & CT	40	595	762
NJ	3	64	59
All	103	6,081	3,828

Table 7: Number of non-trap vessels landing Jonah crab in 2013

Gear Code	Gear Type	Number of Permits	Jonah Crab Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings (\$)
50	Bottom Otter Trawl	35	2,604	1,720
100	Gillnets	28	316	483
999	Unknown Gear	40	3,161	1,625
Grand Total	All	103	6,081	3,828

Table 8: Species Landed on non-trap trips that landed Jonah crab (2012)

NESPP3	Species	Number of Permits	Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings (\$)
12	Monkfish (tails)	86	46,241	127,497
711	Jonah Crab	47	4,099	2,959
121	Summer Fl.	42	17,916	47,273
122	Witch Fl.	34	5,800	9,118
124	Am. Plaice Fl.	33	20,074	27,040
153	White Hake	31	59,708	90,262
81	Cod	24	3,701	10,883
509	Silver Hake	24	3,052	2,209
727	Lobster	22	10,798	45,101
335	Black Sea Bass	21	549	2,004
269	Pollock	20	104,171	89,090
329	Scup	20	21,579	13,397
23	Bluefish	20	2,826	2,796
367	Winter Skate	16	5,411	4,266
801	Loligo Squid	12	607	995
152	Red Hake	9	10,260	5,752
11	Monkfish	9	1,774	2,278
240	Redfish	8	38,310	24,933
123	Yellowtail Fl.	8	4,297	5,011
365	Skates (unclassified)	8	1,278	861
51	Butterfish	8	314	409
344	Weakfish	6	204	470
800	Sea Scallop	6	119	1,111
352	Spiny Dogfish	5	4,250	728
147	Haddock	5	1,542	3,685
116	Conger Eel	4	58	43
	Other	20	49,881	6,035
Grand Total	All	548	418,819	526,206

Table 9: 2012 Jonah Crab Landings for Non-Trap Vessels, by State

State	Number of Permits	Jonah Crab Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings (\$)
MA	18	2,119	1,297
RI	7	1,337	961
NY	15	545	550
NJ	7	98	151
All	47	4,099	2,959

Table 10: Number of non-trap vessels landing Jonah crab in 2012

Gear Code	Gear Type	Number of Permits	Jonah Crab Landings	Value of Landings
50	Bottom Otter Trawl	25	2,838	1,869
100	Gillnet	12	479	466
	Unknown or other	10	782	624
Grand Total	All	47	4,099	2,959

Table 11: Species Landed on non-trap trips that landed Jonah crab (2011)

NESPP3	Species	Number of Permits	Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings
12	Monkfish (Tails)	138	61,877	182,829
121	Summer Fl.	119	63,475	135,329
711	Jonah Crab	67	2,986	2,056
329	Scup	55	22,804	12,488
122	Witch Fl.	51	17,241	27,893
335	Black Sea Bass	43	1,111	5,781
81	Cod	38	16,272	28,043
727	Lobster	38	4,599	18,887
153	White Hake	37	15,087	19,235
801	Loligo Squid	37	814	1,238
23	Bluefish	36	19,226	10,024
124	Am. Plaice Fl.	33	14,047	18,772
509	Silver Hake	33	1,656	1,265
123	Yellowtail Fl.	30	12,090	15,859
367	Winter Skate	29	6,561	7,842
365	Skates (unclassified)	25	15,787	12,941
269	Pollock	25	11,583	8,745
147	Haddock	21	16,569	24,581
152	Red Hake	19	468	210
800	Sea Scallop	18	3,624	36,479
446	Golden Tilefish	14	195	522
120	Winter Fl.	13	47,670	94,253
352	Spiny Dogfish	12	30,735	7,122
240	Redfidh	10	6,975	4,389
341	Sea Robin	10	465	45
351	Smooth Dogfish	6	6,690	2,004
188	John Dory	6	256	274
96	Cusk	6	49	47
366	Little Skate	4	17,933	1,829
11	Monkfish	4	253	156
51	Butterfish	4	200	203
90	Atlantic Croaker	3	100	67
	Other	12	265	682
Grand Total	All	996	419,663	682,090

Table 12: 2011 Jonah Crab Landings for Non-Trap Vessels, by State

State	Number of Permits	Jonah Crab Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings (\$)
RI	18	1,257	666
MA	15	884	438
NJ	19	512	577
NY & CT	15	333	375
All	67	2,986	2,056

