

**SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE
ECOSYSTEM BASED-MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Charleston, SC
September 13th, 2011**

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee met on September 13th, 2011 in Charleston, South Carolina. NOAA Fisheries Service referred to the Snapper Grouper Committee briefing materials (Attachment 1a Landings Data) for an update on the status of catches versus quota for octocorals. The Committee received an update on the status of Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 (CE-BA 2), including approval by the Gulf Council during their August 2011 meeting on the measure that amends the joint Coastal Migratory Pelagic FMP (Action 4, Preferred Alternative 3); and also FL FWC's approval to extend state management measures for octocorals into adjacent EEZ waters in Florida. NOAA General Counsel advised that CE-BA 2 remains under review at NMFS Southeast Regional Office. The Committee also received an overview of potential management measures for consideration in CE-BA 3, and discussed approval of a comprehensive list of measures during the December 2011 Council meeting for public scoping in January and February 2012. Measures discussed for consideration in CE-BA 3 include: refining the boundaries for Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), including Oculina Bank HAPC, Stetson-Miami Terrace HAPC, and Cape Lookout HAPC; possible expansion of Snowy Wreck MPA; bangsticking prohibition in NC EEZ; wreckfish fishery impacts on bottom habitat; and additional protections for the mid-shelf fishery including speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. An update on SAFMC activities pertaining to ecosystem-based management in the region was provided.

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee did not make any motions.