

OVERVIEW

Ecosystem-Based Management Committee

The Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC

The Committee will: (A) receive an update from SERO on the status of catches versus quota for octocorals; (B) receive a status report on Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3; (C) review a list of items for Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 4; and (D) receive an update on ecosystem activities.

A. Status of landings for octocorals (Attachment 1)

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

B. Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3

Council staff will provide an update on the development of CE-BA 3. During the June 2012 meeting, the Council deferred development of the measures to expand Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern until a joint meeting of the Coral and Deepwater Shrimp APs and representatives from the Law Enforcement and Habitat APs is held to discuss the issues. The joint AP meeting is scheduled for October 18th, 2012 in Cape Canaveral, FL. Additional protections for speckled hind and warsaw grouper were contained in CE-BA 3 and were not approved for public hearings during the June 2012 meeting. The Snapper Grouper Committee will further discuss these measures. Measures currently included in CE-BA 3 address improvements in data reporting for the for-hire and commercial sectors, and improvements in bycatch and discard reporting. The CE-BA 3 Decision Document and Amendment Document will be reviewed during the Ad-Hoc Data Collection Committee.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

C. Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 4

Council staff will review a list of possible items for development through CE-BA 4. A list of items for public scoping will need to be approved during the December 2012 Council meeting. The intent is to introduce the Committee to a list of items to consider in CE-BA 4 and further refine the list at the December meeting. Currently, measures to develop through CE-BA 4 include:

- a. Expansion of Coral HAPCs
- b. Transit through Oculina Bank HAPC
- c. Prohibition of powerheads in EEZ off NC (and SA?)
- d. Dolphin and Wahoo Framework, ABCs/ACLs & Allocations
- e. Others?

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

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.