Table 13: Number of non-trap vessels landing Jonah crab in 2011

Gear Code	Gear Type	Number of Permits	Jonah Crab Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings (\$)
50	Bottom Otter Trawl	49	2,609	1,625
52	Scallop Otter Trawl	3	44	56
100	Gillnet	15	333	375
Grand Total	All	67	2,986	2,056

Table 14: Species Landed on non-trap trips that landed Jonah crab (2010)

NESPP3	Species Name	Number of Permits	Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings (\$)
12	Monkfish, tail	192	47,978	148,266
121	Summer Fl.	190	64,840	134,775
711	Jonah Crab	106	10,815	3,822
329	Scup	100	28,550	16,724
509	Silver Hake	95	43,193	20,506
81	Cod	80	33,328	61,199
801	Loligo Squid	78	91,784	93,124
727	Lobster	75	4,266	17,402
122	Witch Fl.	67	8,856	22,607
153	White Hake	53	28,858	43,615
124	Am. Plaice Fl.	47	33,709	39,487
366	Little Skate	45	320,650	29,305
123	Yellowtail Fl.	43	17,202	24,061
365	Skates (unclassified)	40	13,509	6,878
51	Butterfish	39	6,510	4,837
152	Red Hake	38	4,719	1,495
335	Black Sea Bass	37	557	1,611
446	Golden Tilefish	36	1,423	2,507
269	Pollock	30	12,165	14,716
23	Bluefish	28	855	571
367	Winter Skate	23	19,230	18,260
147	Haddock	23	13,839	14,028
212	Atl. Mackerel	16	1,004	535
240	Redfish	15	9,916	5,542
116	Conger Eel	15	210	115
120	Winter Fl.	14	4,423	8,034
188	John Dory	14	188	190
800	Sea Scallop	12	234	1,711
344	Weakfish	10	78	140
776	Channeled Whelk	9	18	36
341	Sea Robin	8	215	52
159	Atl. Halibut	5	179	1,052
96	Cusk	5	172	168
125	Sand Dab Fl.	5	138	60
	Other	11	18,173	1,028
Grand Total	All	1604	841,784	738,459

Table 15: 2010 Jonah Crab Landings for Non-Trap Vessels, by State

State	Number of Permits	Jonah Crab Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings
RI	84	5,487	2,763
ME & MA	14	5228	998
NY & NJ	8	100	61
All	106	10,815	3,822

Table 16: Number of non-trap vessels landing Jonah crab in 2010

Gear Code	Gear Type	Number of Permits	Jonah Crab Landings (lbs)	Value of Landings
50	Bottom Otter Trawl	98	8,845	2,831
54	Ruhle Trawl (bottom)	3	52	26
100	Gillnet & unknown	5	1,918	965
Grand Total	All	106	10,815	3,822

Table 17: Number of trips affected by the ASMFC crab limit for non-trap gear, based on number of days fished in prior years (2010-2014)

Year	Minimum # of days fished	Maximum Number of days fished	Average Number of days fished	Number of Trips Constrained by ASMFC trip limit	Percentage of trips constrained by crab limit
2010	0.1	9.54	1.17	7/300	2.33%
2011	0.04	9.56	1.72	2/326	0.61%
2012	0.04	9.4	1.26	6/198	3.03%
2013	0.1	8.83	1.18	4/168	2.38%
2014	0.13	10.48	1.23	4/140	2.86%

Note (Table 17): This spreadsheet is based on data provided by GARFO using the DMIS database. The data has not been reviewed for errors, and there seems to be a few errors for the two largest landings in the dataset (2010-2015 Jonah crab landings). This is also based on the assumption that one crab = 1 pound (same assumption used by the ASMFC). In addition, this trip level data cannot be used to identify the number of vessels affected (i.e. same permit holder may fish more than one trip in any given year).

The following data was submitted by NOAA GARFO for Board consideration. It was queried from the Vessel Trip Report database and shows the bycatch of Jonah crab in non-trap gear between May 1, 2013 and August 31, 2015. Landings are reported in pounds, using the assumption that 1 crab = 1 pound.

- 372 trips reported Jonah Crab Landings
- 365 trips stayed within the Commission-approved non-trap limit of 200 crabs/day up to 500 crabs/trip
- 356 landed 200 crabs or fewer
- 7 trips exceeded the Commission-approved non-trap limits
- Landings from these 7 trips ranged from 300 to 2300 crabs
- 3 trips landed over 900 crabs



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmf.org

MEMORANDUM

October 26, 2015

To: American Lobster Management Board
From: Tina Berger, Director of Communications
RE: Advisory Panel Nomination

Please find attached two nominations to the American Lobster Advisory Panel – John Godwin, a seafood processor from New Jersey and Grant Moore, a commercial offshore trap fisherman from Massachusetts. Grant Moore replaces Bro Cote on the panel. Please review this nomination for action at the next Board meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (703) 842-0749 or tberger@asmfc.org.

Enc.

cc: Megan Ware

M15-83

American Lobster Advisory Panel

Bolded names await Board review and approval

October 26, 2015

Maine (4)

Jon Carter (comm/pot)
333 Main Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Phone: (207)288-4528
Appt. Confirmed: 5/30/96
Appt. Reconfirmed 7/26/00
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/2/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Confirmed Interest: 9/4/15 but cannot make meeting in October

Robert Baines (comm/pot)
Waterman's Beach Road
South Thomaston, ME 04858
Phone: (207)596-0177
Appt. Confirmed: 5/30/96
Appt. Reconfirmed 7/26/00
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/2/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Confirmed Interest: 8/28/15

David Cousens (comm/pot)
Waterman's Beach Road
South Thomaston, ME 04858
Phone: (207)594-7518
Email: LPC6850@aol.com
Appt. Confirmed 8/28/03
Appt. Confirmed 8/07

Vacancy (comm/pot)

New Hampshire (2)

Robert Nudd (comm/inshore pot)
531 Exeter Road
P.O. Box 219
Hampton, NH 03842
Phone (eve): (603)926-7573
Appt. Confirmed: 10/30/95
Appt. Reconfirmed 9/15/99
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/2/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Confirmed Interest: 8/31/15

James A. Willwerth (comm./trap)
10 Mill
Hampton Falls, NH 03844
Phone (day): (603) 765-5008
Phone (eve): (603) 926-3139
JAW080257@comcast.net
Appt Confirmed 10/22/12
Confirmed Interest but is fully committed: 9/3/15

Massachusetts (4)

Angelo Correnti (rec/diver)
156 Spring Street
Medford, MA 02155
Phone: (617)391-1034
Appt. Confirmed: 5/30/96
Appt. Reconfirmed 9/15/00
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/2/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Appt. Reconfirmed 9/15

Arthur Sawyer Jr. (comm pots)
368 Concord Street
Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: (978)281-4736
FAX: (978)281-4736
Email: sooky55@aol.com
Appt. Confirmed: 1/29/01
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/2/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Appt. Reconfirmed 9/15

John Carver
PO Box 36
Green Harbor, MA 02041
Phone (day): (781)500-9763
Phone (eve): (781)837-7523
FAX: (781)837-1707
Email: KAZDVM@aol.com
Appt. Confirmed: 5/9/05
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Appt. Reconfirmed 9/15

Grant Moore (comm/offshore pot)
4 Gooseberry Farms Lane
Westport, MA 02790
Phone (day): 508.971.2190

American Lobster Advisory Panel

Bolded names await Board review and approval

October 26, 2015

Phone (eve): 508.636.6248
FAX: 508.636.5789
Email: grantmoore55@gmail.com

Appt. Reconfirmed 1/23/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Confirmed Interest: 8/31/15

Rhode Island (2)

David Spencer (comm/offshore pot)
20 Friendship Street
Jamestown, RI 02835
Phone: (401)423-2120
Appt. Confirmed: 10/30/95
Appt. Reconfirmed 9/15/99
Appt. Reconfirmed 2/7/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Confirmed Interest: 8/27/15

James Fox (comm/pot)
160 Highland Drive
Kings Park, NY 11754
Phone: (631)361-7995
Email: jcfox@erols.com
Appt. Confirmed: 10/16/01
Appt. Reconfirmed 1/23/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
No response to inquiry on remaining on panel

Lanny Dellinger (comm./pot)
160 Snuffmill Road
Saunderstown, RI 02874
Phone (day): (401)932-5826
Phone (eve): (401)294-7352
Email: lad0626@aol.com
Appt Confirmed 2/21/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Confirmed Interest: 8/27/15

New Jersey (2)

Jack Fullmer (rec)
443 Chesterfield-Arneytown Road
Allentown, NJ 08501
Phone: (609) 298 - 3182
Appt Confirmed 2/21/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/17/10
Confirmed Interest: 8/28/15

Connecticut (2)

John Whittaker (comm./pot)
37 Spring Street
Noank, CT 06340
Phone (day): (860)287-4384
Phone (eve): (860)536-7668
FAX: (860)536-7668
Email: whittboat@copmcast.net
Appt Confirmed 2/21/06
Appt Reconfirmed 5/10
Confirmed Interest: 9/3/15

John Godwin (processor)

1 Saint Louis Avenue
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742
Phone: 732.245.0148
FAX: 732.892.3928
pointlobster@aol.com

