



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## AGENDA

### **Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel Meeting**

Town and Country  
2008 Savannah Hwy  
Charleston, SC 29407

Other than the starting and ending times of the meeting, times indicated on the agenda are approximate, and the order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated.

Public comment will be solicited at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should indicate such in the manner requested by the Chair, who will then recognize individuals to provide comment.

#### **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda – Cindy Cooksey

Approval of November 2022 AP Transcript – Cindy Cooksey

Habitat and Ecosystem Committee Chair Remarks – Trish Murphey

#### **1. NOAA Fisheries HCD EFH Consultation Update**

- a. SE Consultation Updates – Large Scale Infrastructure (*Attachment 1*) – Cindy Cooksey, NOAA Fisheries HCD
- b. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

#### **2. NOAA Fisheries South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Assessment**

- a. NOAA Fisheries SA Climate Vulnerability Assessment (*Attachment 2*) – TBD, NOAA Fisheries SEFSC
- b. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

#### **3. NOAA Fisheries EFH 5 Year Review (*Attachments 3a-3c*)**

- a. EFH designation history (*Attachment 3a*) – Cindy Cooksey, NOAA Fisheries HCD
- b. Review designations and EFH User Guide (*Attachment 3b*) – Cindy Cooksey and Roger Pugliese
- c. Review components from Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and identify focus areas for Review (*Attachment 3c*) – Cindy Cooksey
- d. Identify technical contacts on AP and species experts to provide input during the process.
- e. Climate Vulnerability Assessment Overlap with EFH and available expertise.
- f. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.to 4:30 P.M.**

**Day 2 Overview - Cindy Cooksey, NOAA HCD**

- 4. EFH Policy Statement on Beach Dredging and Filling, Beach Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering**
  - a. Review revised draft policy statement (*Attachment 4*) – Cindy Cooksey
  - b. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations on Policy Update – Cindy Cooksey
  
- 5. Offshore Wind Activities in South Atlantic Region (*Attachments 5a-5b*)**
  - a. Update on BOEM Research and Energy Development Activities: Focus on Renewable Energy Kitty Hawk Wind/ Avangrid Renewables (*Attachment 5a*) – Brian Hooker, BOEM
  - b. Update on Carolina Long Bay (*Attachment 5b*) – Nathan Craig/ Katherine McGlade, Duke Energy and Jen Banks/Bill Habich, Total Energies
  - c. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey
  
- 6. EFH Policy Statement on Energy (*Attachments 6a-6c*)**
  - a. Update on Development Timeline and Process (*Attachments 6a-6b*) – Paula Keener, WG Chair
  - b. NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fishery Office Guidance Document on mapping offshore wind areas (*Attachment 6c*) – Cindy Cooksey
  - c. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

**Thursday, May 18, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.to 12:00 Noon**

**Day 3 Overview - Cindy Cooksey, NOAA HCD**

- 7. Regional Research and Tools supporting EFH Conservation (*Attachments 7a-7d*)**
  - a. Status of the SAFMC Habitat Blueprint – Roger Pugliese
  - b. Regional Surveys and Tools:
    - a. Update on Regional Surveys (*Attachments 7a*) – Kevin Spanik, SCDNR
    - b. Habitat information needs in SAFMC Draft Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan (*Attachments 7b*) – Roger Pugliese
    - c. SAFMC Tools – Roger Pugliese
    - d. Update on SEAMAP-SA/SECOORA Data Portal (*Attachments 7c*) – TBD
    - e. TNC/SECOORA Southeast Marine Mapping Tool (*Attachment 7d*) – Mary Conley, TNC
  - c. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

**Other Business**

**Adjourn**

**Attachments:**

1. NMFS Habitat Consultation Summary\*
2. NMFS Climate Vulnerability Assessment for the SA Region\*
- 3a. EFH 5 Year Review Process Summary
- 3b. SAFMC EFH User Guide
- 3c. Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
4. Update- SAFMC EFH Policy Statement on Beach Dredging and Filling, Beach Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering\*
- 5a. BOEM Presentation on Renewable Energy Research and Development in the SA region\*
- 5b. Carolina Long Bay / Duke Energy Renewables and Total Energies\*
- 6a. Energy Policy Process Update
- 6b. SAFMC EFH Policy Statement on Energy Exploration and Development
- 6c. NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fishery Office Guidance Document on mapping offshore wind areas
- 7a. Presentation: Regional Fishery Survey Summary\*
- 7b. SAFMC Draft Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan
- 7c. Update on SEAMAP-SA/SECOORA Data Portal\*
- 7d. TNC/SECOORA Map System

\*Note: Will be posted when available.

