



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Stephen J. Poland, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel Meeting (Via Webinar)

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Thursday April 15, 2021 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Friday April 16, 2021 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 noon

(Times subject to change)

Note: Public comment will be requested at the beginning and end of each day of the webinar

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of October 2020 Minutes (*Attachment 1*)

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Day 1 Overview - Anne Deaton, NCDMF

1. Briefing on Recent Actions by the Council’s Habitat and Ecosystem Committee

- a. March 2021 Committee - Steve Poland, Habitat and Ecosystem Committee Chair
(*Attachment 2*)

2. Status of Amendments Under Development

- a. Update - Roger Pugliese

3. NOAA Fisheries EBFM Activities for the South Atlantic Region: Deliverables Supporting FEP II Implementation

- a. South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Use in Other Regions - Michael Burton, NOAA Fisheries SEFSC Beaufort Lab – (*Attachment 3*)
- b. South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report and Use in Other Regions - Todd Kellison, and Kevin Craig, NOAA Fisheries SEFSC – (*Attachment 4*)
- c. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Anne Deaton

4. Regional Conservation Blueprints

- a. Presentation on Regional Conservation Blueprints – Rua Mordecai, Coordinator, South Atlantic and Southeast Conservation Blueprints, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
– (*Attachment 5*)
- b. Panel Member Discussion on regional collaboration – Anne Deaton

Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon and 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Day 2 Overview - Anne Deaton, NCDMF

- 5. EFH Policy Statement on Beach Dredging and Filling, Beach Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering (*Attachment 6*)**
 - a. Presentation- Endangered Species Act- Biological Opinion for Beach, Sand Placement and Dredging – NOAA SERO TBD - (*Attachment 7*)
 - b. Components from technical presentations (*Attachments 8-10*) made during the October 2020 Advisory Panel Webinar which can be addressed in policy revision – Cindy Cooksey, NOAA Fisheries HCD and Anne Deaton, NCDMF
 - c. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations on Policy Update – Anne Deaton

- 6. FEP II Implementation and Strategic Planning**
 - a. FEP II Implementation Plan Two Year Roadmap- Overview of Accomplishments and Needs – Roger Pugliese - (*Attachments 11-12*)
 - b. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Anne Deaton

- 7. Development of a SAFMC Habitat Blueprint**
 - a. Staff Overview of Development and Timing for SAFMC Habitat Blueprint - (*Attachment 13*)

- 8. SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Webpages/Fishery Ecosystem Plan II Dashboard, and Digital Dashboard and Web Services**
 - a. SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Webpages/Fishery Ecosystem Plan II Dashboard, and Digital Dashboard and Web Services - Roger Pugliese and Tina Udouj, FWRI – (*Attachments 14-15*)
 - b. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Anne Deaton

Friday, April 16, 2021 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon.

Day 3 Overview - Anne Deaton, NCDMF

- 9. BOEM Research and Energy Development**
 - a. Update on BOEM Research and Energy Development Activities: Focus on Renewable Energy - Kitty Hawk Wind/South Carolina Wind Call Areas- Brian Hooker, BOEM - (*Attachment 16*)
 - b. Fisheries Evaluation for Kitty Hawk Wind – Rick Robins or Brian Benito Avangrid Renewables - (*Attachment 17*)

10. Southeast Connectivity and Adaptation Strategy (SECAS)

- a. Presentation on SECAS –Mallory Martin, SECAS Coordinator USFWS and Hilary Morris User Support and Communications for the Southeast and South Atlantic Blueprints USFWS (*Attachment 18*)

11. Update on Council Coordinating Committee Habitat Workgroup Activities

- a. Presentation on CCC Habitat Workgroup activities and focus areas in 2021 – Roger Pugliese

