

**SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE
ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Charleston, SC
September 16th, 2013**

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee met Monday, September 16th, 2013 in Charleston, SC. The Committee discussed Coral Amendment 8 including a report on public hearing comments and a review of the actions and alternatives, which consider modifications to the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC), transit through the Oculina Bank HAPC, and modifications to the Stetson-Miami Terrace and the Cape Lookout CHAPCs. The Committee recommended approval of the amendment for Secretarial Review. Anik Clemens, technical writer with NOAA Fisheries, reviewed the draft codified text for Coral Amendment 8. An update on ecosystem activities was also provided.

Note: NOAA General Counsel made several clarifying suggestions for Coral Amendment 8 including a recommendation to add reference to Appendix M (list of coordinates for modified CHAPC areas) to the language of the alternatives that consider expansion of the CHAPCs.

Motions:

1. ACCEPT IPT WORDING FOR SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2B (ACTION 1).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Action 1. Preferred Sub-Alternative 2b. Modify the Oculina Bank HAPC to move the northern boundary to 29° 43.5'N. The western boundary would follow close to the 70 meter contour while annexing hard bottom features with two coordinates replaced in the southern portion of the boundary to reduce rock shrimp fishing tracks impacted. The eastern boundary line of the proposed Oculina Bank HAPC northern extension identified in Alternative 2a would be shifted west to further reduce rock shrimp fishing tracks impacted. Sub-alternative 2b = 267 square miles.

2. ACCEPT IPT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REWORDING PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 4 AND ALTERNATIVE 2 (ACTION 3).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Action 3. Preferred Alternative 4. Modify the southern southeast boundary of the Stetson-Miami Terrace CHAPC western extension in a manner that releases the flatbottom region to the extent possible while maintaining protection of coral habitat. Allow for a Shrimp Fishery Access Area to be used as a gear haul back/drift zone. Alternative 4 = 490 square miles.

Action 3. Alternative 2. Modify the southern southeast boundary of the Stetson-Miami Terrace CHAPC western extension in a manner that maintains protection for the coral habitat but allows for bottom tending gear to be used in the flatbottom region. Alternative 2 = 490 square miles.

3. APPROVE CORAL AMENDMENT 8 FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND GIVE STAFF/CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY CHANGES.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL
4. APPROVE THE CODIFIED TEXT FOR CORAL AMENDMENT 8 AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE AND GIVE STAFF/CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE CODIFIED TEXT AND THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORITY TO DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL
5. COUNCIL WRITE A LETTER TO THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO ADDRESS FRESHWATER FLOW FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE TO THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Timing and Task

6. ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS
APPROVED BY COUNCIL
 - A. Council staff will revise Coral Amendment 8 according to Council guidance and submit a final version for Secretarial Review.
 - B. Council staff will write a letter to appropriate agencies to address freshwater flow from Lake Okeechobee to the Indian River Lagoon based on Council guidance.