List of Motions

Motion #1:

The SSC recommends use of average recruitment over a specified time frame of recent recruitment estimates as a viable alternative to using recruitments taken deterministically from the stock-recruit curve when defining recruitments in catch projections. This method is encouraged to be developed further and considered in catch projections for any stocks needing catch limits.

Motion by:

Jason Cope

Second by:

Elizabeth Kadison

Votes:
All in favor; motion carries
(2 SSC members excused)

Motion #2:

The SSC commends the work to develop abundance indices, both fishery-dependent and independent, for the federally managed spiny lobster stocks, and encourages further efforts to provide these important data sources.

Motion by:

Jason Cope

Second by:

Elizabeth Kadison

Votes:
All in favor; motion carries
(2 SSC members excused)

Motion #3: The SSC recommends using the projected OFLs and MSY proxy (Spawning Potential Ratio 30%) for the Standard Error 0.1 model scenario using the Standard Stock Recruitment Relationship (SRR) presented in Table 1 of the Puerto Rico Spiny Lobster Updated Projections and Sensitivity Trajectories presentation (SEDAR 91 Puerto Rico Spiny Lobster Assessment).

The **rationale** is the high recruitment scenario is greatly influenced by the most recent CPUE data point. The high recruitment coming from that one data point needs more data to establish its strength. While considering alternative recruitment scenarios is supported by the SSC (see previous motion), in this particular assessment and data scenario, the most risk neutral projection choice is to use the recruitments coming from the stock-recruit relationship specified in the model. Creating the most risk neutral projections also allows a more straightforward treatment of the ABC buffer (meaning, not double dipping of uncertainty).

Table 1: PR Spiny Lobster: Projected Overfishing Limits (OFL) and MSY SPR Proxy for the SE = 0.1 model scenario in pounds. SRR represents the projections based on the stock recruitment relationship. Catch values for the interim years (2025 and 2026) are equal to the three-year geometric mean of recent landings (2022-2024).

Scenario	2025 Interim	2026 Interim	2027	2028	2029	Mean 2027-2029
OFL Standard SRR	568,757	568,757	597,111	557,309	541,153	565,191
OFL Recent Recruitment (2015-21)	568,757	568,757	700,448	650,443	631,197	660,696
OFL Low Recruitment (2001-11)	568,757	568,757	386,239	364,234	353,591	368,021
MSY SPR Proxy (SRR)	522,888	522,888	522,888	522,888	522,888	522,888
MSY SPR Proxy (Recent)	522,855	522,855	522,855	522,855	522,855	522,855
MSY SPR Proxy (Low)	525,794	525,794	525,794	525,794	525,794	525,794

Motion by:

Jason Cope

Second by:

Elizabeth Kadison

Votes: 4 in favor; 2 abstain; 5 absent; motion carries

Motion #4:

The SSC recommends using the time varying OFL projections for 2027-2029 from the SEDAR 91 Puerto Rico Spiny Lobster stock assessment that uses the stock-recruitment relationship to define future recruitments (see Table 1 in the Puerto Rico Spiny Lobster Updated Projections and Sensitivity Trajectories presentation). Using constant catches (while simple in their constancy) when fishing down to an estimated MSY can create complications if carried beyond more than 2-3 years. Following the actual changes in catches down to the MSY is the most transparent and straightforward approach, but also should recognize that catches will continue to decline down to the MSY value.

Motion by:

Jason Cope

Second by:

Tarsila Seara

Votes: all in favor (6), 5 absent; motion carries

Motion #5:

The SSC recommends the Puerto Rico Spiny Lobster be considered a Tier 2 stock under the ABC Control Rule included in the Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan following the SEDAR 91 stock assessment. The assessment uses multiple data types, including a relative index of abundance (which was not included in the former SEDAR 57 stock assessment), and estimates process dynamics through time-varying recruitment. It is also able to quantify both within and among model uncertainty useful for P* buffer consideration. The SSC has determined this meets the current requirements of a Tier 2 stock.

Motion by:

Jason Cope

Second by:

Elizabeth Kadison

Votes: all in favor (6); 5 absent; motion carries

Motion #6:

The SSC recommends using a sigma_min of 0.5 with the assigned Tier 2 multiplier of 1.5 and (assuming a Council-chosen p* of 0.45) to calculate ABCs from the OFLs projected from the SEDAR 91 Puerto Rico spiny lobster assessment.

SEDAR 91 – Index SE = 0.1, Standard SRR
Tier 2, sigma_min = 0.5, and provisional p* = 0.45

Reference point (pounds)	2027	2028	2029
OFL	597,111	557,309	541,153
ABC	543,406	507,184	492,481

Motion by:

Jason Cope

Second by:

Elizabeth Kadison

Votes: all in favor (6); 5 absent, motion carries

Motion #7: Motion to approve the Terms of Reference for SEDAR 103.

Motion by:

Tarsila Seara

Second by:

Jorge Garcia Sais

Votes: all in favor (6); 5 absent; motion carries