Other Business

Adjourn

Attachments

1. Habitat Ecosystem Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes October 2020
2. March 2021 SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Committee Final Report
3. Presentation on Draft South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability **
4. Presentation on Draft South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report**
5. Presentation on Regional Conservation Blueprints**
6. SAFMC Beach Dredge and Fill, Beach Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering Policy Statement
7. Endangered Species Act- Biological Opinion for Beach, Sand Placement and Dredging
8. Assessment of Fisheries Species Time-of-Year Restrictions for NC and SC
9. Folly Beach Renourishment Monitoring Study
10. BOEM Sand Shoals and Fish Habitat Value / ShoalMate Tool
11. FEP II Implementation Plan Two Year Roadmap Update
12. Overview of Roadmap Accomplishments and Needs
13. Presentation on SAFMC Habitat Blueprint Process and Timing
14. Outline: SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Webpage/Fishery Ecosystem Plan II Dashboard
15. Presentation: SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Digital Dashboard and Web Services**
16. Update on Research and Energy Development Activities in the South Atlantic: Focus on Renewable Energy and Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind Project**
17. Fisheries Evaluation for Kitty Hawk Wind
18. Southeast Connectivity and Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) Factsheet
19. SECAS Goal Report 2020

** To be loaded online prior to meeting

Staff: Roger Pugliese, Habitat and Ecosystem Scientist

OVERVIEW

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel will approve minutes of October 2020 (*Attachment 1*) and agenda.

Wednesday April 14, 2021 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Day 1 Overview - Anne Deaton, NCDMF

1. Briefing on Recent Actions by the Council’s Habitat and Ecosystem Committee March 2021 Committee (*Attachment 2*)

Description: Steve Poland, Habitat and Ecosystem Committee Chair will provide the members an overview of recent Council action related to habitat ecosystem and climate.

2. Status of Amendments Under Development

Description: Roger Pugliese will provide members a brief update on amendments under development by the Council

3. NOAA Fisheries EBFM Activities for the South Atlantic Region: Deliverables Supporting FEP II Implementation (*Attachments 3-4*)

Description: SEFSC staff will provide an overview of the Draft South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Analysis (CVA) and the Draft South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) in support of the NOAA SA EBFM Implementation Plan. This will include an overview of how information provided from a CVA and the ESR has been used in other regions or can be used by the Council.

AP Action: Comment on how the NOAA Fisheries South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Assessment and the South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report can be incorporated in Council activities. Members can comment if the ESR addresses stated objectives and provides a broad-level overview of the current state of an ecosystem with respect to recent and historical trends using a suite of indicators, is effective in transferring knowledge to managers to provide context and information for a range of decisions affecting marine ecosystems; and if it will facilitate increased communication and information exchange between scientists, managers, and various stakeholder groups? Members can comment if in their view the CVA will be an effective tool to determine the likelihood that a species’ productivity, abundance or distribution will be affected by a changing climate?

4. Overview and Update on Regional Conservation Blueprints (*Attachment 5*)

Description: Rua Mordecai, Science Coordinator will provide members a presentation highlighting updated Regional Conservation Blueprints and opportunities for regional collaboration.

AP Action: Members comment if collaboration in efforts supporting the Conservation Blueprints would enhance Council mandates to conserve habitat and address potential impacts of climate change.

Thursday April 15, 2021 9:00 am – 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Day 2 Overview - Anne Deaton, NCDMF

5. EFH Policy Statement on Beach Dredging and Filling, Beach Re-nourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering (*Attachments 6-10*)

Description: NOAA SERO staff will provide members a presentation on the Endangered Species Act- Biological Opinion for Beach, Sand Placement and Dredging. Cindy Cooksey, NOAA Fisheries HCD, and Anne Deaton, NCDMF, will highlight components from the October 2020 Habitat and Ecosystem AP Webinar technical presentations on the Time of Year Restrictions Publication, Folly Beach Renourishment Study, the BOEM Sand Study and issue related to climate change which can be addressed in policy revision.

AP Action: Discuss timing of review and recommendations for revisions to the Beach Dredge and Fill, Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering Policy Statement for the Council's consideration.

