

ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA
MARCH 2, 2010

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee convened on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. The Committee discussed changes to the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2, including proposed EFH and EFH-HAPCs, and provided guidance to staff. The Committee also reviewed the draft SAFMC invasive species policy and suggested changes. The Committee received an update on the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)'s campaign to promote consumption of lionfish as a means to control the invasion and protect coral reef ecosystems. Finally, the Committee received an update on SAFMC activities pertaining to ecosystem-based management in the region.

The committee made the following motions:

Motion # 1: Correct December 2009 minutes

Approved by committee

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2

Motion # 2: Replace current Option 3 under Action 5 as follows: When total harvest of both state and federal waters reaches 50K colonies, then harvest would be closed in federal waters. Note: The Council would request that Florida issue concurrent regulations.

Approved by Committee

Motion # 3: Modify Alternative 2 under Action 8 as follows: Limit harvest and possession (with the use of all non-prohibited fishing gear) in South Carolina's Special management Zones to the recreational bag limit.

Approved by Committee

Motion # 4: Change Action 10 as follows: Changes in the management of SMZs.

Approved by Committee

Motion # 5: Move Alternative 2c under Snapper Grouper EFH section to the Considered but Rejected Appendix

Approved by Committee

Guidance to staff:

- South Carolina's intent to limit harvest and possession in Special Management Zones to the recreational bag limit should apply to all relevant managed species, not just snapper grouper species.
- Consider adding an action to CE-BA 2 to modify the framework under the Coral FMP
- Continue to include Action 8 in CE-BA 2 (possibly allow harvest of orange cup coral) and revisit issue at the June meeting.
- Revise the draft SAFMC invasive species policy and obtain input from the Coral and Habitat Advisory Panels. Revise the policy and prepare a second draft for the June Council meeting.