<u>FINAL</u>
SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE
ECOSYSTEM BASED-MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Savannah, GA
March 6th, 2012

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee met on Tuesday, March 6th, 2012 in Savannah, Georgia. An update on the status of catches versus quota for octocorals and notice of implementation of Comprehensive-Ecosystem Based Amendment 2 was provided by NOAA Fisheries staff. Sean Morton, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent, presented plans for the Sanctuary's upcoming strategic review and rezoning process. The Committee received an overview of the public scoping comments received on measures in Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 (CE-BA 3). They discussed the process for future development of CE-BA 3, including the distribution of work to respective Committees. The Committee recommended measures to include and further develop in CE-BA 3, including expansion of Coral HAPCs, establishment of Marine Protected Areas across the mid-shelf and designation of HAPCs for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper, and modifications to permits and data reporting (for commercial and for-hire) to ensure Annual Catch Limits are not exceeded. Other measures included in the CE-BA 3 scoping process were deferred for development at a later time, or dropped from consideration. The Committee received an overview of the measures to expand Coral HAPCs and a review of fishery activity and habitat distribution within each area. The Committee also received an update on South Atlantic ecosystem activities.

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee made the following motions:

MOTION #1: MOVE THE RECREATIONAL TAG PROGRAM MEASURE TO CE-BA 4; MOVE DESIGNATION OF SNAPPER LEDGE AS AN MPA TO CE-BA 5 OR FUTURE AMENDMENT.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.
Motion 1 refers to measures the Committee recommends including in CE-BA 3 for further development, and what measures to drop, or defer to develop at a later time.

MOTION #2: DROP AFRICAN POMPANO FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.
Motion 2 refers to measures the Committee recommends including in CE-BA 3 for further development, and what measures to drop, or defer to develop at a later time.

MOTION #3: WAIT TO CONSIDER MEASURES FOR HOGFISH AND GRAY TRIGGERFISH UNTIL AFTER 2013 ASSESSMENTS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Motion 3 refers to measures the Committee recommends including in CE-BA 3 for further development, and what measures to drop, or defer to develop at a later time.

MOTION #4: INCLUDE ITEMS 1, 3, AND 9 IN CE-BA 3 AND APPROVE THE DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TO COMMITTEES AS SHOWN ABOVE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Action 1. Expand Coral HAPCs - Ecosystem Committee

Action 3. Establish MPAs across the mid-shelf and designate HAPCs for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper - Snapper Grouper Committee

Action 9. Modify permits and data reporting (commercial and for-hire) to ensure ACLs are not exceeded - Data Collection Committee.

MOTION #5: INCLUDE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES PRESENTED FOR THE NORTHERN EXTENSION OF OCULINA HAPC, INCLUDING THE CORAL AP RECOMMENDATION.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

The current northern boundary of the Oculina HAPC (28° 30'N) would extend to 29° 43.5'W. The west and east boundaries would follow the:

- *60 meter and 100 meter depth contour lines*
- *70 meter and 90 meter depth contour lines*
- *70 meter and 100 meter depth contour lines*
- *60 meter and 90 meter depth contour lines*

MOTION #6: ADOPT THE CORAL AP RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENDING THE OCULINA WESTERN BOUNDARY AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

From 28° 4.5'N to the north boundary of the current Oculina HAPC (28° 30'N). The east boundary would coincide with the current western boundary of the Oculina HAPC (80° W). The west boundary would follow the 60 meter contour line.

MOTION #7: INCLUDE A TRANSIT PROVISION AS AN ALTERNATIVE AS DEFINED BY THE LE AP.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

- *Consult 622.35 (i)(2) CFR reference for stowing gear and transit provision*
- *The Law Enforcement AP favors using stowing of gear instead of corridors for transiting closed areas in addition to speed restrictions (i.e., no less than 5 knots)*
- *In the event minimal speed is not sustainable, vessel must communicate to appropriate contact*

MOTION #8: FOR THE STETSON-MIAMI TERRACE HAPC, INCLUDE THE CORAL AP RECOMMENDATION AS AN ALTERNATIVE, THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION AS AN ALTERNATIVE, AND NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Coral AP recommendation: Area west of the existing Stetson-Miami Coral HAPC bounded approximately by the 200 meter depth contour between latitude 30°45.0' to the north and latitude 29°52.0' to the south.
Staff recommendation: Modify the Coral AP recommendation by including the area of mapped habitat within the proposed extension of Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC, and excluding the areas of royal red fishery activity based on VMS data (Figure 5 in CE-BA 3 Decision Document).

MOTION #9: ACCEPT STAFF RECOMMENDATION (FOR EXTENSION OF CAPE LOOKOUT HAPC) AND THE NO ACTION AS ALTERNATIVES FOR AP INPUT AND IPT ANALYSIS.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

Extend the northern boundary of Cape Lookout Coral HAPC to encompass the area identified by the following coordinates:

Latitude	*Longitude*
34°24.6166'	*75°45.1833'*
34°23.4833'	*75°43.9667'*
34°27.9'	*75°42.75'*
34°27.0'	*75°41.5'*