6. FEP II Implementation and Strategic Planning (*Attachment 11-12*)

Description: Roger Pugliese will provide members an overview of accomplishments and highlight anticipated efforts in 2021.

AP Action: Discuss and provide input on and priorities for actions to be accomplished for 2021 and 2022 clarifying if some actions are beyond our control or ability.

7. Update on Development of a SAFMC Habitat Blueprint (*Attachment 13*)

Description: Council staff will provide an overview of the process and timing for development of an SAFMC Habitat Blueprint. The Habitat and Ecosystem Committee and Council initiated development of an SAFMC Habitat Blueprint to describe and evaluate the Council's activities related to habitat in the region. A Habitat Blueprint Workgroup consisting of Council members and staff was established to develop the scope of the project and the process to develop a Blueprint document. Work on the Blueprint will focus on: Council's mandates related to habitat in the MSA and how those mandates are addressed; Council's policies on on-fishing activities; identification of habitat partners and their role in addressing Council needs; and evaluation of tools and services and how they help the Council meet mandates and how they are used by habitat partners.

AP Action: No action necessary. However, members may highlight past engagement including support in development of EFH designations, development of policy statements for Council consideration and input on conservation recommendations and engagement in permit process as needed.

8. SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Webpages, Fishery Ecosystem Plan II Dashboard (*Attachment 14*), Digital Dashboard and Web Services (*Attachment 15*)

Description: The Council will be evaluating the ecosystem tools and webpages as part of the habitat program blueprint. The evaluation will include determining how the products are used and by whom.

AP Action: Provide input on how these webpages and dashboards are being used. Include agencies, individuals or organizations using the information, how often the tools are used,

and how the tools and the information they provide have informed and supported habitat actions and recommendations.

Friday, April 16, 2021 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M.

Day 3 Overview - Anne Deaton, NCDMF

9. BOEM Research and Energy Development (*Attachments 16-17*)

Description: Brian Hooker will provide an update on BOEM Research and Energy Development Activities with a focus on renewable energy. Rick Robins or Brian Benito Avangrid Renewables will provide an overview of fisheries evaluation for the Kitty Hawk Wind project with an emphasis on the anticipated benefits of new structure in deeper water to pelagic species managed by the Council, including Dolphin and King Mackerel; the early planning that incorporated Council-managed species and habitats in adjustment and siting of the present area; the example of how fisheries, habitat and oceanographic analyses aligned provide a framework for future analyses of wind call areas in the SA region (e.g., SC wind call areas).

AP Action: No action necessary. Members are asked to comment on the effectiveness and value of the process undertaken to develop this area which minimized impact on essential fish habitat and associated fisheries and the value of increasing structural habitat providing new fishing opportunity for Council managed species.

10. Southeast Connectivity and Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) (*Attachments 18-19*)

Description: Hilary Morris and Mallory Martin will provide an overview of the SECAS and opportunities for regional collaboration. SECAS is a regional conservation initiative that spans the Southeastern United States and Caribbean and emerged as a response to the unprecedented challenges like urban growth and climate change. SECAS provides an opportunity to coordinate conservation action and investment around a shared strategy and brings together state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, tribes, partnerships, and universities around a shared vision of the future to design and achieve a connected network of lands and waters to benefit ecosystems, species, and people. SECAS tracks regional metrics of ecosystem health, function, and connectivity to report annually on progress toward achieving [the SECAS 10% goal](#) and has developed [the Southeast Conservation Blueprint](#), a living, spatial plan that identifies the most important areas for conservation and restoration across the region.

AP Action: No action necessary. However, members should highlight how engagement may address actions in FEP II Roadmap and Council activities on climate and habitat conservation.

11. Update on Council Coordinating Committee Habitat Workgroup Activities

Description: Roger Pugliese will provide the members with an update on anticipated 2021 activities. The Habitat Workgroup will be focused on initiating development of a best practices document for advancing wind energy development. In addition, the WG will continue to advance and enhance coordination NMFS Fisheries Science Centers on supporting priority habitat research supporting management.

AP Action: No action necessary.