



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

REVISED AGENDA

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management

Town & Country Inn
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

Tuesday October 2, 2018 – 9:30 A.M – 12:00 Noon (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Dr. Wilson Laney

Approval of June 2018 Committee minutes – Dr. Wilson Laney

1. Atlantic Coast-Wide Discussions: How to address species migration northwards?
(Attachments 1-6) DISCUSSIONS WITH NEFMC AND MAFMC DEFERED TO FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO TRAVEL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH HURRICANE FLORENCE
 - a. NEFMC Views – Dr. John Quinn (Chair) & Tom Nies (ED)
 - b. MAFMC Views – Mike Luisi (Chair) & Warren Elliott (Vice-Chair)
 - c. SAFMC Views – Jessica McCawley (Acting Chair), Gregg Waugh (ED) & Roger Pugliese (Sr. Fishery Scientist)
 - d. Committee Action: Guidance and action as needed – Dr. Wilson Laney – **ACTION**

2. Habitat and Ecosystem Tools, Model Development and Regional Partner Coordination
(Attachments 7-8)
 - a. Update on FEP II Dashboard including Tools, Ecosystem Modeling and Regional Partner Coordination – Roger Pugliese
 - b. NOAA Fisheries EBFM Implementation Plan – South Atlantic Region

3. Council Actions on Habitat
 - c. Overview – Roger Pugliese
 - d. 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. Fall 2017 Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) Meeting, November 15-16, 2017, Final Report.

Attachment 2. Fall 2017 Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) Meeting Summary November 15-16, 2017.

Attachment 3. Deepwater Coral MOU NEFMC/MAFMC/SAFMC 2013

Attachment 4. Preparing ocean governance for species on the move – Pinsky et. al 2018

Attachment 5. Managing consequences of climate-driven species redistribution requires integration of ecology, conservation and social science – Bonebrake et. al 2018

Attachment 6. Implications of Future Northwest Atlantic Bottom Temperatures on the American Lobster Fishery – Rheuban et. al. 2017

Attachment 7. SAFMC FEP II Implementation Plan Two Year Roadmap

Attachment 8. FEP II Dashboard Outline August 2018

Attachment 9. NOAA Fisheries Draft EBFM Implementation Plan – South Atlantic Region

Staff: Roger Pugliese

OVERVIEW

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee

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

1. Atlantic Coast-Wide Discussions: How to address species migration northwards? – (Attachments 1-6) DISCUSSIONS WITH NEFMC AND MAFMC DEFERRED TO FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO TRAVEL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH HURRICANE FLORENCE

Description: The South Atlantic Council Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director have been meeting with our counterparts to formulate a plan on addressing this topic. This is an effort begun when Dr. Michelle Duval was chair and continued while Charlie Philips was chair. During the September 2017 Snapper Grouper committee meeting, the Committee Chair provided background on previous dialogue on this topic among Councils and NMFS in recent years and provided rationale for furthering those discussions at this time. Council staff briefly reviewed a document summarizing landings of unmanaged snapper grouper species in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions (Note: this is included within Attachment 1). The Committee discussed some short- and long-term steps that state and federal management agencies could take to address shifting distributions of species in response to climate change to ensure adequate management in the future. The Mid-Atlantic Council representative on the Snapper Grouper Committee and SEFSC director both reiterated the importance of continuing dialogue and collaboration among Councils and NMFS on this issue.

This issue was discussed at the Fall 2017 Northeast Regional Coordination Council (NRCC) meeting (**Attachments 1 and 2; Attachment 2** is a report from the NRCC meeting so scroll to page 5 for discussion on shifting stocks). 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 Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Council would like to attend the South Atlantic Council's September meeting to discuss this topic. The Committee recommended scheduling this and also inviting the New England Council to send a representative(s).

The 3 Councils have an existing MOU regarding management of deep sea corals (**Attachment 3**). This provides an example of how the Councils can work together to solve joint issues.

Council staff will give a short presentation (available at the meeting) outlining the steps that were used to extend management for mackerels and cobia. The Committee will then discuss each Council's views on coordination to address expansion of species to the north. NEFMC views will be expressed by Dr. John Quinn (Chair) and Tom Nies (Executive Director); MAFMC views by Mike Luisi (Chair) and Warren Elliott (Vice-Chair); and SAFMC views by Jessica McCawley (Acting Chair), Gregg Waugh (Executive Director), and Roger Pugliese (Sr. Fishery Scientist).

For anyone interested in more background (not required reading for this meeting), three papers addressing potential species shifts are included (**Attachments 4-6**).

Additional background is found in the SAFMC FEP II Implementation Plan Two Year Roadmap (**Attachment 7**) noting actions specific to initiating coordination between Councils on potential shifts in species distribution associated with changes in oceanographic conditions. Again, Attachments 4-7 are included as general background to provide additional details for those interested; they are not required reading for this committee meeting.

Attachment 4. Preparing ocean governance for species on the move (Pinsky et. al 2018) provides a general world view of changing oceanographic conditions and anticipated shifts in species distributions and associated fisheries.

Attachment 5. Managing consequences of climate-driven species redistribution requires integration of ecology, conservation and social science (Bonebrake et. al 2018) provides an overview of how addressing species and fisheries shifts will require a foundation of understand the ecology, what conservation actions are available and the social implications of those actions.

Attachment 6. Implications of Future Northwest Atlantic Bottom Temperatures on the American Lobster Fishery (Rheuban et. al. 2017) is provided to highlight how changing bottom temperatures may shift a population and the fishery dependent on that population.

Attachment 7. The SAFMC Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) II Implementation Plan Two Year Roadmap is included to highlight Actions 1-3 in Chapter 2 Climate Variability and Fisheries which support collaboration between Councils to *develop and engage in a cooperative process with to explore ways to adaptively manage species that are or are expected to shift/expand their ranges.*

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 increase 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 a number of 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: Discuss and provide guidance to staff on approach to address species shifts.

2. Habitat and Ecosystem Tools, Model Development and Regional Partner Coordination - (Attachments 8-9)

Description: In lieu of a presentation, the Committee is being provided an updated outline of the FEP II Dashboard to highlight developing habitat and ecosystem tools, the developing South Atlantic next generation Ecosystem model and regional partner coordination. Roger Pugliese will highlight a few developing activities and answer specific questions as needed. Attachment 8. The latest FEP II Dashboard Outline is included for reference and to provide links to ongoing activities associated with Habitat and Ecosystem Web Services and tools, modeling and regional partner coordination

Attachment 9. The NOAA Fisheries Draft EBFM Implementation Plan for the South Atlantic Region is out for public review and included to provide an opportunity to provide input by September 30, 2018. This plan complements work already underway by Regional Fishery Management Councils through fishery management plans and fishery ecosystem plans.

Status: The Committee approved FEP II, FEP II Dashboard the Implementation Plan and Roadmap at the March 2018 meeting. Tom Okey, University of Victoria, has coordinated with SCDNR and integrated fishery independent data from SEAMAP and SERFS and NOAA Fisheries SEFSC, ACCSP and NCSU are continuing to provide support advancing the newest generation of a South Atlantic Ecopath model. 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. 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 US Navy.

Required Committee Action: Provide guidance to staff on further refinement of the Dashboard and on enhancing coordination with regional partners. Provide comments on the Draft EBFM Implementation Plan for the South Atlantic Region; comments are due by September 30, 2018

3. Council Actions on Habitat

Description: Habitat issues may arise that the Council may require a timely response. This item serves as a place holder to provide flexibility to address such habitat issues.

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

Other Business