Vacancy (comm pot)

New York (2)

George Doll (comm/inshore pot)
70 Seaview Avenue
Northport, New York 11768
Phone: (631)261-1407
FAX: (631)261-1407
Appt. Confirmed: 11/29/00



ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Advisory Panel Nomination Form

This form is designed to help nominate Advisors to the Commission's Species Advisory Panels. The information on the returned form will be provided to the Commission's relevant species management board or section. Please answer the questions in the categories (All Nominees, Commercial Fisherman, Charter/Headboat Captain, Recreational Fisherman, Dealer/Processor, or Other Interested Parties) that pertain to the nominee's experience. If the nominee fits into more than one category, answer the questions for all categories that fit the situation. Also, please fill in the sections which pertain to All Nominees (pages 1 and 2). In addition, nominee signatures are required to verify the provided information (page 4), and Commissioner signatures are requested to verify Commissioner consensus (page 4). Please print and use a black pen.

Form submitted by: Daniel J. McKiernan State: MA (your name)

Name of Nominee: Grant Moore

Address: 4 Gooseberry Farms Lane

City, State, Zip: Westport, MA 02790

Please provide the appropriate numbers where the nominee can be reached:

Phone (day): 508-971-2190

Phone (evening): 508-636-6248

FAX: 508-636-5789

Email: grantmoore55@gmail.com

FOR ALL NOMINEES:

1. Please list, in order of preference, the Advisory Panel for which you are nominating the above person.

- 1. American Lobster
2.
3.
4.

2. Has the nominee been found in violation of criminal or civil federal fishery law or regulation or convicted of any felony or crime over the last three years?

yes no [checked]

3. Is the nominee a member of any fishermen's organizations or clubs?

yes [checked] no

If "yes," please list them below by name.

Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association
Mass Lobstermen's Association

4. What kinds (species) of fish and/or shellfish has the nominee fished for during the past year?

Lobster

CRAB

5. What kinds (species) of fish and/or shellfish has the nominee fished for in the past?

Lobster

Swordfish

Scallop

Tuna

Cod, Haddock, Cusk, Hake

FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN:

- How many years has the nominee been the commercial fishing business? 40 years
- Is the nominee employed only in commercial fishing? yes no
- What is the predominant gear type used by the nominee? TRAPS
- What is the predominant geographic area fished by the nominee (i.e., inshore, offshore)? offshore

FOR CHARTER/HEADBOAT CAPTAINS:

- How long has the nominee been employed in the charter/headboat business? _____ years
- Is the nominee employed only in the charter/headboat industry? yes _____ no _____
 If "no," please list other type(s) of business(es) and/occupation(s): _____

- How many years has the nominee lived in the home port community? _____ years
 If less than five years, please indicate the nominee's previous home port community.

FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN:

1. How long has the nominee engaged in recreational fishing? _____ years
2. Is the nominee working, or has the nominee ever worked in any area related to the fishing industry? yes _____ no _____

If "yes," please explain.

FOR SEAFOOD PROCESSORS & DEALERS:

1. How long has the nominee been employed in the business of seafood processing/dealing? _____ years
2. Is the nominee employed only in the business of seafood processing/dealing?
yes _____ no _____ If "no," please list other type(s) of business(es) and/or occupation(s):

3. How many years has the nominee lived in the home port community? _____ years
If less than five years, please indicate the nominee's previous home port community.

FOR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

1. How long has the nominee been interested in fishing and/or fisheries management? _____ years
2. Is the nominee employed in the fishing business or the field of fisheries management?
yes _____ no _____
If "no," please list other type(s) of business(es) and/or occupation(s):

FOR ALL NOMINEES:

In the space provided below, please provide the Commission with any additional information which you feel would assist us in making choosing new Advisors. You may use as many pages as needed.

I feel that I can bring experience to the AP when dealing with the offshore lobster fishing

Nominee Signature: J. Grant Moore

Date: 9/15/15

Name: GRANT Moore
(please print)

COMMISSIONERS SIGN-OFF (not required for non-traditional stakeholders)

David McQuinn for David Peirce
State Director State Legislator

Governor's Appointee



ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Advisory Panel Nomination Form

This form is designed to help nominate Advisors to the Commission's Species Advisory Panels. The information on the returned form will be provided to the Commission's relevant species management board or section. Please answer the questions in the categories (All Nominees, Commercial Fisherman, Charter/Headboat Captain, Recreational Fisherman, Dealer/Processor, or Other Interested Parties) that pertain to the nominee's experience. If the nominee fits into more than one category, answer the questions for all categories that fit the situation. Also, please fill in the sections which pertain to All Nominees (pages 1 and 2). In addition, nominee signatures are required to verify the provided information (page 4), and Commissioner signatures are requested to verify Commissioner consensus (page 4). Please print and use a black pen.

