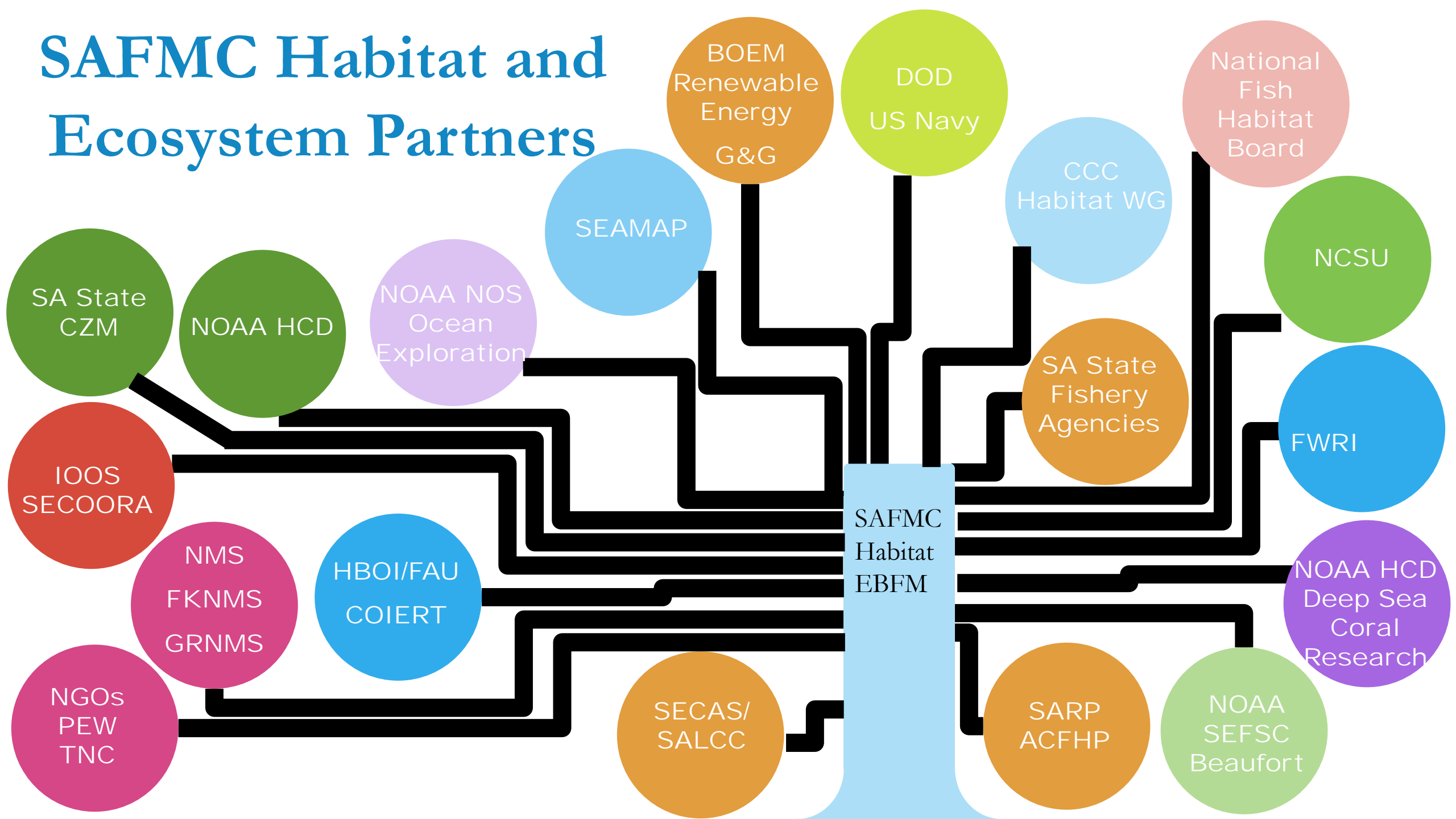


SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Partners



SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Partner	Addressing Council Needs
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Habitat Conservation Division (HCD)	Coordination and collaboration on: designation and refinement of EFH and EFH-HAPCs integration in and development of Fishery Ecosystem Plan II; addressing EFH mandates and input in development of Council standing EFH Policy Statements, an EFH User Guide which support and enhance the EFH Consultation process.
State Coastal Zone Management (CZM)	Coordination through Habitat and Ecosystem AP on: permitting activities affecting estuarine and nearshore habitats designated as EFH; response to proposed seismic testing; input on development of Council Policy Statements and with staff on State/Federal Issues (e.g., seismic testing/oil and gas, dredging, etc.)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Ocean Service (NOS) Office of Ocean Exploration	Collaboration on planning, mapping and characterization of deepwater ecosystems in the South Atlantic region utilizing NOAA and partner vessels including the Okeanos Explorer to address Council priorities supporting conservation and management.
Integrated Ocean Observing Program (IOOS)	Coordination with IOOS program through SECOORA membership with access to national information, policy and guidance affecting regional ocean observing needs in monitoring ocean/climate change and connection to Council managed habitat, fish stocks and fisheries.
Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA)	Collaboration as a member of the association providing input on the Strategic Plan, Regional Coastal Ocean Observing Plan providing oversight of the regional ocean observing system supporting ocean data collection, monitoring and modeling which provides the connection to habitat, fish stocks and fisheries, ability to model impacts of episodic events and climate change which have been recently enhanced with development of a new SEAMAP/SECOORA data management system.
Habor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI)/Florida Atlantic University (FAU) NOAA Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research & Technology (CIOERT)	Serves as a member of the Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel and has provided focused research on Oculina and deepwater Lophelia coral reef habitats serving as the baseline for designation and application of new technologies in the mapping mapping and characterization of Council designated CHAPCs and manged areas.
National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS)	Member of Habitat Ecosystem AP providing early notification and opportunity for input on Sanctuary activities affecting Coral/coral reefs, EFH and Council managed species.
Gray Reef National Marine Santuary (GRNMS)	Coordination on Sanctuary activities and updates to mangement and research plans affecting coral/coral reefs, EFH and Council managed species.
Florida Keys National Marine Santuary (FKNMS)	Coordination and input on Sanctuary activities and updates to mangement and research plans affecting coral/coral reefs, EFH and Council managed species.
Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)	Collaboration through as member and Chair of the South Atlantic SEAMAP Committee (coordinating with Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Committes) in supporting needs for fishery independent surveys including data management, regional coastal trawl survey, reef fish survey (in cooperation with MARMAP and SEFIS), and bottom mapping and species characterization supported by a newly developed 5 Year Strategic plan (2021-2025) to address Council/State present and future needs.

US Bureau of Ocean Energy and Management (BOEM)	Member of Habitat Ecosystem AP providing input on policy development providing ongoing updates and opportunity for input and access to research, mapping and potential impacts on benthic and pelagic habitat and fisheries associated with Renewable Energy Activities, development of analyses and tools addressing sand dredging and filling activities, and status of seismic testing or possible oil and gas activities.
US Department of Defense (DOD) US Department of the Navy	Member of Habitat Ecosystem AP providing input on policy development and ongoing updates and access to research, mapping and habitat characterization associated with DOD and Navy Fleet Forces Command training and operations in the Atlantic Basin including collaboration on addressing EFH Consultation recommendations developed to address impacts on Council designated EFH and fisheries.
Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) Habitat Workgroup (WG)	Collaborate as a member of the WG to enhance support for Council EFH mandates and conservation and management needs including: enhancing coordination with regional partners on Council mandates associated with EFH and avenues to enhance the EFH consultation process; enhancement of coordination with Fishery Science Centers on EFH and habitat to better address Council needs; enhancing coordination and availability of information on offshore activities with a focus on renewable energy and wind.
State Fishery Agencies	As members and State sub-panel chairs of the Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel charged with providing input and guidance on advancing EFH mandates and regional ecosystem efforts, guiding EFH Policy Statement development, provide links to detailed state species/habitat and fishery data and information and the most updated spatial distribution of estuarine habitats designated as EFH or EFH-HAPCs for Council managed species.
National Fish Habitat Board Southeast Resource Partnership (SARP) Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP)	Regional FMCs staff rotate annual membership on the Board to implement the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and also serve as member of SARP to which supports science-based watershed and habitat assessments that collectively identify regional conservation priorities. SARP Fish Habitat Plan included as and Appendix to the Councils FEP. Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership and ASMFC Habitat Program Coordinator serves on Habitat and Ecosystem AP coordinates on highlighting funded activities, policy support and commenting on on activities affecting shared habitats and link to ASMFC habitat program policy development and other activities.
North Carolina State University (NCSU) - Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences	Coordination with Director of the Ocean Observing and Modeling Group and SECOORA member who conducts coastal ocean observations, remote sensing data analyses, and leads the development of prediction models of ocean circulation, air-sea-wave interactions, physical-biogeochemical couplings, as well as data assimilation providing baseline oceanographic characterizations for Spawning Special Management Zones, input to the Ecosystem Status Reports and collaboration in developing oceanographic layers for SA EWE Ecospace.
Florida Fish and Wildlife Resouce Institute (FWRI)	Collaboration on management and maintenance of: SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Digital Dashboard, SAFMC Web Services for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), Managed Areas, South Atlantic Fishery Independent Survey Information, Regional Artificial Reefs Service, ACCSP Service and Ecospecies online Species and EFH information system. Development, review and application of the South Atlantic Ecopath with Ecosim Model.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) Deep Sea Coral Research	Collaboration on planning, mapping and characterization of the deepwater ecosystem in the South Atlantic region to address Council priorities supporting conservation and management.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) Beaufort	Collaboration and coordination with Ecosystem Division in providing status reports on development of NOAA South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report and South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Assessment, input from stock assessments for development of the South Atlantic Ecopath with Ecosim Model and sharing of habitat mapping and characterization associated with the RV Pices.
NGOs PEW TNC	PEW- Collaboration on deepwater coral conservation, information and research needs supporting marine protected areas, and climate change information and engagement of Council in understanding/advancing climate scenario planning.
	TNC - Collaboration and coordination through marine conservation initiatives focused around climate adaptation, ocean protection and sustainable fisheries: SALCC development and support for SA EwE; development and support for Regional Conservation Blueprint and SECAS; engagement on research associated with valuation and ecosystem services of estuarine habitats; and data sharing on sand resources.