

**ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ATLANTIC BEACH, NC
DECEMBER 8, 2009**

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee convened on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. The Committee discussed changes to the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 Options Paper and provided guidance to staff. The Committee also received briefing from Dr. James Morris on management issues pertaining to lionfish and discussed possible options to address potential impacts from lionfish and other invasive species on the South Atlantic ecosystem. The Committee received updates from staff on relevant workshops and deepwater coral activities as well as ecosystem coordination activities.

The committee made the following motions:

MOTION #1: (Pertaining to delegating management authority of octocorals to the state of Florida)

ELIMINATE OPTION 3. (Withdraw the SA Coral FMP off east Florida and the Gulf of Mexico and delegate management authority to the State of Florida.)

OPTION2 – DELEGATE MANAGEMENT OF OCTOCORAL FISHERY TO STATE OF FLORIDA

OPTION 3 – WITHDRAW SA CORAL FMP

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #2: ELIMINATE OPTION TO WITHDRAW THE SA CORAL FMP

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #3: REMOVE ACTION TO POSSIBLY ALLOW HARVEST OF ORANGE CUP CORAL.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: CONSIDER WHETHER EXOTIC SPECIES ARE PART OF THE MANAGEMENT UNIT.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #4: REMOVE ACTION TO POSSIBLY ALLOW HARVEST OF ENCRUSTING GORGONIANS AND PLACE IN CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

The Committee directed staff to develop alternatives for the proposed action below:

CONSIDER REQUIRING THAT ALL HARVEST WITH THE USE OF ALL NON-PROHIBITED FISHING GEAR IN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES IN SOUTH CAROLINA BE LIMITED TO THE RECREATIONAL BAG LIMIT.

The Ecosystem Committee made the following recommendations:

- Work cooperatively with the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species to investigate ways to address invasive species, including orange cup coral and Indo-Pacific lionfish. Develop a draft SAFMC policy on invasive species to be discussed at the March 2010 meeting.
- Work with staff to review the proposed EFH-HAPCs currently listed in the CE-BA 2 Options Paper.