

**JOINT ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT & HABITAT COMMITTEES
CHARLESTON, SC
SEPTEMBER 18, 2009**

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee and Habitat Committee convened twice as a committee of the whole (i.e., during the Council session) on Thursday, September 17 and again the morning of Friday, September 18, 2009. The Committees received a presentation from Mr. John Reed on recent research on deepwater coral ecosystems off Cape Canaveral, inside the proposed Stetson-Miami Terrace CHAPC. The Committees received reports from staff on DEIS comments on the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1, recommendations from the Law Enforcement, Habitat and Coral APs, and necessary changes to that document. The Committees approved CE-BA 1 for submission to the Secretary and deemed the Proposed Rule as necessary and appropriate. Staff presented the Committees with an overview of the Options Paper for Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 (CE-BA 2) and provided guidance on options and alternatives for analysis. The Committee received a presentation on ecosystem coordination activities in the South Atlantic.

The following motions were made during full Council (09/17/09):

**MOTION #1: SUBMIT CE-BA 1 TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE [STAFF ARE GIVEN EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES]
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION #2: DEEM THE PROPOSED RULE AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.
GRANT STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE AND ALLOW CHAIRMAN TO REVIEW AND
DEEM CHANGES AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

The following recommendations were made by the committees on CE-BA 2:

- Include option setting ACL at average landings over 2000-2008.
- Include option setting ACL at maximum harvest over same time period.
- Consider ACL = 0.
- Allow for the SSC to look at options and provide their recommendations to the Council.
- Apply the SSC's ABC control to octocoral harvest.
- Include an option that if the 50,000 colony level is reached in state waters, then federal waters would close to harvest.

- Include an option to delegate management authority of the octocoral fishery to the state of Florida.
- Include a copy of Florida's coral management regulations in December briefing book and/or consider a presentation from FWRI staff at the next Council meeting.