



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management

Hilton Garden Inn/Outer Banks
5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

Tuesday December 4, 2018 – 9:30 A.M – 11:00 A.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Dr. Wilson Laney

Approval of October 2018 Committee minutes – Dr. Wilson Laney

1. Atlantic Coast-Wide Discussions: How to address species movement northwards?
(Attachment 1)
 - a. Update on Landings & Timing – Gregg Waugh (Executive Director) & Roger Pugliese (Sr. Fishery Scientist)
 - b. Committee Action: Guidance and action as needed – Dr. Wilson Laney – **ACTION**
2. Habitat and Ecosystem Tools, Model Development and Regional Partner Coordination
(Attachment 2) – Roger Pugliese
3. Council Actions on Habitat and Ecosystems and AP Report *(Attachments 2-4)*
 - a. Habitat Ecosystem Advisory Panel November 2018 Meeting Report – Anne Deaton, NC DMF, Advisory Panel Chair
 - b. Renewable Energy Development
 - i. BOEM Renewable Energy Activities – Brian Hooker, BOEM
 - ii. Kitty Hawk Wind Energy – Craig Poff, Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind
 - c. Committee Action: Action as needed – Dr. Wilson Laney – **ACTION**

Other Business – Dr. Wilson Laney

Adjourn – Dr. Wilson Laney

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee

Wilson Laney, Chair

Doug Haymans, Vice-Chair

Robert Beal

Mel Bell

Chris Conklin

Tim Griner

Jessica McCawley

Steve Poland

Art Sapp

Attachments

Attachment 1. Updated Presentation - Atlantic Coast-Wide Discussions: How to Address Species Movement Northwards?

Attachment 2. Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel Summary Report November 2018

Attachment 3. BOEM Renewable Energy Leasing and Environmental Studies Update - Brain Hooker

Attachment 4. Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind - Craig Poff

Staff: Roger Pugliese

OVERVIEW

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee

The Committee will approve of minutes from October 2018 meeting and agenda.

1. Atlantic Coast-Wide Discussions: How to address species movement northwards? – (Attachment 1)

Description: The South Atlantic Council Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director have been meeting with our counterparts on the NEFMC and MAFMC to formulate a plan on addressing this topic. This issue was discussed at the Fall 2017 Northeast Regional Coordination Council (NRCC) meeting. Based on discussions among the 3 Councils, it was agreed that a group comprised of each Council's Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Director would meet periodically to coordinate on an approach to address stocks as they move northwards. This group can meet via phone, webinar, and in conjunction with Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meetings. The first such meeting was held during the February 2018 CCC meeting. This Council group would also meet periodically with the Commission to coordinate State action where appropriate.

During the meeting of the 3 Councils in February, the group talked about true lead (one Council makes all the decisions), administrative lead/joint plans (one Council has lead to develop the plan/amendment and all Councils vote on provisions and all Councils approve the plan), and possible creative solutions where each Council would amend/develop their existing plans/amendments in a coordinated fashion. The South Atlantic Council was asked

to research the procedure to extend management jurisdiction northwards as was done for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. The group was interested in exploring such an approach with the understanding that each Council would structure their committees to allow other Councils voting privileges at the committee level. This seemed to work to the group's satisfaction for recent efforts on cobia.

At the March 2018 meeting, Gregg Waugh reviewed results from the informal meeting of the Council group (Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director of the 3 East Coast Councils). The Group wants to explore how the Coastal Migratory Pelagic FMP was amended to extend jurisdiction through the Mid-Atlantic Council area. A list of priority species will be developed. The Mid-Atlantic Council and New England Council planned to attend the South Atlantic Council's September meeting to discuss this topic. However, due to the rescheduling of the meeting to October as the result of Hurricane Florence members were unable to attend. It is anticipated the joint session will be rescheduled for March 2019.

Council staff, as directed during the October meeting, will provide an update to the landings data to be discussed along with South Atlantic considerations on the issue during the December Committee meeting.

Status: The three Councils initially discussed the issue of shifting species patterns associated with changing oceanographic and environmental conditions as part of an Atlantic coast workshop a number of years ago. The change in environmental conditions, prey, and managed species distribution has been documented more significantly in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions where much of the environmental change in the South Atlantic has been significant increases in episodic events including upwelling, extreme rainfall, and extreme temperature events. However, prey and managed species may eventually extend or shift their range to the north. The Councils already coordinate on several managed species including the Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Dolphin Wahoo, and Bluefish FMPs as well as adopting an MOU on Deep Sea Corals.

Required Committee Action: Review updated landings data, discuss and provide guidance to staff on priority species and timing for a joint meeting (March 2019).

2. Habitat and Ecosystem Tools, Model Development and Regional Partner Coordination

Description: In lieu of a presentation, coordination on these topics were covered during the November Advisory Panel meeting associated briefing material, presentations and the summary report provided in **Attachment 2**.

Status: The Committee approved FEP II, FEP II Dashboard the Implementation Plan and Roadmap at the March 2018 meeting. Council staff continues to collaborate with regional partners to advance FEP II Implementation Plan and Roadmap including but not limited to SECOORA, SALCC, Habitat Conservation Partnerships, HBOI/FAU, NCSU, BOEM, and U.S. Navy. In addition, staff continues to coordinate with SCDNR and integrated fishery independent data from SEAMAP and SERFS and NOAA Fisheries SEFSC; ACCSP and NCSU; Tom Okey, University of Victoria; and Howard Townsend, NOAA Fisheries, to provide support to complete the newest generation of a South Atlantic Ecopath model in 2018. In addition, the SAFMC Ecospecies system continues to advance supporting access to detailed species information through both the Managed Species and Tools pages of the FEP

II Dashboard. Targeted Apps drawing on Webservices developed and scheduled to go online include South Atlantic Artificial Reefs Viewer and an ACCSP Data Viewer.

Required Committee Action: Provide guidance to staff as needed.

3. Council Actions on Habitat and Ecosystems and November 2018 Habitat Ecosystem Advisory Panel Report (*Attachments 2-4*)

Description: Anne Deaton (NC DMF), Advisory Panel Chair, will provide the Committee a report on the November meeting of the Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel. As a follow-up to the Panel meeting on the issue of advancement in development of renewable energy, Brian Hooker, BOEM member of the Panel will provide the Committee an overview of BOEM renewable energy activities and Craig Poff, Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind will provide an overview and opportunity for early coordination on a potential wind project.

Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff as needed.

Other Business