

**JOINT HABITAT & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES  
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA  
MARCH 3 & 4, 2009**

The Habitat and Ecosystem-Based Management Committees met jointly the afternoon of Tuesday, March 3, 2009. The Committees received reports from staff on public comments received for the Fishery Ecosystem Plan and the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1. The committees also received a summary of scoping comments for the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 and a presentation on the 4th International Deep-Sea Coral Symposium. The committees reconvened on the morning of Wednesday, March 4, 2009, and received a presentation from Ken Nedimyer (Coral AP) on live-rock aquaculture/octocoral harvest and the staghorn coral nursery.

The motion below was discussed by the committees and, after receiving guidance from NOAA General Counsel, the committees voted to remove it from the final direction to staff (Motion # 5).

**MOTION #2:** DIRECT STAFF TO WORK WITH NOAA GC/NMFS TO EVALUATE THE INCORPORATION OF THE NCDMF-DESIGNATED ANADROMOUS FISH (BLUEBACK HERRING, ALEWIFE, STRIPED BASS, AMERICAN SHAD) WHICH SERVE AS PREY SPECIES FOR COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS, SNAPPER GROUPER, DOLPHIN WAHOO, BLUEFISH) SPAWNING AREAS AS EFH-HAPCS IN CE-BA2.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEES – NOTE: THIS MOTION WAS REMOVED IN TASK AND TIMING MOTION BELOW (MOTION # 5)

**The committees approved the following motions:**

**MOTION #1:** APPROVE THE FEP FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY WITH EDITORIAL LICENSE GIVEN TO STAFF TO ADDRESS THE NMFS COMMENTS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEES

**MOTION #3:** THE COMMITTEES RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL THAT SARGASSUM BE ADDRESSED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE ACL AMENDMENT  
APPROVED BY COMMITTEES

**MOTION #4:** THE COMMITTEES REQUEST THE COUNCIL TO TASK THE STAFF TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THE ECOSYSTEM-BASED AMENDMENT 2:

- A. potentially modify the limited take of octocorals and/or octocoral reporting

- B. examine the potential for a lease program for octocoral culture
- C. potentially allow the take of the erect forms of *Briareum* sp. (Deadman's fingers) and *Erythropodium* sp. (encrusting coral), and
- D. potentially establish a permit system to harvest the invasive scleractinian coral species *Tubestrea coccinea* (orange cup coral)

APPROVED BY COMMITTEES

**MOTION #5:** DIRECT STAFF TO:

1. ADDRESS THE NMFS COMMENTS ON THE FEP AND FINALIZE THE FEP FOR SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AFTER THE JUNE 2009 MEETING.
2. CE-BA1 – THE COMMITTEES DID NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THE ACTIONS AND DIRECTED STAFF TO CONTINUE EDITING THE DOCUMENT FOR DEIS FILING; THE INTENT IS TO HAVE THE COMMENT PERIOD END PRIOR TO THE JUNE 2009 MEETING SO THAT THE COUNCIL CAN FINALIZE AT THE JUNE MEETING.
3. CE-BA2 - DIRECT STAFF TO EVALUATE THE ALTERNATIVES RELATED TO CORALS/OCTOCORALS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE