

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Town & Country Inn
Charleston, South Carolina**

October 2, 2018

Summary Minutes

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee Members

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| Doug Haymans | Mel Bell |
| Chris Conklin | Tim Griner |
| Jessica McCawley | Steve Poland |
| Art Sapp | |

Council Members

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| Anna Beckwith | Chester Brewer |
| Dr. Kyle Christiansen | Dr. Roy Crabtree |
| LCDR Jeremy Montes | Spud Woodward |

Council Staff

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Gregg Waugh | John Carmichael |
| Dr. Brian Cheuvront | Myra Brouwer |
| Kimberly Cole | Dr. Chip Collier |
| Mike Collins | Kelsey Dick |
| Dr. Mike Errigo | John Hadley |
| Kim Iverson | Roger Pugliese |
| Cameron Rhodes | Amber Von Harten |
| Christina Wiegand | Julia Byrd |

Observers and Participants

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| Dr. Jack McGovern | Monica Smit-Brunello |
| Dr. Erik Williams | Dr. Tom Frazer |
| Rick DeVictor | Erika Burgess |
| Dr. Marcel Reichert | |

Other observers and participants attached.

The Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at the Town & Country Inn, Charleston, South Carolina, Tuesday morning, October 2, 2018, and was called to order by Chairman Doug Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: Good morning. I know I don't look quite like Dr. Wilson Laney. I thought I was done with this committee, but we had so much fun with it, and let's hope that Wilson can get his issues settled with Fish and Wildlife and they see the light and the importance of having a representative at this table.

Anyway, I will call the Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee to order. You've got an agenda in front of you, and is there any additions or corrections to the agenda? Seeing none, we'll accept it as presented. You have also had a chance to look over the June 2018 minutes. Any corrections or additions to the minutes? Seeing none, we will accept the minutes.

Our Item Number 1 has changed significantly, because of the hurricane. The gentlemen who were going to come talk to us from the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast couldn't make this trip, but Gregg is going to fill-in in their absence and give us a good rundown of kind of where we are with this topic.

MR. WAUGH: Thanks, Doug, and Roger and I have put together a short presentation that we'll go through in a minute, but, just for a little background, the councils had authorized the Chair, Vice Chair, and ED of each of the three councils to work together to figure out how we address these species, and this was going to pick up on that and talk about how we move forward.

Unfortunately, the Mid is meeting this week, and New England meets during our December meeting, and so we're going to try for our March meeting. We will pull this off, but, in the interim, the Chair, Vice Chair, and ED from the three councils are going to continue meeting and discussing this topic, but we thought what we could do is just bring everybody up-to-date on where we are right now, and there are a couple of points where we could use some input from you all.

In terms of an overview, blueline tile and other snapper grouper species initiated this effort. Years ago, we explored extending the jurisdiction northward for the Snapper Grouper FMP. The Mid was okay with us doing that, and there were concerns from the Regional Office and NOAA GC, and we didn't move forward, and now the Mid has gone forward with a separate blueline tile effort, and some of the states north of North Carolina have regulations in place as well.

Cobia also show the need for this, and you all are familiar. Most of you are familiar with our efforts, and that FMP, or the management of that species for the Atlantic group, has been turned over to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and that is moving through the review stages.

During the September 2017 committee meeting, we talked about this, and there is a document in there that reviews the catches. We haven't updated that, but you can look at that document. It's included as Attachment 1, and it shows how those species are starting to progress northwards, and that is only continuing. We talked about short and long-term steps that the states and feds can take and some the states north of us have put in regulations, and we agreed to discuss this further.

At the November 15-16, 2017 Northeast Regional Coordination Council meeting, Charlie and I went up and gave a presentation there, and, again, that material is included here in Attachments 1 and 2. In Attachment 2, you can pick up the discussion on page 5. That Attachment 2 is a report out of this NRCC meeting, and it's interesting reading, and you can see how they approach assessments and other procedures that are, in some cases, quite different from how we proceed, and so it might be interesting reading at some point when you have time, but the shifting stock discussion starts on page 2, and so, as I said, the three councils agreed to have the Chair, Vice Chair, and ED discuss this.

