

OVERVIEW

Ecosystem-Based Management Committee

Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC

The Committee will: (A) receive an overview of public hearing comments for Coral Amendment 8; (B) review Coral Amendment 8; and (C) receive an update on ecosystem activities in the South Atlantic.

A. Summary of Public Hearing Comments for Coral Amendment 8 (Attachments 1-3)

During the Council's June 2013 meeting, the Committee approved Coral Amendment 8 for public hearings. Public hearings were held August 5-15th, 2013. Council staff will present an overview of the public comments received during the hearings and written comments submitted during the open comment period.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

B. Coral Amendment 8 (Attachments 4-6)

The Committee will review the Coral Amendment 8 (Environmental Assessment) that considers the following actions:

- Expand boundaries of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC)
- Implement a transit provision through the Oculina Bank HAPC
- Expand boundaries of the Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC (CHAPC)
- Expand boundaries of the Cape Lookout CHAPC

The Committee is asked to consider recommending final approval of this amendment. Pending approval of Coral Amendment 8, the Committee will also be asked to review and consider recommending approval of the codified text for Coral Amendment 8.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: The Committee will provide guidance to staff as appropriate and consider recommending approval of Coral Amendment 8 and the codified text for formal Secretarial Review.

C. Ecosystem Activities

The Committee will receive 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.