



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee

Town and Country Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston SC 29407

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 – 10:00 A.M – 12:00 Noon and 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.(Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of minutes (March 2023)

1. SAFMC Habitat Blueprint (*Attachments 1a-1c*)
 - a. Review Habitat Blueprint – Council staff
 - b. **Committee Action:** Consider approval.

2. Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Report (*Attachments 2a-2c*)
 - a. Review May 2023 Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Report – Stacie Crowe, SCDNR (Acting AP Chair) (remote)
 - b. EFH Policy Updates: Review revised Beach Renourishment Policy and Update on Energy Policy Development – Stacie Crowe and Roger Pugliese
Committee Action: Consider approval of Beach Renourishment Policy
 - c. EFH 5 Year Review Update: Process and AP Subcommittees – Stacie Crowe
Committee Action: Discussion.

3. Coral Management
 - a. SSC Review of Deep Sea Coral Modeling Product – Dr. Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair (remote)
 - b. **Committee Action:** Discussion and recommendations.

4. Approve agenda topics for Fall 2023 Habitat and Ecosystem AP Meeting
 - a. Overview – Roger Pugliese
 - b. **Committee Action:** Review and approve list of agenda items.

Other Business

Adjourn

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee

Trish Murphey, Chair

Mel Bell, Vice Chair

Robert Beal

Carolyn Belcher

Gary Borland

LT Cameron Box

Tim Griner

Judy Helmey

Kerry Marhefka

Jessica McCawley

Tom Roller

Robert Spottswood, Jr.

Andy Strelcheck

Laurilee Thompson

Spud Woodward

Attachments

Attachment 1a. Draft Habitat Blueprint

Attachment 1b. Draft Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Job Description

Attachment 1c. Draft Habitat Workplan

Attachment 2a. Habitat and Ecosystem AP May 2023 Meeting Report

Attachment 2b. Habitat and Ecosystem AP May 2023 Presentation

Attachment 2c. Updated EFH Policy: Beach Renourishment & Large-Scale Ocean Engineering

Staff Contact: Roger.Pugliese@safmc.net

OVERVIEW

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee

The Committee will approve minutes from the March 2023 meeting and the agenda for the current meeting.

1. SAFMC Habitat Blueprint (*Attachments 1a-1c*)

The Habitat Blueprint Workgroup met on June 28 and August 16 to finalize work on the draft Blueprint document. Roger Pugliese and Myra Brouwer will highlight the workgroup activities and review the SAFMC Habitat Blueprint for Committee consideration for approval.

Required Committee Action: Discussion and approval of the SAFMC Habitat Blueprint.

2. Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Report (*Attachments 2a-2c*)

Description: Stacie Crowe, SCDNR (Acting AP Chair) will review the May 2023 Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Report. Included will be the finalized draft of the EFH Policy on Beach Renourishment and Large-Scale Ocean Engineering for Committee consideration and approval and status of the Energy Policy update. The AP formed an *Energy Policy Subcommittee* to address the Update of the Energy Policy Statement: Paula Keener (Chair), Anne Deaton, Brian Hooker, Wilson Laney, Stacie Crowe, David Whitaker, David Webb and Tom Jones. (Note: Cindy Cooksey NMFS HCD who has recently taken another job was also on the subcommittee).

Stacie will also provide an update on the EFH 5 Year Review process including the establishment of the following AP Subcommittees to accomplish the task:

Buttonwood Clarification Subcommittee: Simen Kaalstad, Chair, Rene Baumstark, David Webb

Limited FEP II Update (Prey and References) Subcommittee: Wilson Laney, Chair, Kevin Spanik, Laurent Cherubin

Tidal Freshwater Boundary Subcommittee: Casey Knight, Chair, Anne Deaton, Stacie Crowe, Rene Baumstark, Wilson Laney, Paul Medders, Sam Young

Required Committee Action: Consider approval of Beach Policy and guidance on other AP items as appropriate.

3. Coral Management

Dr. Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair will provide members with an overview of the SSC review which can be found in the [April 2023 SSC Meeting Report](#) and recommendations associated with the [Deep Sea Coral Modeling Product](#).

Required Committee Action: Discussion and recommendations.

4. Agenda Items for Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel

Fall Meeting: Council staff will review a draft list of potential agenda items noted below to be covered during the fall Habitat and Ecosystem AP meeting:

Draft List of Agenda Items for Fall Habitat and Ecosystem AP (November 1-3, 2023)

- NOAA Fisheries HCD EFH Consultation Update

- NOAA Fisheries EFH 5 Year Review (Subcommittees Reports)
- Update: SECAS and Conservation Blueprint
- US Navy Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing EIS
- Offshore Wind Activities in South Atlantic Region
 - Update on BOEM Research and Energy Development Activities
 - Update on Carolina Long Bay
- EFH Policy Statement on Energy
- SAFMC Habitat Blueprint
 - Review the Blueprint and workplan
 - Develop a plan to prepare the initial Habitat Annual Report at the Spring 2024 meeting

Other Business