

ASMFC Southern New England Lobster Subcommittee Agenda

10:00 AM-5:00 PM

Friday, October 2, 2015

Old Lyme, Connecticut

1. **Welcome/Introductions** (Dan McKiernan)
2. **Stock Status** (R. Glenn)
 - a. Increases observed from the early 1980s to late 1990's peak
 - b. Steep 15 year decline to a record low in 2013
 - c. Declines most pronounced in the inshore portion of the stock
 - d. Inshore environmental conditions in some areas unfavorable to lobsters since the late 1990s.
 - e. Recruitment failure: data and trends (YOY surveys; Ventless Trap Surveys; Trawl Surveys)
 - f. Contributions of Fishing on Overall Mortality
 - i. Trends in effective exploitation
 - g. Degree of dependence of offshore fishery from recruits inshore
3. **Current SNE Reference Points** (Addendum 16) (Toni Kerns, ASMFC)
4. **Management Program** (Megan Ware, Plan Coordinator)
 - a. Measures adopted since the 2009 Assessment: Minimum Size, Maximum Size, V-notching, Area closures
 - b. Other Management tools used in SNE
 - c. Management tools in the toolbox
 - d. Other management tools to consider
5. **Fishery performance** (Bob Glenn)
 - a. Landings falling steeply in inshore areas, less pronounced offshore
 - b. Attrition among the fleet (permits)
 - c. Declines in fishing effort (traps fished and traps hauled)
 - d. CPUE has increased or stayed level in many areas
6. **Lobster Board Assignment:** What are the Goals and Objectives for SNE including defining a rebuilding target for Board consideration in November / issues to consider.
 - a. Can we rebuild a stock incapable of reaching former levels due to environmental change ,
 - b. Can we be satisfied with arresting the decline vs. rebuilding the stock to former levels?
 - c. Should we regulate to promote improved recruitment
 - d. Can we achieve an SSB level that was seen in the mid 1980's: the last stanza of positive recruitment?
7. **Management Measures / Issues to Consider**
 - a. What are the appropriate management measures to achieve the rebuilding target?
 - b. Should we promote improved compliance with effort limits, and make them more consistent in all LMA's
 - c. If possible, should more uniform biological measures be adopted in the SNE stock area,
 - d. Recognize the multispecies (lobster & jonah crab) targeting of the trap fishery
 - e. Area 3 splits two different stock areas, how should it be handled?

**The meeting will be held at CT Marine Fisheries Division Headquarters
333 Ferry Road; Old Lyme, CT 06371**