

OVERVIEW

Ecosystem-Based Management Committee Meeting

Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC

The Committee will: (A) receive a report from Dr. Carolyn Belcher on SSC recommendations including fishing level recommendations for octocorals and *Sargassum*; (B) receive an update on CE-BA 2 development and changes since the June 2010 meeting; (C) discuss Florida's FWC position on delegation of management of the octocoral fishery; (D) provide guidance to staff on actions and alternatives for analysis in CE-BA 2; (E) provide guidance to staff on input for the Comprehensive ACL Amendment; (F) receive a summary of edits and comments on the draft policies (estuarine and marine ecosystems) on invasive species and provide guidance to staff; and (G) receive updates ecosystem-based activities.

SSC Report

Dr. Belcher will provide an overview of the SSC's recommendations developed at the August 16-17, 2010 meeting. The SSC met to further develop the ABC control rule for stocks which are unassessed and for which no P* analysis is available, consider additional information requested for golden crab and corals to support ABC recommendations, and consider ABC recommendations for *Sargassum* and wreckfish.

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2

The SSC met in Charleston on August 16-17, 2010 to reconsider their fishing level recommendations for several species, including octocorals and *Sargassum*. The SSC received new information from the Florida FWC including trends in landings by species category, and additional literature and life history information on harvested species. Changes to the actions and alternatives included in the amendment were made according to Council guidance from the June 2010 meeting. Staff will review the SSC's recommendations for OFL and ABC for octocorals, NOAA GC guidance, and changes to the list of actions and alternatives. In addition, the Committee will discuss Florida's position on possible repeal or delegation of federal FMPs, including transfer of management of the octocoral fishery to the State.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff on actions and alternatives for analysis.

Comprehensive Annual Catch Limits Amendment

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff on actions and alternatives for analysis regarding *Sargassum*.

Invasive Species

At the June 2010 meeting, the Council voted to split the draft policy on invasive species into two components to address impacts to estuarine and marine ecosystems. The policies were sent to the Coral and Habitat Advisory Panels for their review. Staff will review the revised policies for Committee approval.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review and adopt the revised invasive species policies.

Ecosystem Coordination Activities

Myra Brouwer gave a presentation at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer meeting on the Council's approach to implementing ecosystem-based management.

Roger Pugliese will update the Council on continued development of SECOORA/ Ocean Observing Systems, the South Atlantic Alliance, the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative, SEAMAP and Council Ecosystem tools.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: None.