



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair | Charlie Phillips, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel Meeting

**Town and Country Inn
Charleston, South Carolina**

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Approval of the Agenda – Pat Geer, GDNR

Approval of November 2016 Minutes (*Attachment 1*) – Pat Geer

Opening Statements and Introductions – Pat Geer and Roger Pugliese, SAFMC

- 1. Artificial Reef EFH Policy Statement (*Attachments 2-3*)**
 - a. Draft Artificial Reef EFH Policy Statement– Lisa Havel, ASMFC
 - b. Facilitated Member Input – Finalizing the Policy Statement – Brett Boston Group Solutions Inc. and Pat Geer

- 2. Energy Development Activities in South Atlantic Region (*Attachments 4-9*)**
 - a. Update on BOEM Activities in the Region– Brian Hooker, BOEM
 - b. Member Discussion and Recommendations – Pat Geer

- 3. Regional Deepwater Coral Mapping (*Attachment 10*)**
 - a. South Atlantic Planned Activities– Dr. Daniel Wagner, NOAA, NCCOS
 - b. Member Discussion and Recommendations – Pat Geer

12:00 Noon - 1:30 P.M. Lunch

- 4. FEP II Development - Core Section Completion (*Attachments 11-18*)**
 - a. FEP II Core Section Completion– Brittany Boston, Group Solutions Inc.
 - b. FEP II Policy and Research Recommendations
 - c. Member Discussion and Recommendations – Pat Geer

- 5. Aligning Threats and Policies (*Attachment 19*)**
 - a. Threats Review for FEP II – Policies and Core Threats – Roger Pugliese
 - b. Facilitated Session on Threats– Brett Boston, Group Solutions Inc.

- c. Member Discussion and Recommendations – Pat Geer

Adjourn – Pat Geer

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

- 6. SALCC Conservation Blueprint Workshop for Panel Members** (*Attachment 20*)
Facilitated Session – Brett Boston and Brittany Boston Group Solutions Inc. and
Rua Mordecai, SALCC

12:00 Noon - 1:30 P.M. Lunch

- 7. NMFS Permit and Policy Activities** (*Attachments 21-23*)
 - a. Frying Pan Shoals, North Carolina Dredging Proposal– Pace Wilber, NMFS, HCD
 - b. Other Permit and Policy Activities
 - c. Member Discussion and Recommendations – Pat Geer

- 8. Sargassum Research an International Conservation** (*Attachments 24-28*)
 - a. Sargassum Distribution and Remote Sensing – Andrew Brumfield, NCSU
 - b. International Conservation – Dr. David Freestone, Executive Director, Sargasso Sea Commission
 - c. Member Discussion and Recommendations – Pat Geer

Other Business – Pat Geer

Adjourn – Pat Geer

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel

List Attached

Attachments

- Attachment 1. November 2016 Advisory Panel Minutes
- Attachment 2. Draft EFH Policy Statement on Artificial Reefs
- Attachment 3. Draft FEP II Artificial Reef Habitats Section
- Attachment 4. Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy Leases Map Book
- Attachment 5. Fishing, Diving, and Ecotourism Stakeholder Uses and Habitat Information for North Carolina Wind Energy Call Areas
- Attachment 6. Baseline Bio-acoustic Characterization for Offshore Renewable Energy Development in the North Carolina and Georgia Wind Planning Areas
- Attachment 7. Ongoing BOEM Environmental Studies: a) Battle of the Atlantic Expedition: An inventory and evaluation of World War II vessel losses offshore North Carolina; b) Determining Offshore Use by Diving Marine Birds Using Satellite Telemetry; c) Quantitative Assessment of Spatially Explicit Social Values; and d) Describing Marine Wildlife Distribution and Movement Patterns on the South Atlantic OCS.
- Attachment 8. SAFMC Position on Energy Development and Seismic Testing
- Attachment 9. Executive Order/Secretarial Order on Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy

- Attachment 10. NOAA NOS NCCOS Science Plan for the Southeast Deep Coral Initiative (SEDCI): 2016-2019
- Attachment 11. Draft FEPII South Atlantic Food Webs and Connectivity
- Attachment 12. Draft FEPII South Atlantic Climate Variability and Fisheries
- Attachment 13. Draft FEPII Managed Species Section Summaries
- Attachment 14. Drafts FEPII Habitat Sections
- Attachment 15. SAFMC EFH FEPII EFH Users Guide
- Attachment 16. 2016-2020 SEAMAP Management Plan
- Attachment 17. FEPII Ecosystem Model Science Coordination PresFeb17
- Attachment 18. DRAFT SA RAP publicreview021417
- Attachment 19. FEPII SAFMC EFH Policies
- Attachment 20. SALCC Year in Review
- Attachment 21. NMFS EFH Comment on Frying Pan Shoals Dredging Proposal 3/9/17
- Attachment 22. SAFMC Comments on Frying Pan Shoals Dredging Proposal 3/23/17
- Attachment 23. NMFS EFH Elevation Comment Frying Pan Shoals Dredging Proposal 3/30/17
- Attachment 24. Thesis: Quantifying Sargassum on Eastern and Western Walls of the Gulf Stream Protruding Near Cape Hatteras into the Sargasso Sea Bermuda/Azores- Andrew Brumfield, NCSU
- Attachment 25. SAFMC-Daniel to NMFS-Hogarth: International Sargassum Conservation 9/8/05
- Attachment 26. ICATT Resolution on Sargassum Habitat
- Attachment 27. ICATT Resolution on Ecosystems (Pelagic Sargassum) Unique to ICATT Species
- Attachment 28. Bulger and Freestone- The Sargasso Sea Commission: An Innovative Approach to the Conservation of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

Staff: Roger Pugliese, Senior Fishery Biologist

OVERVIEW

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel will approve minutes of November 2016 (*Attachment 1*) and agenda.

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

1. **Artificial Reef EFH Policy Statement** (*Attachments 2-3*)
Description: Lisa Havel, ASMFC, will provide an overview of the development of the draft Artificial Reef EFH Policy Statement. Brett Boston, Group Solution Inc. will facilitate member input in finalizing the Policy Statement.
Panel Member Action: Members will discuss the statements and provide recommendations.

2. **Energy Development Activities in South Atlantic Region** (*Attachments 4-9*)
Description: Brian Hooker, BOEM, will provide an update on primarily BOEM research and Alternative Wind Energy activities in the Region. Note: the Environmental Studies Program Plan links is: <https://www.boem.gov/SDP-2017-2019/> with Chapter 6 highlighting Atlantic Activities. In addition, Brian will touch on national action potentially affecting the Region.
Panel Member Action: Members will provide input as appropriate.

3. **Regional Deep Coral Activities** (*Attachment 10*)
Description: Dr. Daniel Wagner, NOAA, NCCOS will review planned activities associated with the Southeast Deep Coral Initiative.
Panel Member Action: Members will provide input on proposed activities.
4. **FEP II Development - Core Section Completion** (*Attachment 11-18*)
Description: Brittany Boston, Group Solutions Inc. will review the development and completion of FEP II core Sections. Additional research and policy recommendations developed will be highlighted.
Panel Member Action: Members will provide input on developed Sections as appropriate.
5. **Aligning Threats and Policies** (*Attachment 19*)
Description: Roger Pugliese will provide an overview of policies updated or created as part of FEP II development process as they relate to core threats. Group Solutions in cooperation with Council staff will facilitate a focused session on aligning policies and core threats addressed.
Panel Member Action: Members will provide input as appropriate.

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

6. **SALCC Conservation Blueprint Workshop for Panel Members** (*Attachment 20*)
Description: Brittany and Brett Boston with Group Solutions Inc. in cooperation with Rua Mordecai, SALCC Science Coordinator, will run an SALCC Conservation Blueprint Workshop for Panel Members. Note the Blueprint has been developing incorporating Essential Fish Habitat and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern into the process. Additional Background on the SALCC can be found at: <http://www.southatlanticlcc.org/> and on the Conservation Blueprint at: <http://www.southatlanticlcc.org/blueprint/>
Panel Member Action: Members will provide input as part of the facilitated workshop.
7. **NMFS Permit and Policy Activities** (*Attachments 21-23*)
Description: Pace Wilber, NMFS, HCD will review NMFS and Council response to a proposal to dredge Frying Pan Shoals, North Carolina designated as an Essential Fish Habitat - Habitat Area of Particular Concern.
Panel Member Action: Members will provide input as appropriate.
8. **Sargassum Research an International Conservation** (*Attachment 24*)
Description: Andrew Brumfield, NCSU will review his thesis on the challenges of using remote sensing to quantify Sargassum boundaries from Cape Hatteras into the Sargasso Sea.
Dr. David Freestone, Executive Director with the Sargasso Sea Commission will present the Panel with the Commission activities as an innovative approach to the conservation of areas beyond National jurisdiction.
Panel Member Action: Members will provide input as appropriate.

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