

ALWTRP Public Hearing
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Charleston, SC
September 12, 2013

NMFS PRD Staff—Barb Zoodsma and Jessica Powell

Number in attendance: 7

Including:

- David Hilton, contracted fishery liaison to SERO PRD
- Bob Martore, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Take Reduction Team State Representative

Gear Marking

One commenter stated gear can move between state and federal waters frequently so advocated using same color scheme for offshore and inshore trap/pot gear.

Management Area (Southeast Restricted Area North (SERA N))

One commenter stated they fish for blue crab during the winter in Federal waters as much as 7 miles or 12 miles, contingent upon the portion of beach/shoreline they're fishing off from. Can a secondary boundary be set up (short of SERA N eastern boundary)?

Return Gear to Port when fishing in Federal Waters

One commenter (and supported by two other fishermen) stated that in cold winters (which occur about every 5-6 years), crabs move into Federal waters. The requirement to bring gear back at the end of a fishing trip would effect a closure of the blue crab fishery in Federal waters and also cause an economic hardship on fishermen.