



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair

John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

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

Webinar Link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4007458617397733132>

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 recognize individuals to provide comment on the webinar.

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 9:00 A.M. – Thursday November 4, 2021 Noon

Approval of the Agenda – Cindy Cooksey

Approval of April 21 Minutes Cindy Cooksey

Committee Chair Remarks Carolyn Belcher (*Attachment 1*)

1. Status of Amendments Under Development

- a. Update - Roger Pugliese

2. Status of South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Assessment and South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report (*Attachments 2a-2b*)

- a. Status of SA CVA and SA ESR - Cindy Cooksey
- b. Panel Member Discussion – Cindy Cooksey

3. NOAA Fisheries HCD EFH Consultation Update (*Attachment 3*)

- a. SE Consultation Updates - Offshore Wind and Ports – Pace Wilber, NOAA Fisheries HCD
- b. Saltwater Mitigation Banking – Cindy Cooksey, NOAA Fisheries HCD
- c. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

4. NCCOS Mapping Wilmington-East Wind Area (*Attachments 4a-4b*)

- a. Presentation: Mapping Wilmington East - Chris Taylor, NOAA NOS
- b. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

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

- a. Presentation: BOEM SA Wind - Brian Hooker and Casey Reeves BOEM
- b. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

6. EFH Policy Statement on Beach Dredging and Filling, Beach Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering (*Attachment 6*)

- a. Review structure, major areas to revise or update and timing for completion of draft - Cindy Cooksey
- b. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations on Policy Update – Cindy Cooksey

Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

Day 2 Overview - Cindy Cooksey, NOAA HCD

7. Development of a SAFMC Habitat Blueprint and AP Input (*Attachments 7a-7c*)

- a. Review of Draft Habitat Blueprint components – Roger Pugliese and Myra Brower
- b. Panel Member Discussion on Blueprint Components
- c. Panel Member Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

8. East Coast Climate Scenario Planning Update (*Attachments 8a-8b*)

- a. Presentation on Scenario Planning Initiative and results of scoping – Roger Pugliese
- b. Panel Member Discussion and Recommendations – Cindy Cooksey

Other Business

Adjourn

Attachments

- 1. September 2021 SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Committee Final Report
- 2a. Presentation to SAFMC on Completion of Draft South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability
- 2b. Presentation to SAFMC on Completion of Draft South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report
- 3. Presentation NOAA Fisheries HCD EFH Consultation Update
- 4a. Benthic Habitat Mapping and Assessment: Wilmington-East Wind Energy Call Area
- 4b. Presentation on NCCOS Mapping of Wilmington East Wind Area*
- 5a. BOEM Supplement Environmental Review of Wind Leasing Options Offshore the Carolinas
- 5b. DOI Secretary Haaland Outlines Ambitious Offshore Wind Leasing Strategy
- 5c. SERO Carolina Long Bay Supplemental EA Scoping Comments August 2021
- 5d. Presentation on BOEM Offshore Wind Activities in the SA Region*
- 6. Revised SAFMC Beach Dredge and Fill, Beach Renourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering Policy Statement*
- 7a. Habitat Blueprint SOW Structure September 2021
- 7b. Habitat Blueprint WG July 2021 Summary
- 7c. Draft Habitat Ecosystem AP Job Description -Workgroup Edits
- 8a. East Coast Climate Scenario Planning Brochure
- 8b. East Coast Climate Scenario Planning Process

* Will be posted prior to webinar.

Staff: Roger Pugliese, Habitat and Ecosystem Scientist

OVERVIEW

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel will approve minutes of April 2021 and agenda for the current meeting.

Wednesday November 3, 2021 **9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

1. Status of Amendments Under Development

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

2. Status of South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Assessment and South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report (*Attachments 2a-2b*)

Description: Cindy Cooksey will provide a brief update on the completion 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.

AP Action: Status update no action necessary.

3. NOAA Fisheries HCD EFH Consultation Update (*Attachment 3*)

Description: Cindy Cooksey will provide an update on NOAA Fisheries EFH Consultation activities on wind, ports and mitigation banking. 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.

4. NCCOS Wilmington-East Wind Area Mapping (*Attachments 4a-4b*)

Description: Chris Taylor, NOAA NOS will provide members an overview of accomplishments and highlight anticipated efforts in 2021.

AP Action: Discuss and provide input on the area selected and findings of mapping effort as it relates to potential impacts on habitat of future development.

5. BOEM Offshore Wind Activities in the South Atlantic Region (*Attachments 5a-5d*)

Description: Brian Hooker and Casey Reeves will provide an update on wind activities in the South Atlantic region.

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 Beach Dredging and Filling, Beach Re-nourishment and Large-Scale Coastal Engineering (*Attachment 6*)

Description: Cindy Cooksey, NOAA Fisheries HCD, will review the structure of the Policy Statement and highlight components for an outline, list of tasks and review timeline for

completion of a draft through the members of the Sub Committee identified at the last meeting.

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.

Thursday April 15, 2021 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Day 2 Overview - Cindy Cooksey, NOAA Fisheries HCD

7. Update on Development of a SAFMC Habitat Blueprint (*Attachments 7a-7c*)

Description: Council staff will provide an overview of the components of the SAFMC Habitat Blueprint. The Habitat Blueprint Workgroup focused on: Council's mandates related to habitat in the MSA and how those mandates are addressed; Council's policies on non-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: Members are requested to provide input on components of the Habitat Blueprint including but not limited to the draft Advisory Panel job description, tools supporting the habitat program and policy revisions. As key players in the process, members should look at the overall Blueprint structure to help the Council make sure they have not overlooked something significant. Member should also review and provide feedback on the draft HEAP Job Description and focus on the tasks and activities including any ideas for additional ways the AP can contribute. The job description is similar to the one developed for the SSC, in that it informs members on HEAP structure, responsibilities and activities. Members are also requested to provide feedback on recommendation bullets presented in the Habitat Workgroup summary since the goal is to have a robust and transparent way of elevating habitat issues up the chain for Council to consider how to respond which is important considering the usual short comment deadlines.

8. East Coast Climate Scenario Planning Update (*Attachments 8a-8b*)

Description: Council staff will provide members an overview of the East Coast Climate Scenario Planning initiative and preliminary results of the scoping process.

AP Action: Provide input on how the efforts can advance our coordination, understanding and planning to address future conditions associated with climate change in the region and coastwide.