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel**

The Advisory Panel will approve the minutes of November 2022 and agenda for the current meeting. Trish Murphey, NCDMF Chair of the Council Habitat and Ecosystem Committee will make opening remarks (Final March 2023 Committee Report included in briefing material).

**Tuesday May 16, 2023, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**1. NOAA Fisheries HCD EFH Consultation Update (*Attachment 1*)**

**Description:** Cindy Cooksey, NOAA Fisheries HCD will provide an update on Southeast EFH Consultation activities focused on large scale infrastructure. This will provide AP members and the Council with a view of HCD activities and a view of significant developing issues in the region of interest to the Council.

**AP Action:** Members comment on which areas may be a priority requiring additional engagement or possible input or guidance from the Council with input from the Panel.

**2. NOAA Fisheries South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Assessment (*Attachment 2*)**

**Description:** Mike Burton (invited) will provide the Panel with an overview of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) for the South Atlantic which is close to finalization. This effort is a critical part of understanding which species are at the highest risk from climate change and will inform the Council's move to address this through the East Coast Climate Scenario Planning initiative.

**AP Action:** Members discuss the importance and value of completing the SA CVA.

**3. NOAA Fisheries EFH 5 Year Review (*Attachments 3a-3c*)**

**Description:** Cindy Cooksey will provide the Panel members with an overview of the SAFMC EFH designation history. Members will review the existing EFH designations presented in the EFH User guide. Cindy will review lead a discussion and decision on focus areas for this Review. A matrix will be reviewed at the meeting to facilitate the identification of technical contacts on AP and species experts to provide input during the review process. In addition, members will discuss the Climate Vulnerability Assessment and overlap with EFH to identify and possibly engage that expertise in the Review.

**AP Action:** Members provide input on the focus of the EFH review and facilitate filling in a matrix of members and species experts that will be engaged in the review process.

**4. EFH Policy Statement on Beach Dredging and Filling, Beach Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering (*Attachment 4*)**

**Description:** The Council at their March meeting was concerned there could be outstanding state issues that may need to be addressed so the updated policy statement was sent back to the AP for additional review and any clarification. Cindy Cooksey will lead members in the discussion and in addressing comments received from state agencies responsible for these activities. The Panel, as needed, will integrate appropriate edits at the meeting.

**AP Action:** Review and address as needed additional comments and recommend the further updated Beach Dredge and Fill, Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering Policy Statement be approved by the Council.

**Wednesday May 17, 2023, 9:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

**Day 2 Overview - Cindy Cooksey, NOAA Fisheries HCD**

**5. Offshore Wind Activities in South Atlantic Region (Attachments 5a-5b)**

**Description:** Brian Hooker, BOEM, will provide an update on BOEM research and energy development activities with a focus on renewable energy and update on Kitty Hawk Wind [Wind](#). Nathan Craig/ Katherine McGlade, Duke Energy and Jen Banks/Bill Habich, Total Energies will provide an update on Carolina Long Bay [Wind](#).

**AP Action:** Members are asked to discuss the ongoing activities and highlight needed research or fisheries analyses needed to support future consideration of wind development in the region. Also, members are asked to comment on the how future efforts could minimize impact on essential fish habitat, associated fisheries and the value of providing new research platforms or fishing opportunity for Council managed species.

**6. EFH Policy Statement on Energy (Attachments 6a-6c)**

**Description:** Paula Keener Policy Workgroup Chair will provide an update on the development process and timing. Cindy Cooksey will provide an overview of structure and components of Council Energy Policy and members will provide any initial comments for the Workgroup. Cindy Cooksey will provide an overview of the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fishery Office Guidance document for the Workgroups consideration as part of the update.

**AP Action:** The Council at the March meeting directed the panel to update and refine the EFH Policy Statement on Energy Exploration and Development. Members will provide initial input supporting the Workgroup's update of the policy.

**7. Regional Research and Tools supporting EFH Conservation (Attachments 7a-7d)**

**Description:** Roger Pugliese will provide an update on the Councils development of a Habitat Blueprint. Kevin Spanik, SCDNR will provide an update on regional fishery surveys setting the stage for Panel member discussion and input on habitat research needs that should be integrated into the Councils Draft Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan that will be approved at the June Council meeting. The Panel will also be provided with an overview of existing Council tools/webservices and developing regional systems. SCDNR staff will provide an update on the Southeast Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)/ Southeast Coastal and Ocean Regional Association (SECOORA) Data Portal. Mary Conley, TNC will provide an overview of the developing Nature Conservancy/SECOORA Southeast Marine Mapping Tool.

**AP Action:** Panel members provide comments on the research and mapping conducted in the South Atlantic region and recommendations for modifications to SAFMC Draft Research and Monitoring Prioritization Plan. In addition, members are asked to provide input on the utility and benefit Council and regional tools have to support habitat and ecosystem conservation efforts.