

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Fishery Ecosystem Plan & FEP Comprehensive Amendment Public Hearings

**Town & Country Inn
Charleston, SC**

May 13, 2008

Summary Minutes

Ms. Vinson: Good afternoon. I'm Nancy Vinson, Water Quality Program Director with the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League. The Conservation League is a non-profit public interest organization with more than 4,000 members dedicated to protecting the cultural and natural resources of the South Carolina coast.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the FEP Comprehensive Amendment. We are so excited about the potential for this amazing Deep Sea Coral Ecosystem and are certainly aware of how fragile this ecosystem is and the need to protect it from bottom trawling while allowing continued blue-water fishing and things like that that wouldn't harm it and continue the existing uses.

We think it really also represents an untapped resource for medical research. As you know, many of the cures for illnesses that we face today come from natural organism, and it's an incredible place to explore and learn about this Deep Sea Coral Ecosystem. We're just here today to support the amendment and encourage you all to adopt it. Thank you.

Ms. Preston: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Angela Preston. I am a citizen here in Charleston, South Carolina. I would just like to say that it's just very important to me that we keep the areas from Cape Lookout down to the Pourtales Terrace in Florida as pristine as they are. I hope that we've been able to get in on the proactive stance on this; because once it's damaged, it can't come back. Thank you once again.

Ms. Baumann: My name is Buffy Baumann. I am a fisheries advocate with Oceana. We're an organization that works on ocean conservation internationally and here in the U.S. Here in the southeast we have about 35,000 members, just to give you an idea of our standing here in this area.

First of all, I want to thank the council and especially the staff for holding these hearings. I know as I have attended two of them and my colleagues attended three, that it's a lot of hard work, and we really appreciate it. More than that, we actually appreciate the fact that you all have been pushing for this Comprehensive Ecosystem Amendment for I think we're coming up on ten years now.

It's been a long, hard road and we really appreciate the fact that you all, as Angela mentioned, are trying to be proactive and get ahead of some of the potential issues of the ocean and protecting our deep water coral. The deep water coral habitat is new that we don't know a lot about. What we do know is pretty amazing and we want to keep it protected and as pristine as possible. With regard to the alternatives on the table, we feel that there are a lot of good alternatives out there that work to balance the deep water coral habitat as well as the few economic interests that are already out there and preserving the traditional fishing areas.

With regard to what is coming up, we would really like to see at the June hearing the council move forward with the most sort of conservative and protective preferred alternatives before you go out to your second round of public hearings. We were really glad to see that Roger and his staff were able to resolve some of the VMS data questions that were posed when the Golden Crab and Deep Water Shrimp APs met.

You know, obviously, that less than 1 percent of those VMS spots that are within the HAPC boundary, it's really good see, so we definitely want to see that boundary stay where it is. Again, we just want to see the strongest HAPC protections move forward in June. We really are glad that you all recognize that this is an opportunity to take some action that will set aside this amazing pristine untouched area and want to support you all in your efforts to do that. That's it. Thank you.

Mr. Giordano-Silliman: My name is Joshua Giordano Silliman. I'm 29 years old and I'm from Charleston, South Carolina. I am making comments on the South Atlantic Fisheries Ecosystem Plan and Comprehensive Ecosystem Amendment. I full on support this amendment. I do have a few little reservations about it, but I very much support the establishment of deep water coral preservation areas for our ecosystem, for the interaction of the species that live on the continental shelf that move into deeper waters and vice versa.

What I will first get out of the way is my little comments that I really kind of disagree with. Any habitat area of particular concern, no person may, if aboard a fishing vessel, anchor or use an anchor or a chain or use a grapple and chain. You can't anchor up in it so you've got to drift fish it the whole time. That's just a little too far for me. I'm not saying that, you know, the big boats can sit there and go all day. I mean, it's going to be a regulated area, but to say that you can't anchor and do some type of fishing, I mean, you know, unless – the true purpose of this amendment, you've got to rip that part out about the anchor and chain.

Now the fishing for golden crab, that's the other part. I'm not saying that, you know, you need to go in and catch 5 million of them or this is, you saw, the version of the deadliest catch, you've got to allow certain things to happen. You know, if I'm there and I want to go get one or two golden crabs or whatever it is that feeds myself and my family or my crew on my boat, you know, I should be able to take a small amount of it.

Unless golden crab is about to become extinct, which I doubt, you really can't prohibit it. You can limit it but you can't just prohibit it and you can't prohibit people from anchoring. Other than that, I full on support this amendment. Part of the reason why is my father used to deep-water trawl, and he said they tore everything up, and goes from the coral and everything up. They don't do that anymore here.

They do it up north but that's a whole different region and we're not talking about that. It's troublesome; it's a terrible way to actually fish. It destroys. It's like slash-and-burn farming. I mean, it's so terrible. The other aspect of it is that for years now they have been trying to mine gas and oil and everything off the coast. We've just got to quit doing that. We've got to quit drilling holes in the earth thinking that this is the solution to all of our problems with energy.

If this one amendment stops that, I'm pretty sure you can get a little more people than just fishery people involved in it. This council really needs to move forward with it and expressing that concern with people outside of the fishery or the fishing industry. I full on support it. I think it's a great thing. I kind of wish it had happened years ago, but that's why I'm here today. Hopefully the best of luck with it and thank you for your time.

Mr. Prochazna: My name is Joey Prochazna. I am the director of Saltwater Fishing for Z-man Fishing Products. I am a local angler, and I am a proud supporting member of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. It is in that capacity with the Recreational Fishing Alliance that I am here today to actually reiterate what they already submitted in writing, so I would like to take the time to address it.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance submits the following comments on the development of Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Deep Water Corals and its implications for the recreational fishing community. As a matter of background, recreational fishing in the area of consideration, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, through Key West, Florida, holds a significant level of social and economic importance to the communities along that stretch of coastline.

Collectively recreational fishing in the referenced area produces over \$3.4 billion annually in economic output and supports 49,817 full-time equivalent jobs. Recreational fishing is a traditional characteristic of coastal communities and contributes significantly to the quality of life. Noting the importance of recreational fishing, it is equally important that policy decisions and management objectives aim to achieve a healthy, viable recreational fishing industry and promote long-term conservation of the nation's marine resources.

The recreational marine fishing industry has a vested interest in the responsible management of marine fisheries and habitat which demands that regulatory action be based on science. Habitat is essential in order for many of the important recreational fisheries to be productive. Recreational fishermen have a long history of supporting programs that restore, enhance and produce fish habitat because there was sufficient evidence that these efforts are beneficial to fish and fishermen.

In the South Atlantic RFA supported the protection of *Oculina*. Deep water corals provide similar functions. Research has determined that deep water coral is living habitat that is sensitive to certain human disturbances; thus their identification and protection from certain activities is crucial. This would be comments on establishing deep water coral habitat areas of particular concern.

The RFA supports Alternative 2 and Sub-alternatives 2A through 2E under this section. Furthermore, RFA supports prohibitions 1 through 4 under this section in order to protect deep water coral under the caveats that hook-and-line gear or fishermen are not restricted from these areas. The ecological importance of deep water coral is understood through scientific literature. It is also understood that not all deep water coral have been directly identified.

Noting the potential damage that can ensue due to human activities, RFA encourages the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to create a streamlined adaptive process which would allow ample public and industry input, but decrease the time necessary to protect deep water corals once identified.

**Transcribed By:
Graham Transcription Service, Inc.
May 28, 2008**

Council Member – Robert Boyles

Staff Member – Julie O’ Dell



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

North Charleston, SC

DATE OF MEETING

May 13, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Nancy Vinson

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

Box 1765 Chas SC 29402

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

SC Coastal Conservation League

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

North Charleston, SC

DATE OF MEETING

May 13, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

KAY DAVY

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

(843) 953-7202

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

219 FT. JOHNSON RD., CHARLESTON, SC 29412

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

NOAA FISHERIES

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

North Charleston, SC

DATE OF MEETING

May 13, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ERNEST MUHAMMAD

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

SCDNR

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

North Charleston, SC

DATE OF MEETING

May 13, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

WESLEY COVINGTON

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

Charleston, SC

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

North Charleston, SC

DATE OF MEETING

May 13, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JOSHUA GIORDANO-SILLIMAN

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

MT. PLEASANT, SC

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

North Charleston, SC

DATE OF MEETING

May 13, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

BUFFY BAUMANN

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

202.767.1938

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1350 CONNECTICUT AVE NW, 5th Floor Washington, DC
20001

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

OCEANA

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)



YES



NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) North Charleston, SC	DATE OF MEETING May 13, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) ANGELA Preston	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 843 367-7374
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) 700 Daniel Ellis Dr #12301 Charleston, SC 29412	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) Oceana	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) North Charleston, SC	DATE OF MEETING May 13, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) ANTHONY ANDERSON	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) HAMPTON, SC	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) North Charleston, SC	DATE OF MEETING May 13, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) KENNY FEX	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) OAK ISLAND, NC	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

North Charleston, SC

DATE OF MEETING

May 13, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

NANCY VINSON

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

SC COASTAL CONSERV LEAGUE

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) North Charleston, SC	DATE OF MEETING May 13, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) J. PAUL RAMEY	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) C' STON, SC	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) North Charleston, SC		DATE OF MEETING May 13, 2008	
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) KAY DAVY		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)	
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)			
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) NOAA FISHERIES			
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

North Charleston, SC

DATE OF MEETING

May 13, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JASON WAND

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

CUSTOM, SC

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) North Charleston, SC		DATE OF MEETING May 13, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) BUFFY BAUMANN		TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)		
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) OCEANA		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)		
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

North Charleston, SC

DATE OF MEETING

May 13, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ANGELA PRESTON

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

OCEANA

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO