

OVERVIEW

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee Meeting December 8, 2015

Doubletree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront
2717 W. Fort Macon Road
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina 28512

The Committee will: (A) Be provided a report on the November 17-18, 2015 Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel meeting including a Redrafted EFH Policy on Energy Exploration, Development, and Transportation; (B) Be provided a status report on FEP II Development and Regional Ecosystem Coordination; and (C) Be provided a presentation on Lenfest Fisheries Ecosystem Task Force Activities.

(A) Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel Meeting Report

Council staff will provide a report on the November 17-18, 2015 Advisory Panel meeting at FWRI in St. Petersburg, FL. The Council's EFH Policy Statement on Energy Exploration, Development, and Transportation was redrafted by the Advisory Panel and is provided for Council consideration for approval. Other areas to be addressed include response to a presentation on the recently released NMFS Draft Ecosystem-Based Management Policy.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

Approve Redrafted SAFMC EFH Policy Statement on Energy - ACTION

The Committee will provide additional guidance to staff as appropriate.

(B) Status Report on FEP II Development and Regional Ecosystem Coordination

Council staff will provide a status report on FEP II development and EFH Update being advanced through facilitated Webinars and In-person meetings. Regional ecosystem coordination efforts include: advances in development of a South Atlantic ecosystem modeling suite, the NMFS Climate Science Strategy, and recently held Climate Variability and Fisheries Research Workshop.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

Committee will provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

(C) Lenfest Fisheries Ecosystem Taskforce Status Report

Dr. Phil Levin, NMFS NWFSC and co-chair of the Lenfest Taskforce, will provide the Committee an update on activities related to developing guidance supporting the move to Ecosystem-Based Management using Council Fishery Ecosystem Plans as vehicles to realize the effort.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

Committee will provide guidance to staff as appropriate.