If landings exceed ACT, the Councils will convene a scientific review panel to determine if regulations need to change.

A framework will be used to implement the changes.

NMFS will work with FL on any regulatory changes.

If the catch exceeds the ACL more than once in the last four consecutive years, the entire system of ACLs and AMs would need to be re-evaluated.

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### Spiny Lobster

#### 2013/2014 Landings*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Landings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>7,803,644 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ACT = AM

- 6.59 million pounds
- 90% of the ACL

#### ACL = ABC

- 7.32 million pounds
- Mean + 1.5 S.D.

#### OFL = MSY

- 7.9 million pounds
- Mean + 2 S.D.

*as of 2/9/15 - provided by FWC.

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#### Group Recommendations

- NOT to complete a new stock assessment
- The ACL is the wrong methodology to manage spiny lobster - recommended an exemption or flexibility in applying the ACL
- OFL should be defined in terms of MFMT
- Change accountability measures instead of the ACT, ACL and OFL
Stock Assessment not recommended because:
- It wouldn’t provide any new useful information
- No evidence that trends are due to population size
- Same shortcomings from the previous assessment would still apply (majority of recruitment from external sources)
- New assessment would only give status of stock, not cause of change in status (e.g. fishing pressure, disease, etc)

The ACL is the wrong methodology to manage spiny lobster- recommended an exemption or flexibility in applying the ACL
- Biologically, stock is different from many species
- Recruitment, while stable, is not linked to production or stock size
- ~50% of larvae are lost to the north Atlantic, and 50% of recruitment is from external sources
- Longest larval duration of any oceanic marine animal

OFL should be defined in terms of MFMT
- Pound limit may hurt participants while a fishing mortality rate may not
- Other items to consider
  - Change in fisher behavior (fishing larger lobster later in the season for the live market).
  - Prior to the implementation, but after the reference years, the “ACT” was exceeded twice and the “ACL” was exceeded once
  - The 2014/2015 season is projected to be ~5-6 million pounds
  - With current trends, the ACL will be expected to be exceeded 1 out of every 3-4 years.