



## **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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### **Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel Meeting**

**April 1-3, 2014**

**The Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Charleston, South Carolina**

The Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel met April 1-3, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Charleston South Carolina. Issues addressed during the meeting included: 1) Reviewing Revisions to EFH Policy Statements; 2) Initiation of Redrafting Energy Policy Statement; 3) Presentations on State Artificial Reef Programs and Initiation of Artificial Reef Policy Statement Development; 4) State Sub-Panel breakout sessions to review Lists of Preparers for FEP to support FEP II development; 5) Briefing on East Coast Climate and Governance workshop; 6) NOAA Habitat Blueprint; 7) Oculina Experimental Closed Area 2014 Evaluation; 8) SALCC Conservation Blueprint and SARP activities.

#### **Review Revisions to EFH Policy Statements**

The Advisory Panel reviewed redrafted versions of Council EFH Policy Statements on: 1) Marine Aquaculture, 2) SAV, 3) In-stream Flow, 4) Marine and Estuarine Invasive Species; and 5) Beach Dredge and Fill. The first four Policy Statements were finalized for Committee and Council consideration.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Redrafted EFH Policy Statements (Attachments 2-5) addressing: 1) Marine Aquaculture; 2) Submerged Aquatic Vegetation; 3) Alterations to Riverine, Estuarine and Nearshore Flows; and 4) Marine and Estuarine Invasive Species; are provided for Committee Consideration and Council Approval.**

#### **Initiation of Redrafting Remaining EFH Policy Statement**

The Advisory Panel re-initiated an effort to redraft the existing EFH Policy Statement on Energy Transportation, Development and Exploration.

### **Development of New EFH Policy Statement**

The Advisory Panel received presentations on North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia State Artificial Reef Programs (Florida program presentation to occur at next AP meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida). The Panel initiated an effort to draft a Council EFH Policy Statement on Artificial Reefs.

### **State Sub-Panel Breakout Sessions**

State Sub-Panel breakout sessions were conducted to review the existing Lists of Preparers for FEP to provide guidance and support for FEP II section development.

### **East Coast Climate and Governance Workshop**

The Advisory Panel received a briefing on the collaborative effort between the three Atlantic Councils, ASMFC and NOAA spearheaded by the Mid-Atlantic Council to hold the *East Coast Climate Change and Fisheries Governance Workshop* in March 2014.

### **NOAA Habitat Blueprint**

The Advisory Panel received a briefing on the re-initiation of the NOAA Habitat Blueprint and opportunities to provide input on priorities.

### **Oculina Experimental Closed Area 2014 Evaluation**

The Advisory Panel was provided a briefing and discussed the 2014 Evaluation of the Oculina Experimental Closed Area.

### **SALCC Conservation Blueprint and SARP Activities**

The Advisory Panel received a briefing on and discussed the SALCC Conservation Blueprint and ongoing SARP activities.