

**SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE
ECOSYSTEM BASED-MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Key West, FL
June 13th, 2011**

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee met on June 13th, 2011 in Key West, Florida. The Committee received an update from NOAA Fisheries Service on the status of catches versus quota for octocorals. The Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2, and contingent upon the Gulf Council approving the measure to amend the joint CMP FMP, approved the document for formal Secretarial review. The Committee directed staff to submit a letter to the Gulf Council requesting inclusion on their August Council meeting agenda for approval of the measure to amend the joint CMP FMP. The Committee reviewed the proposed rule for CE-BA 2 and approved the codified text accordingly. Staff was provided with editorial license to revise CE-BA 2 as necessary prior to submission to the Secretary. An update on SAFMC activities pertaining to ecosystem-based management in the region was provided.

The Committee made the following motions:

MOTION #1. ACCEPT IPT RECOMMENDATION TO MODIFY ACTION 1 WORDING.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 1. Modify management of octocorals in the South Atlantic.

MOTION #2. MODIFY LANGUAGE OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 3 (ACTION 3).
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 3. Preferred Alternative 3: ACL = 0 for octocorals in the EEZ off of NC, SC, and GA.

MOTION #3. ADOPT NOAA GC LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATION (ACTION 4).
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Action 4. Modify management of Special Management Zones (SMZs) off South Carolina.

Action 4. Preferred Alternative 2: Limit harvest and possession of snapper grouper species (with the use of all non-prohibited fishing gear) in SMZs off South Carolina to the recreational bag limit.

Action 4. Preferred Alternative 3: Limit harvest and possession of coastal migratory pelagic species (with the use of all non-prohibited fishing gear) in SMZs off South Carolina to the recreational bag limit.

MOTION #4. ADOPT IPT LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATION (ACTION 5, PREFERRED SUB-ALTERNATIVE 4B).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 5. Preferred Sub-Alternative 4b: Vessels with freeboard height greater than 4 feet (and/or using longline gear) would be required to carry and use:

- a long-handled line cutter,*
- a long-handled dehooker for ingested hooks; or a dehooker for ingested and a dehooker for external hooks,*
- a long-handled device to pull an “inverted V”,*

- a dipnet,
- cushion/support device (i.e., boat cushion),
- a short-handled dehooker for ingested hooks; or a dehooker for ingested and a dehooker for external hooks,
- long-nose or needle-nose pliers,
- bolt cutters,
- monofilament line cutters, and
- at least two types of mouth openers/mouth gags.

MOTION #5. ADOPT NOAA GC LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION 6, PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 3: DESIGNATE EFH-HAPCS FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPE COMPLEX TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DEEPWATER MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAS) AS DESIGNATED IN SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 14.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 6. Preferred Alternative 3: Designate EFH-HAPCs for the snapper grouper complex to include the following deepwater Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as designated in Snapper Grouper Amendment 14:

- *Snowy Grouper Wreck MPA*
- *Northern South Carolina MPA*
- *Edisto MPA*
- *Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA*
- *Georgia MPA*
- *North Florida MPA*
- *St. Lucie Hump MPA*
- *East Hump MPA*

MOTION #6. ADOPT IPT RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION 8 AND REMOVE “NEW” FROM THE LANGUAGE IN THE ACTION.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 8. Amend the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Pelagic Sargassum Habitat to designate EFH.

MOTION #7. ACCEPT IPT RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE ACTION 9 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Action 9. Amend the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Pelagic Sargassum Habitat to designate EFH-HAPCs.

MOTION #8. APPROVE CE-BA 2, CONTINGENT ON GMFMC TAKING ACTION FOR APPROVAL AT AUGUST 2011 MEETING.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #9. GIVE STAFF LICENSE FOR EDITORIAL REVISIONS TO CE-BA 2.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #10. APPROVE PROPOSED RULE AS WRITTEN AND ALLOW STAFF TO
MODIFY AS NECESSARY.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE