

# OVERVIEW

## Joint Ecosystem-Based Management & Habitat and Environmental Protection Committees

Hilton Wilmington Riverside  
301 N. Water Street  
Wilmington, NC

The Committee will: (A) receive an update from NMFS and FWC on the status of catches versus quota for octocorals; (B) receive a report from the joint Coral and Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel meeting; (C) receive a report from the Habitat Advisory Panel meeting; (D) review actions and alternatives in Coral Amendment 7; and (E) receive an update on ecosystem activities.

### **A. Status of landings for octocorals (Attachment 1)**

The Council will receive an update from NMFS SERO and FWC on the status of landings for octocorals.

### **B. Joint Coral & Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel Report (Attachment 2)**

A joint meeting of the Coral and Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panels (APs) was held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Cape Canaveral, FL. Representatives from the Law Enforcement and Habitat Advisory Panels also participated in the meeting. Based on Council guidance during the June 2012 meeting, the AP meeting was held to discuss recommendations for modifying Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (Coral HAPCs), measures currently being developed through Coral Amendment 7. Steve Blair, Chair of the Coral Advisory Panel Chair, and Mike Merrifield, Chair of the Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel, will review their respective AP recommendations that resulted from the meeting.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

### **C. Habitat Advisory Panel Report (Attachment 3)**

Roger Pugliese will review the report from the November 14-15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Habitat AP meeting in Charleston, SC.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

### **D. Coral Amendment 7 (Attachments 4&5)**

Anna Martin will review the Options Paper for Coral Amendment 7. The actions to modify Coral HAPCs were scoped during January – February 2012. The Amendment includes modifications to the boundaries of the Oculina Bank, Stetson-Miami Terrace and Cape Lookout Coral HAPCs. A transit provision through the Oculina Bank is also being considered. The Council is scheduled to approve Coral Amendment 7 for public hearings, however will need to discuss adjustments to timing as it relates to receiving updated VMS data and incorporating rock shrimp trawl track data into the analyses for these Actions.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Provide guidance to staff as appropriate, approve for public hearings, or adjust timing of Coral Amendment 7.

**D. Ecosystem Activities**

Roger Pugliese will provide updates on the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association, South Atlantic Alliance, Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership, South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative, SEAMAP, Council Ecosystem Tools, and other ecosystem activities.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Provide guidance to staff as appropriate.