



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405

Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair

John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee

Westin Jekyll Island

110 Ocean Way

Jekyll Island, GA 31527

Thursday March 9, 2023 – 8:30 A.M – 12:00 Noon (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of September 2021 Committee transcript

1. Habitat Blueprint Update (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. 2023 Activities and Timing – Roger Pugliese and Myra Brouwer
 - b. **Committee Action:** Discussion and guidance.
2. Review of Essential Fish Habitat Policy Statements (*Attachments 2a-2c*)
 - a. EFH Policy statement history, process, intent, and structure
 - b. Review Updated Beach Dredging, Filling and Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering – Roger Pugliese and Cindy Cooksey, HCD NMFS
 - c. EFH Policy Statement on Energy Exploration and Development and Need for Update
 - d. **Committee Action:** Guidance and approval of Beach Dredging, Filling and Renourishment and Large Scale Coastal Engineering EFH Policy Statement. Guidance to Habitat and Ecosystem AP on updating Council EFH Policy Statement on Energy Exploration and Development.
3. 5-Year Essential Fish Habitat Review (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
 - a. EFH Review planning and coordination - Roger Pugliese and Cindy Cooksey
 - b. **Committee Action:** Discussion and guidance on 5-Year EFH Review.
4. CCC Area-Based Management Subcommittee Update (*Attachment 4*)
 - a. Presentation on Subcommittee development of an Area-Based Management report for the CCC
 - b. **Committee Action:** Discussion on value of effort; no action required.
5. Coral Research and Monitoring
 - a. Overview

- b. **Committee Action:** Discussion on new deep sea coral research and mapping and approve agenda items for Coral AP meeting.
 - SSC review of deep sea coral modeling
 - Initial discussion on avenues to consider for conservation of newly discovered deep water coral ecosystems.
 - Discuss potential impacts from space operations.
6. Approve agenda topics for Spring 2023 Habitat and Ecosystem AP Meeting
 7. Other Business

Adjourn

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee

Trish Murphey, Chair
Mel Bell, Vice Chair
Robert Beal
Carolyn Belcher
Gary Borland
LT Cameron Box
Chester Brewer
Tim Griner
Judy Helmey
Kerry Marhefka
Jessica McCawley
Tom Roller
Andy Strelcheck
Laurilee Thompson
Spud Woodward
Staff contact: Roger Pugliese

Attachments:

- Attachment 1.** SAFMC Habitat Blueprint Update 2023
- Attachment 2a.** Updated Draft EFH Policy Statement on Beach Dredging, Filling and Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering.
- Attachment 2b.** EFH Policy Statement on Energy Exploration and Development.
- Attachment 2c.** Proposed Process and Timing – Energy Policy Update
- Attachment 3a.** Proposed Process and Timing for 5-Year EFH Review
- Attachment 3b.** EFH User Guide
- Attachment 4.** CCC Area Based Management Subcommittee Report Presentation

OVERVIEW

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee

The Committee will approve transcript from the September 2021 meeting and the agenda for the current meeting.

1. Habitat Blueprint Update (*Attachment 1*)

Description: Council staff will provide an overview of Workgroup progress and map out work for 2023 highlighting a tentative meeting schedule starting with the first Workgroup meeting scheduled tentatively for March 29, 2023.

Committee Action: Discuss and approve draft process and timing for Blueprint development in 2023.

2. EFH Policy Statements: Overview, EFH Policy Statement on Beach Dredging, Filling and Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering, and EFH Policy Statement on Energy Exploration and Development (*Attachments 2a-2d*)

Description: Council staff will provide an overview of EFH Policy statement history, process, intent, and structure. Cindy Cooksey, AP Chair, in cooperation with Council staff, will provide an overview of the updated EFH Policy Statement for Beach Dredging Filling and Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering.

Council staff will provide a general overview of the standing Energy Policy highlighting need to update considering national and regional activities associated with renewable energy specifically wind energy. Based on discussion/minutes from the AP meeting, volunteers/proposed membership on the Habitat Ecosystem AP Energy Policy Workgroup so far, is as follows: Paula Keener, lead, Anne Deaton, Brian Hooker, Wilson Laney, Stacie Crowe, David Whitaker, and Laurent Cherubin.

Committee Action: Review, revise, and approve EFH Policy Statement on Beach Dredging Filling and Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering. Committee will also provide guidance and direction on the AP on update the EFH Policy Statement on Energy Exploration and Development.

3. Essential Fish Habitat 5-Year Review (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)

Description: Council staff, in cooperation with Habitat and Ecosystem AP Chair, will provide an overview of the proposed process, coordination with Habitat and Ecosystem AP, and timeline to initiate the EFH 5-Year review during 2023.

Committee Action: Discussion and guidance on proposed process initiating EFH 5-Year review in 2023.

4. CCC Area-Based Management Subcommittee Update (*Attachment 4*)

Description: Council staff will provide an overview of the directive and the CCC Area Based Management Sub-Committee coordination in developing a report on Area Based Management for the CCC.

Committee Action: Discussion on the effort but no action necessary.

5. Coral Research and Monitoring

Description: Council staff will highlight timing for further discussion and review. The SSC will be reviewing the recently completed deep sea coral modeling during their April 2023 meeting. This will also be discussed at the Coral and Habitat Ecosystem AP meetings.

Committee Action: Direction to begin discussion on options for conservation after SSC review of modeling.

6. Agenda topics for Fall 2021 Habitat and Ecosystem AP Meeting

Description: Council staff will review a draft list of potential agenda items noted below to be covered during the May 16-18, 2023, Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management AP meeting.

Draft List of Agenda Items:

- NOAA Fisheries South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- NOAA Fisheries HCD EFH Consultation Update
- EFH 5-Year Review - EFH Designation History, EFH User Guide,
- Research Needs for EFH Review and Council Research Plan Update
- Update on SAFMC Habitat Blueprint
- BOEM Update on Offshore Wind Activities in South Atlantic Region
- Update EFH Policy Statement on Energy Exploration and Development
- East Coast Climate Scenario Planning Update
- Coral Items
- Discuss potential impacts from space operations?

Committee Action: Review and approve list of agenda items.

Other Business