



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405

Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Habitat & Ecosystem and Shrimp Committees

North Charleston Marriott

4770 Goer Drive

North Charleston, SC

Thursday, September 18, 2025, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Approval of agenda

Approval of minutes (June 2025)

1. Habitat and Ecosystem AP report (July 2025) – Stacie Crowe, Habitat & Ecosystem AP Chair (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
2. Coral Amendment 11/ Shrimp Amendment 12 (*Attachments 2a-2c*)
 - a. Overview – Kathleen Howington, Allie Iberle
 - b. Public Hearing Comment Summary
Committee Action: Consider public hearing comments, make any modifications, and approve the action.
3. Other Business

Adjourn

Habitat Committee Members:

Trish Murphey, Chair
Tom Roller, Vice Chair
Robert Beal
Carolyn Belcher
Gary Borland
Amy Dukes
Judy Helmey
Jimmy Hull
Kerry Marhefka
Jessica McCawley
Lt. Tom Pease
Charlie Phillips
Robert Spottswood, Jr.
Andy Strelcheck
Dewey Hemilright

Shrimp Committee Members:

Carolyn Belcher, Chair
Amy Dukes, Vice Chair
Gary Borland
Jimmy Hull
Jessica McCawley
Trish Murphey
Lt. Tom Pease
Charlie Phillips
Andy Strelcheck

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: Habitat and Ecosystem AP report (July 2025)

Attachment 1b: Habitat and Ecosystem AP Presentation (July 2025)

Attachment 2a: Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12 Decision Document

Attachment 2b: Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12 Public Hearing Comment
Summary

Attachment 2c: Draft Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12 Amendment

Staff Leads: Kathleen Howington (Habitat Committee) (kathleen.howington@safmc.net)
Allie Iberle (Shrimp Committee) (allie.iberle@safmc.net)

OVERVIEW

Joint Habitat and Shrimp Committees

The Committees will approve the agenda for the September 2025 Joint Committee meeting and approve the minutes from the June 2025 meeting.

[June 2025 Joint Committees Meeting Report](#)

1. Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel (HEAP) Report (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)

Description: Stacie Crowe, SCDNR, HEAP Chair, will deliver the July 2025 HEAP report. Council staff will review the HEAP's Workplan that includes the following items to discuss during the Winter 2026 meeting:

- Review progress on the habitat program communication strategy
- 2025 Annual report
- Citizen Science Updates
- Essential Fish Habitat Consultation updates
- Revision of Alterations to Riverine, Estuarine and Nearshore Flows Policy to address impacts from freshwater discharges and impediments to river flow
- Update on impacts from space activities on habitat (if the information is available).
- Spawning Special Management Zones Working Group report
- Resilient Fisheries Projects overview and EFH project update
- Integrate food web information from food web policy into EFH definitions
- Work plan update

Committee Action: Consider HEAP recommendations and provide guidance to staff. Approve the agenda topics for the 2026 Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel winter meeting.

2. Establish a Shrimp Fishery Access Area in the Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern (Coral Amendment 11/ Shrimp Amendment 12) (*Attachments 2a-2c*)

Description: In 2021, the Council submitted Coral Amendment 10, which proposed establishing a shrimp fishery access area (SFAA) within the northern extension of the Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern (OHAPC) where trawling for rock shrimp is currently prohibited. In 2022, the Council received a letter of disapproval. Among the reasons for disapproval, NMFS stated that the amendment did not include adequate analysis to ensure that the proposed action would minimize adverse effects of fishing on essential fish habitat (EFH) and minimize bycatch. In September 2024, staff were directed to develop a joint amendment to the Coral and Shrimp FMPs to propose establishing an SFAA within the northern extension of the OHAPC and incorporate updated information, including a recent mapping study. In June 2025, the Council selected Preferred Alternative 2 and approved Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12 for public hearings. Hearings were held in August 2025. Staff will review a decision document that includes new edits to the alternatives, summary of analyses completed to date, next steps, and a public hearing comment summary.

Committee Action: Consider public hearing comments, make any modifications, and approve the action.

3. Other Business