Form submitted by: Peter Clarke State: NJ
(your name)

Name of Nominee: John Godwin

Address: 1 Saint Louis Avenue

City, State, Zip: Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

Please provide the appropriate numbers where the nominee can be reached:

Phone (day): 732-245-0148

Phone (evening): 732-245-0148

FAX: 732-892-3928

Email: pointlobster@aol.com

FOR ALL NOMINEES:

1. Please list, in order of preference, the Advisory Panel for which you are nominating the above person.

1. American Lobster AP
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

2. Has the nominee been found in violation of criminal or civil federal fishery law or regulation or convicted of any felony or crime over the last three years?

yes _____ no X

3. Is the nominee a member of any fishermen's organizations or clubs?

yes _____ no X

If "yes," please list them below by name.

4. What kinds (species) of fish and/or shellfish has the nominee fished for during the past year?
- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Am. lobster</u> | <u>Scallops</u> |
| <u>Jonah Crab</u> | <u>Black Sea Bass</u> |
| <u>Oysters</u> | <u>Ling/Whiting</u> |

5. What kinds (species) of fish and/or shellfish has the nominee fished for in the past?
- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Am. lobster</u> | <u>Scallops</u> |
| <u>Jonah Crab</u> | <u>Black Sea Bass</u> |
| <u>Oysters</u> | <u>Ling/Whiting</u> |

FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN:

1. How many years has the nominee been the commercial fishing business? 23 years
2. Is the nominee employed only in commercial fishing? yes no
3. What is the predominant gear type used by the nominee? Lobster Dealer
4. What is the predominant geographic area fished by the nominee (i.e., inshore, offshore)? All of LCMA 4

FOR CHARTER/HEADBOAT CAPTAINS:

1. How long has the nominee been employed in the charter/headboat business? _____ years
2. Is the nominee employed only in the charter/headboat industry? yes _____ no _____
- If "no," please list other type(s) of business(es) and/occupation(s): _____
3. How many years has the nominee lived in the home port community? _____ years
- If less than five years, please indicate the nominee's previous home port community.
- _____

FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN:

1. How long has the nominee engaged in recreational fishing? _____ years
2. Is the nominee working, or has the nominee ever worked in any area related to the fishing industry? yes _____ no _____

If "yes," please explain.

FOR SEAFOOD PROCESSORS & DEALERS:

1. How long has the nominee been employed in the business of seafood processing/dealing?
²³ _____ years

2. Is the nominee employed only in the business of seafood processing/dealing?

yes _____ no _____ If "no," please list other type(s) of business(es) and/or occupation(s):

3. How many years has the nominee lived in the home port community? ⁴¹ _____ years

If less than five years, please indicate the nominee's previous home port community.

FOR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

1. How long has the nominee been interested in fishing and/or fisheries management? _____ years

2. Is the nominee employed in the fishing business or the field of fisheries management?
yes _____ no _____

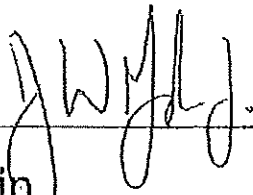
If "no," please list other type(s) of business(es) and/or occupation(s):

FOR ALL NOMINEES:

In the space provided below, please provide the Commission with any additional information which you feel would assist us in making choosing new Advisors. You may use as many pages as needed.

As co-owner of the largest single American lobster processor from NY through North Carolina, Point Lobster Company has been in operation since 1981 and has been family owned and operated since incorporation. Annually, Point Lobster handles roughly one million pounds of both NJ harvested product as well as other domestic imported product. Mr. Godwin has a comprehensive view of all sides of the lobster industry including harvesting, wholesale, and retail.

Nominee Signature: _____



Date: _____

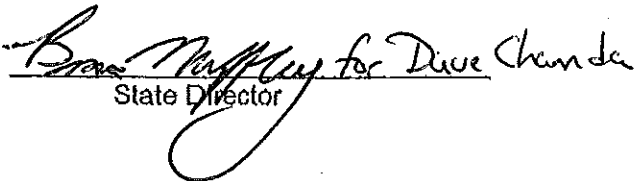
9/14/15

Name: _____

John Godwin

(please print)

COMMISSIONERS SIGN-OFF (not required for non-traditional stakeholders)



State Director

State Legislator

Governor's Appointee