



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Blueprint

Roger Pugliese, SAFMC

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based
Management Committee via Webinar

December 2020



....To Conserve and Manage



Congressional Mandates Addressing Impacts on EFH

Essential Fish Habitat

- Identify and describe Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and EFH-HAPCs (Update every 5 Years)
- Develop, maintain and refine spatial representations of EFH and EFH-HAPCs
- Eliminate or reduce the impact of fishing gear on EFH (regulations in FMPs)
- Develop recommendations to eliminate or reduce the impact of non-fishing activities on EFH (policies and commenting)





Habitat Based Fishery Management Plans

Habitat Management

- Manage benthic habitats in the SA region through the FMP for Coral, Coral Reef, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats.
- Manage pelagic habitat through the FMP for Pelagic Sargassum Habitat.





Addressing EBFM Guidelines and Facilitating the Move to EBFM

- Develop/Update Fishery Ecosystem Plans
- Advance EBFM in management (Ecosystem Status Report)
- Ecosystem model development (EwE/Ecospace)
- Climate Planning
 - Climate Scenario Planning
 - Climate Vulnerabilities (SA CVA)
 - Climate Impacts on Habitat/EFH and Species (EwE/Ecospace)





Habitat and Ecosystem Blueprint

Possible Focus and Components For an Umbrella Strategy Document:

- Comprehensive Council EFH conservation
- Habitat management
- Roles of habitat and ecosystem advisors
- Roles of State, Federal and regional partners
- Advancing foundational habitat conservation and applying Ecosystem Based Fishery Management to support climate ready fisheries in the South Atlantic Region





SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Council Habitat and Ecosystem Blueprint Team

Committee Chair Concept for Consideration:

Establish a Team to facilitate development of vision, goals and objectives for a Climate Ready Blueprint.

Draft Vision or Scope: Guide Long-term Habitat Conservation and Ecosystem Based Fishery Management in the South Atlantic Region to Support Resilient Fish Stocks, Essential Fish Habitat, Fisheries and Fishing Communities.



....To Conserve and Manage



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Council Habitat and Ecosystem Blueprint Team – Next Steps

Introduction Team Webinar – Develop Vision
Statement

Team Webinar 2: Spring 2021 Develop Comprehensive
Goals and Objectives

Team Webinar 3: Summer 2021 Review, Vision Goals
and Objectives, Advisors and Regional Partners Roles

Team Webinar 4: Fall 2021 Review Draft Habitat and
Ecosystem Blueprint



.... *To Conserve and Manage*