SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE
ECOSYSTEM BASED-MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Orlando, FL
June 11th, 2012

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee met on Monday, June 11th, 2012 in Orlando, Florida.

An update on the status of catches versus quota for octocorals was provided by NOAA Fisheries staff. Jessica McCawley provided an update on octocoral landings in Florida state and adjacent federal waters since the transfer of management of octocorals in Florida federal waters to the state in 2011. The Committee then received several reports from Advisory Panels (AP) meetings held in April and May 2012. Mike Merrifield, representing the Deepwater Shrimp AP, presented the report from the April 20th, 2012 joint Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp AP meeting in Charleston, SC. He reviewed the APs recommendations for the proposed expansions of Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern that are considered in Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 (CE-BA 3), and presented a spatial representation of rock shrimp trawl track data in relation to the Oculina Bank HAPC. Steve Blair, Chairman of the Coral AP, presented recommendations resulting from the May 9-10th, 2012 Coral AP meeting in Charleston, SC. Roger Pugliese provided the Habitat AP recommendations that resulted from their May 15th, 2012 webinar. The Committee briefly discussed the CE-BA 3 Decision Document and deferred further consideration and development of the Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern measures until after a joint meeting of a number of the Council's APs. The Committee also received an update on South Atlantic ecosystem activities.

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee made the following motions:

MOTION #1: SUBMIT DRAFT LETTER TO FWC
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL
This refers to a recommendation made by the Coral AP, that the Council submit a letter to FWC recommending identification and evaluation of conservation measures for protection of elkhorn and staghorn coral colonies (Acropora spp.) in FL state waters.

MOTION #2: CONVENE THE DEEPWATER SHRIMP AND CORAL APS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HABITAT AP AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AP TO DISCUSS THE HAPC MEASURES IN CE-BA 3
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL