

OVERVIEW

Ecosystem-Based Management Committee

Charleston Marriott
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, South Carolina, 29403
September 18, 2014

The Committee will: (A) Receive an update on FEP II structure, FEP Review/development team membership and coordination with regional partners in the process.

A. Fishery Ecosystem Plan II

The Committee will receive an update on the development of FEP II, the proposed structure, FEP review/development teams and coordination efforts with regional partners in the process.

FEP II Development Timing and General Process (2014-2015):

- a. Development will be facilitated around spring (April) and fall (November) Habitat Advisory Panel meetings (2014 and 2015).
- b. Habitat Advisory Panel State Sub-Panel review and provide initial recommendations on lists of FEP II review/writing teams April 2014.
- c. Coordinate with Council Members, Habitat AP state sub-panel chairs and ecosystem partners to refine membership on review and writing teams for development of FEP II and integrated EFH update. Provide update on timing and participation at September 2014 Council meeting.
- d. September 2014 – March 2015 - EFH/FEP technical webinars and coordination with regional partner meetings to refine and update existing Sections for FEP II: Bottom Habitat; Artificial Reefs; Pelagic Habitat, Sargassum; Fisheries Oceanography and Climate and Fisheries; Wetlands (SAV & Mangroves); Wetlands Marsh & Oyster/Shell Habitat) & Water Issues; Impacts of Fishing on Habitat; Research, Monitoring, Mapping and Characterization.
- e. Initiate Volume Sections update and new Section outline and drafting August 2014-February 2015: South Atlantic Ecosystem Modeling; Ecosystem Tools and GIS (Atlas, Digital Dashboard and Ecospecies); South Atlantic Foodwebs and Connectivity; Climate Variability in the South Atlantic; Instream Flow in the South Atlantic Region; and Fisheries Oceanography and (update) State of the South Atlantic Ocean.
- f. Coordination with Partners on inclusion of SALCC Conservation Blueprint Version 1.0 and updated SARP Habitat Plan 2014 as Appendices of FEP II.
- g. Modeling Workshop conducted February-March 2015.
- h. November 2014 Habitat Advisory Panel meeting review redrafted EFH Policy Statements and new Statements. Sessions conducted on Threats to Fish Habitat and Research and Monitoring.
- i. Habitat AP to further refine existing and develop new SAFMC EFH policy statements for consideration at the December 2014 Council meeting.
- j. December Council Meeting- Review of updated and new policy statements, Presentation Session: support for and foundation of the move to Ecosystem Based Management; SALCC

Conservation Blueprint; and BOEM and alternative energy activities in the South Atlantic Region.

The draft structure of the FEP II and list of reviewers (**Attachments 1-2**) were provided Council Members and the Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel for review and input. Council members and Advisors continue to provide recommendations for refining the composition of the groups based on expertise, change in position or new responsibilities.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: The Committee will provide guidance to staff as appropriate.