The first meeting took place at the February 2018 CCC meeting, and we reviewed true lead, administrative lead, and joint plans. True lead is when one council makes all the decisions, and that's where we are with Dolphin Wahoo. We manage it along the entire east coast of the U.S. We do provide opportunities for the other councils to have voting seats at our committee level. Administrative lead is where one council has the lead, but other councils have to approve the measures, and then joint plans are where both groups have to approve all the actions, and so the council, our council, was asked, during this first informal meeting, to research a process to extend management jurisdiction northwards, as we did for the mackerels and cobia, and this was quite a surprise to us, because councils are kind of protective of their areas, and we talked about that we could go back and ask the Secretary to re-do the designations, but I think, based on the experience that particularly the Mid, and to some extent that New England, saw that we did with cobia, where the Mid has two voting seats on our Mackerel Committee, I think they were comfortable with that process and feel that that's a good way to have input.

Rather than going to the Secretary and asking to re-designate the areas of authority, they were interested in exploring how one council can extend its jurisdiction, with the understanding that that council would allow the involved other councils to have voting privileges at the committee level, and, if you all have questions as I'm going along, please feel free to ask them.

MR. HAYMANS: Just the first one that jumps out to me with that is it seems to be a one-way discussion. In other words, we might assert authority moving north in the Mid-Atlantic, and the Mid-Atlantic might assert it moving north, but it's never going to be the other way with climate change.

MR. WAUGH: Exactly. At least we haven't seen anything like that thus far. Correct. Then, at the March 2018 South Atlantic Council meeting, Charlie and I presented the results of this group's discussion, and the direction to staff that you all gave us was to explore how the coastal migratory pelagics plan was expanded, to develop a list of priority species, and then invite New England and the Mid-Atlantic to our September meeting. We're going to come back to this list of priority species, because I think we could have some discussion here and get some input from you all, and, as I said, we'll work on rescheduling that joint session, hopefully for our March meeting.

Now, this was something that I had forgotten about that Roger brought to our attention. In terms of the three councils working together, we already have an MOU on deep-sea corals that was signed between New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic Councils back in 2013, and it established a framework for coordination and cooperation to protect deep-sea corals. Each council is responsible for mitigation of fishery impacts within their own area of authority and to seek continuity among coral-related management measures and share data and information.

There is provisions in there to contribute to coordinated management, and so New England and the Mid-Atlantic would share information and data, including plan development team products, and the Mid-Atlantic staff and/or Mid-Atlantic liaison to New England will attend the New England Council's habitat plan development team and what they call oversight committees, and that's the equivalent to our committees, and the New England folks would do the same, and so you get that reciprocity in attendance and information exchange, and they asked us to advise them on coral and deep-sea ecosystem issues based on our past experience, since we've been doing that for a while, and so there is precedent there.

Just to review briefly, this is our area of authority, and scup and black sea bass are north of Hatteras, but this is the area that we cover for most of our species. You get into coastal migratory pelagics, and we did extend that up through the Mid-Atlantic's area, and so we've got boundaries for king and Spanish, and then, as I said, dolphin wahoo, we manage that along the entire east coast, and so we've got different management structures in place now with different boundaries, and I think it's a testament that the councils are willing to try and work together at the council level rather than bumping this up.

In terms of priority species, what do we want to look at, possibly, to extend our management northwards? Well, the one that jumps out is coastal migratory pelagics. We have already done that up through the Mid-Atlantic area, and now we're seeing king and Spanish mackerel catches occurring up in New England, and so the next logical step would be to consider expansion of the coastal migratory pelagics up through the New England Council area, and, in terms of the approach we're looking at, they would then expect to get a voting seat on our Coastal Migratory Pelagics Committee, which, again, seems to have worked well with the Mid on coastal migratory pelagics and snapper grouper.

