



## **Recommendations to the Council from the 75<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

### **Crustaceans**

Council Office Conference Room  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
10-12 October 2000

The SSC was updated on the litigation, the proposed non-retention research fishery and NMFS' intention to keep the fishery closed for two-three years with Council support or through regulatory amendment. The NMFS research plan for crustaceans was discussed and the impossibility of conducting a tagging study without a recapture phase of adequate sample size was noted. Audience comment focused on the need for a simpler and more economical management regime. The five-year review of amendment 9, technical review panel, excess capacity and overcapitalization issues were discussed. The crustacean portions of the draft EIS and the Rebecca Lent Declaration (of 29 September) were reviewed.

**The SSC noted that there had been no SSC or Council input into the Lent declaration and wishes to call to the Council's attention that no research fishing is proposed for NWHI Area 4 and opportunity for in depth review of the new NMFS lobster research plan has not been provided. The SSC discussed why the Lent declaration appears to propose the tagging of an unnecessarily large number of lobsters in Area 1, 2 and 3 and none in Area 4. Also, the SSC expressed an interest in reviewing and commenting on the experimental design for this tagging plan.**

**Based on the available evidence, the SSC believes action to close lobster harvest because of concerns about monk seal food limitation is without scientific merit.**

SSC comment on the Draft EIS was generally favorable to a zoning approach but concern was expressed that the Draft included management alternatives not yet discussed in the SSC or by the Council. **The SSC recommends that the Council direct staff to develop a list of management measures in the Draft EIS which are new or conflict with the existing FMP.**

The SSC further expressed concern about the relevance and priority of the proposed plan reviews and their cost in the context of uncertainty about the future of this fishery. **The SSC recommends: 1) that the overcapitalization review of the lobster fishery be deferred; and 2) that the five-year review and technical review panel be combined into a constructive and**

**focused assessment of the management regime, the condition of the stock and ecosystem impacts.** Funds saved by combining the review process could be allocated to support the NMFS lobster research plan. **The scope of work for the technical review panel should include review of the existing stock assessment model and assistance from NMFS Lab staff in development of a new stock assessment model. This new model should address the SSC's previous recommendation (from its 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting), which was:**

*The SSC recommends that the current model be replaced with a fully integrated model that captures the dynamics of both species, includes age and growth information and recruitment trends, and has appropriate spatial structure and population movement.*

(75sscCru)