

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Charleston, South Carolina
September 19, 2019

The Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee approved the agenda and minutes from the March 2019 meeting.

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel Report

Dr. Wilson Laney reviewed a summary and recommendations developed during the May 2019 Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel meeting which addressed the following topics: Mapping/Characterization of South Atlantic Deep Water Ecosystems: 2019 Activities: Ecosystem Considerations: Prey supporting Dolphin Wahoo Fisheries; SAFMC Citizen Science Program; Documenting Occurrence and Impacts of Extreme Events; the Southeast Connectivity and Adaptation Strategy (SECAS); Energy Development Activities in the South Atlantic; NOAA Fisheries EBFM Activities for the South Atlantic Region: Status and Timelines for Completion of Deliverables supporting FEP II; FEP II Implementation Plan - Two Year Roadmap; DOISTS Webinar – Anthropogenic Sound Sources – Pile Driving and Wind Turbines; Applying Innovative Technologies to Characterize Fish Habitat and Spawning Events; SECOORA Activities/RCOOS Plan; and the South Atlantic Ecopath with Ecosim Model.

Other Business

Art Sapp, Committee member reviewed video and photography documenting a large oil spill associated with Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas. Concern were raised on the potential impact of the spill on both the Bahamas and potentially habitat and species managed by the Council.

Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

1. Staff coordinate with Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel to help identify shelf and deepwater sentinel sites to monitor oceanographic change in the region.
2. Staff engage appropriate organizations and agencies (e.g., SECOORA etc.) to brief the Council in December or March on the potential impact of the Bahamian oil spill associated with Hurricane Dorian, on habitats and species under Council jurisdiction.
3. Staff facilitate Panel member review of state activities addressing climate change, and extreme weather events supporting development of an addendum to the existing Council Climate Policy statement highlighting complementary actions which enhance EFH conservation.
4. Staff facilitate Laurent Cherubin, HBOI/FAU COIERT presentation at the December Committee meeting on “Applying Innovative Technologies to Characterize Fish Habitat and Spawning Events - Understanding Soundscapes.”
5. Others?

APPROVED BY COUNCIL