SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE
ECOSYSTEM BASED-MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Raleigh, NC
December 5th-6th, 2011

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee met on December 5th and 6th, 2011 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Committee received an update on lionfish research from Dr. James Morris, with NOAA's National Ocean Service, and adjourned for the day. The Committee reconvened on December 6th and received a presentation from Jeffrey Herod with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on agency programs addressing coastal and marine invasive species. The Committee received an update from NOAA Fisheries staff on the status of catches versus quota for octocorals, and also the status of Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2, which remains under formal review. Anna Martin provided an overview of the Coral Advisory Panel's recommendations to the Committee, including recommendations to expand several Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern. Gregg Waugh reviewed recommendations from the Habitat Advisory Panel and provided the Committee with an update of the Eco-Regional Coordination meeting. The Committee received an overview of management measures for consideration in CE-BA 3, and approved a list of measures for public scoping, to take place during January and February 2012. Measures in CE-BA 3 include: expanding the boundaries for Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), including Oculina Bank HAPC, Stetson-Miami Terrace HAPC, and Cape Lookout HAPC; designation of HAPC for speckled hind and Warsaw grouper; a powerhead prohibition in NC EEZ; a powerhead prohibition throughout the South Atlantic EEZ; and designation of Snapper Ledge within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary as an MPA.

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee made the following motions:

MOTION #1. MOVE TO CONSIDER THE POWERHEAD PROHIBITION THROUGHOUT THE REGION.
MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.
This motion refers to inclusion of this measure in the list of items for public scoping in CE-BA 3.

MOTION #2. MOVE TO CONSIDER CORAL HAPC EXPANSION RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE CORAL AP AND HABITAT AP, AND TO CONSIDER (HABITAT) AP RECOMMENDATION FOR DESIGNATING HAPC FOR SPECKLED HIND AND WARSAW GROUPER FOR SCOPING (MEASURES 1 AND 4).
MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.
This motion refers to inclusion of measures1 and 4 in the CE-BA 3 document on the list of items for public scoping.

MOTION #3: MOVE TO SEPARATE THE ACTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR WARSAW GROUPER AND SPECKLED HIND TO A REGULATORY AMENDMENT ADDRESSED BY SG COMMITTEE.
MOTION FAILS. (Motion developed during Full Council)

MOTION #4. MOVE TO INCLUDE MEASURE 2 IN (CE-BA 3) PUBLIC SCOPING DOCUMENT (POWERHEAD PROHIBITION IN NC WATERS).
MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

MOTION #5. CHANGE THE WORDING IN MEASURE 5 (SNAPPER LEDGE) TO MPA AND TAKE TO SCOPING.
MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL.
This motion refers to modifying the language in measure 5 in the CE-BA 3 document, to designate this area within the FL Keys National Marine Sanctuary as an MPA, and to include this measure on the list of items for public scoping.

MOTION #6: INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF A RECREATIONAL TAGGING PROGRAM FOR DEEPWATER GROUPER SPECIES, AS WELL AS THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SG AP REGARDING A MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT FOR HOGFISH AND A BAG/SIZE LIMIT CHANGE TO GRAY TRIGGERFISH.
MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL. (Motion developed during Full Council)

MOTION #7: APPROVE CE-BA 3 FOR PUBLIC SCOPING.
MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL. (Motion developed during Full Council)

MOTION #8: WRITE A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF MILBURNIE DAM REMOVAL.
MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL. (Motion developed during Full Council)