The tricky one is when you get to snapper grouper, and we've got a couple of options here, and this certainly is not a finite list, and you all can come up with others, but, initially, black sea bass and scup, that boundary is at the Hatteras line, and they've got a separate FMP for golden tilefish, and now they have already undertaken efforts for blueline, and so we probably wouldn't pick those up. We could go for all species except black sea bass, scup, blueline, and golden, or you could go through and look at what species are starting to show up in the Mid-Atlantic within our snapper grouper complex and pick from those and certainly any other options you all can think of.

Just to come back to how the coastal migratory pelagics plan was extended, we did that in Amendment 5 in 1990, and, if you all want this presentation afterwards, we can distribute it. We will send it around, because it's got a link to these documents. I gave Monica a heads-up yesterday that I'm going to talk about the good-old days. If you look at the timing here, the councils, and this was joint between the Gulf and the South Atlantic, the councils finished the amendment in March of 1990, and the NOAA was published March 28, 1990. The proposed rule was on April 20, 1990, and the final rule was published in July of 1990 and was effective August 20, 1990, and so, five months after completion, we had a rule in place.

If Roy was here, I would poke at him a little bit, because I have talked to him before. When you go back to some of these old amendments, it's amazing how brief we were in terms of our guidance and, in most cases, analyses, and you can argue that, well, we didn't do a very good job then, but it sure was a lot easier and faster, and we got the regulations in place, and so we tend to look at it as the good-old days.

Here is the management measure, and the whole discussion occurs on pages 2 through 4 of the amendment, and so I think it would be worth your look back just to take a look at it, and there were thirteen other actions in that amendment too, and it wasn't like that was the only item in there, and I know, on the NMFS side, their burden of process and what they have to do to move an amendment on has increased dramatically too, and I think, if you talk with them, they would look at this as the good-old days as well, but here is the measure. It's just saying that it will apply to fisheries within the jurisdiction of the Gulf and South Atlantic Council, but only to Atlantic migratory group king and Spanish mackerel within the jurisdiction of the Mid-Atlantic.

There is not a lot of detail, and this was not a complex effort, and so, if we were to explore this option now to extend this to the Mid-Atlantic, it would be a similar approach, but we would obviously analyze the impacts in much more detail.

MR. HAYMANS: I know it was done because there were catches occurring in the Mid-Atlantic, but we didn't necessarily associate those catches with climate change or sea temperatures, and so what was sort of -- Was there a driver, besides the fact that they were occurring there, that caused it to happen in 1990?

MR. WAUGH: Yes, and the question arose of, well, they're part of the same stock, and so, back then, we were in ABC and TAC management, and so the question came of, well, those are coming out of our stock, and those catches are going to be included in the stock assessment, and so we need to capture them, in terms of our management, because they are going to count towards our quotas.

MR. PUGLIESE: Plus, I think the concept of the extension of the range of the species as well as just the -- As the population was building through a greater area, it was moving into areas that it may not have been in before, and so I think it was more that than thinking about climate.

MR. BELL: I was thinking that it probably had more to do with the -- The assumption was that the fish were there, and that was all part of their normal range at that time, and we weren't thinking about things like temperature changes and -- But maybe it also, and I'm not sure, but was it primarily from the recreational component, because, as the recreational fisheries became more robust up there, maybe there were more encounters, and therefore more landings or something, but I didn't know if it was also commercial or not, because, if you think about the growth of recreational fisheries in the 1980s, and even the 1990s and all, that might have something to do with that.

MR. PUGLIESE: Yes, and I think I specifically remember a lot of the discussions about the expansion of that recreational fishery, because that was also -- If you remember the times when species like bluefish and some of the ones that were not there, this all of a sudden became one that they were targeting and having more opportunity to expand their suite of different species that were available.

MR. BELL: Yes, but the fish were there. They just weren't necessarily targeted, but, now, we've got a new dynamic, perhaps, where we're dealing with stuff that might actually be moving, which is a little more complicated.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Did the Gulf have to sign-off on that at that time?

MR. WAUGH: Yes, and they would this time as well, and -- Well, the consideration back then was it was no skin off of their nose, because all of that applied to the Atlantic migratory group, and so that's it. Any additional questions? What we would like some guidance on is the list of species and you all's thoughts on should we look at coastal migratory pelagics first or just leave it there, and, of course, then this would all have to trickle into our priorities and further discussions.

MR. BELL: To that, you mentioned snapper grouper, and do we have indications that anything is sort of moving or shifting or landings are increasing? Is there any particular species that we have noticed so far, other than -- Like I said, sea bass are already there.

MR. WAUGH: Some of the deeper-water groupers are showing up more, and Virginia has put in regulations, and I think some of the states farther north have as well, but that Attachment 1 that we didn't get into, that has some background on the catches.

MR. HAYMANS: If you think about it from all the snapper grouper, like yellowtail, would there be a reason really to create regulations for yellowtail that far north?

MR. WAUGH: No, I would think not, and so that's why we put that option in there to go through the snapper grouper fishery management unit and see which species you think -- The other way is just give us some direction to update that catch analysis and see what species are showing up and bring that back to you.

DR. WILLIAMS: Science clearly might have a role to play in here, and that is in the form of looking at what data there is and sort of treating some of these species in a new stock ID kind of setting, because the things that are going to be important here to understand is what is the reproductive cycle and has that changed, and so, in other words, if some of these species are pushing further north or expanding, which is the term I would prefer to us, rather than migration, is expansion, are we starting to see evidence of new reproductive effort in those northern areas, and, if that's the case, then you're looking at a different population dynamic system than maybe would even warrant separate management or something along those lines.

I would just encourage that we kind of maybe have the equivalent of a big stock ID workshop or something like that to look at what is the scientific evidence to support whether these species need some sort of special treatment, because there could be -- The other end of the range, we might start seeing a contraction. We might get to a point where, yes, where a species has completely shifted its distribution to the Mid-Atlantic and New England, and then are we still going to manage it?

MR. PUGLIESE: I think this is directly connected to some of the discussion we were going to follow up on, is, in order to advance the whole movement on ecosystem-based fishery management, some of the key things that have to be done, and they are started, but they need to advance probably more readily, are the climate vulnerability analysis that needs to be conducted, and I think a lot of those will begin to provide the foundation on where we are going to see key species that are going to have implications relative to climate, and some of it has started, and so I think it can dovetail nicely.

Truthfully, this is one of the timing things, and I think the timing of this getting delayed a little bit is probably going to be a benefit, because hopefully the vulnerability analysis will be done and some of the different things, such as the ecosystem report, and a lot of them have aspects that I think are going to provide components that will show us some information on what we're seeing existing in catch and what we're seeing in terms of the fishery-independent surveys and how some of those species are shifting already, and there's some of that work being done on building heat maps of changes over time, and so I think there's a lot to inform, and so we can have a preliminary view of what people think, and then, as this gets developed, those are going to be some things that I think are going to be, one, critical points from which you can find which key species are really going to be affected, but then also provide the foundation of how the Science Center is really going to contribute and expand and how that gets connected.

The other aspect is some of the ecosystem modeling efforts that are going to also connect on where some of those interactions may occur, and so I think there's a lot that is going to happen on the science side that, as long as we keep on track, and, as I said, this is connected to the move toward ecosystem, and that commitment really needs to be done for the Southeast, so that those can be provided and the council can advance with this.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I would like to see that expanded analysis that you just mentioned, Gregg, and so, just timing-wise, because I don't know if I fully understand that, and so this would come back to our March council meeting, when hopefully we would have that kind of panel discussion again, and we would look at that new data, and does that mean that it wouldn't come to the CCC for an additional discussion before the councils can meet again? I am just trying to understand what the next steps are in the timing.

MR. WAUGH: The plan would be for the three councils to have some informal discussions at the February CCC meeting, and it may be helpful for us to bring that catch information to you sooner. It's up to you all, because I think it would be helpful -- This effort was initiated a couple of years ago, and we've got a significantly different council now, and so it may be helpful if, in December, we could have a little more discussion about this and get our thoughts together more on how we want to proceed.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Yes, I would appreciate that, so that we can kind of figure out more of what we want to do before we have to meet with that group again.

MR. WOODWARD: In regard to this, I guess, developing or expanding mackerel fishery up in New England, the decision was made to expand dolphin wahoo through the entire Atlantic coast, and I assume that was based on the fact that there were catches up there and given the life history of those species and their mobility as migratory species. Is there a downside to not expanding the CMP throughout the entire Atlantic coast? These don't seem to be sort of sporadic things. It looks like it's probably going to happen on a recurring basis, and so, if we don't do it, what is the downside of making that extension?

MR. WAUGH: We would need to figure out then what do we do with those catches? Do they count towards our ACLs, and do they go into our stock assessments and we just leave it up to the states to develop some regulations there? That, to me, is the downside. Just, if I could, just following-up on Erik's point, at that NRCC meeting, there was a commitment for the Northeast to work with the Southeast, and they are supposed to have some discussions both at the science level

and the management level to talk about this as well, and I don't know that those have occurred yet. Probably not, but that is something that is supposed to happen as well. Did that answer your question, Spud?

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, I think so, and I think dealing with these migratory species is going to be completely different than these demersal. I mean, the whole demersal thing is going to be a lava lamp of unpredictable change. I mean, just because the sea temperature has become favorable for them, and it may not be physical habitat that is suitable, plus what's vacating the space for them to get there. I mean, everything is sort of occupied right now, and so what's leaving in order to make any space for them to get there, or what are they going to have to compete with, and it's going to be a really complicated thing, and we won't know it until we really see it, and how long will that happen before you really see it and it manifests?

MR. HAYMANS: That's why this issue is in the Ecosystem-Based Management Committee, because we deal with complicated things.

MR. BELL: They're all complicated. When looking at landings data, and this is sort of stating the obvious, but, as you look at it, fisheries can kind of change over time, in terms of how they prosecuted and where and gear. I just want to make sure that we're not picking up a false signal in terms of we're now seeing a particular species a little farther north, and it's because they haven't fished with that particular gear in that particular area or something, but I'm sure we can tease that out.

If they've got long-term -- Some type of bottom-gear data that goes back and the species is not there, not there, not there, not there, and nothing has changed, and, bam, it's all of a sudden there, well, okay, now you've got an indication that maybe something is moving, but, if people are just now fishing in a particular way now that they didn't before, because sometimes -- Particularly with the recreational community, they kind of look at how things are done someplace else and they try things differently, or they move into a different area, but we just want to make sure that we don't kind of get a false reading just because of something we have changed.

MR. PUGLIESE: Yes, and I think what you raise is the fact that we really need to look at the whole complex issue here, because there is opportunity to understand, over time, and this is where we really have to begin to pull the information on that changes where we can document changes in the bottom temperatures or changes in circulation patterns and even things such as -- This is something that we really need to get further on, is understanding connected species, prey distribution pattern changes, and, I mean, there are some things that are foundational that will affect what's going on, and so I think those, in combination, is what drove the New England areas to really go further, because they stacked all those together and were able to really document how cod was essentially going right outside of the region, because the prey was moving, and the bottom temperatures validated it, and the species was gone, and so we need to begin to at least set in motion the science that's going to support this and where we can look at the signatures that document it.

MR. HAYMANS: Blueline tilefish is the one that just keeps popping into mind, for me, in that there were no landings in Virginia for years, and then, all of a sudden, it exploded, but we don't have any science to tell us why those fish all of a sudden showed up up there. Were they always there and they just were found, or did they move there over the course of a few years? If that's the

example, the most recent example, how are we going to collect information to tell us why some of these other fish are moving that way?

MR. WAUGH: As a part of that discussion between the Northeast and the Southeast, they are supposed to talk about looking at existing data collection efforts and how you then pick up -- Make sure that you have the ability to pick up new species as they start to show up, and I would hope that would also translate into some of the survey work that's done, so that it's broadened from sort of your managed species to look at all the species.

MR. PUGLIESE: Yes, and, related specific to that, I know we've already had discussions at the fishery-dependent survey level with the crosswalk between SEAMAP and the NEMAP programs in the Northeast, to ensure that we have the ability to document the species within the Southeast and then as they occur in those systems to the north, so there is continuity, and so there has been a collaboration directly with trying to liaison between the NEMAP and SEAMAP programs, to advance that, and Marcel has been working directly -- That is hopefully going to continue and be expanded to make sure that some of the things that we can do, because they are advancing in those areas on some capabilities further. In the Southeast, we're moving further to look at some of the environmental-species-related ones, and hopefully, between those two, we can really look at what needs to be done to adequately survey and document environmental information, et cetera, for the entire Atlantic.

DR. WILLIAMS: Just to add on to that, there are active conversations going on with the Northeast trying to spin up some joint survey efforts. One of the ones we've been focusing on over the last year, and just running into funding issues, I think, is a coast-wide deepwater survey that we would share with the Northeast and implement the same survey up and down the whole coast.

MR. WAUGH: Coming back to dolphin wahoo a second, something that Spud said reminded me that, when we -- It may be helpful, at the December meeting, where we're going to schedule a Dolphin Wahoo Committee, it might be helpful to just have a brief history of management review, because that originally started as a five-council effort, and it eventually evolved to the east coast, because that was the area that we could get that everybody was interested in implementing some management measures in that area, and so it had more to do with what Bill Cole would call bio-politics than fish moving, and so I think it might be helpful, and we can give a short presentation on the history of that, so people understand.

MR. BELL: Something to keep in mind, and I think maybe Erik touched on this, is, as you move forward with this, and you need to feed data in there, and you need to have data, and so, right now, MARMAP is definitely good with demersal stuff, and not so much pelagic at all, and so we would have to build -- Then the funding, of course, would have to come to support that, and we seem to have issues, at times, just funding what we've got, and that's just reality.

MR. PUGLIESE: To that specifically, I mean, I always keep on pointing back to one of the things that we connected directly into our longer-term ecosystem planning, was the five-year SEAMAP plan. While it's called SEAMAP, what it does is do a good job of identifying what we really need to do across the entire fishery-independent survey, and it includes things such as the longer-term ones, such as creation of a pelagic survey, and it does actually put some resources and identify some, and so I think the longer-term -- As we look at some of those, implementing those, hopefully we can have some buy-in that some of those different directives really advance further and build

on what we've already done, and so it makes a nice connection between MARMAP and SEAMAP and SEFIS and what we need to do if there is new surveys that come online, too.

MR. HAYMANS: Okay, and so we're going to see this again in December, with several new pieces of information?

MR. WAUGH: Right. We will update the landings, and my understanding is we will focus on coastal migratory pelagics, update those landings, and then look in snapper grouper and see which species are showing up in those areas and bring those to you in December and have some additional discussion.

MR. CONKLIN: When they bring the landings data back for the snapper grouper stuff, can we make sure it's differentiated between commercial and recreational, because I know that, at one time, when some of the -- When like blueline was going to close that several of the high-line longliners shot out and were unloading on up the road. They would fish out of Carolina and unload up in the Mid or on up the road, and they may be caught here, and I would just like to know.

MR. HAYMANS: Anybody else? Okay. That's Item 1. Thank you. Roger, are you going to give us an update on habitat and ecosystem tools and model development?

MR. PUGLIESE: Yes, and just, with regard to the tool side, I had provided broader Dashboard connections and all the details on that for information, and I wasn't going to get into a very detailed presentation this time. I just wanted to highlight a couple of points of that and then also connect into a developing comment letter that's going to be occurring in collaboration with NOAA Fisheries on EBFM comments for the region.

Just a couple of quick points. The Ecopath modeling effort is continuing on. It's advancing to a coordination with the upcoming SSC meeting, and there will be a brief presentation during that by Tom Okey. We're working closely with Howard Townsend and with NOAA Fisheries and looking at where we go with regard to the rest of the modeling workgroup. The idea is advance this to the SSC, with the intent -- There is going to be a proposal that they create a workgroup, so that there can be a focused effort of SSC members and in collaboration with either some or the entire original modeling workgroup to advance not only a review of what's going on with the Ecopath/Ecosim models, but they are maybe even looking at some of the other efforts, such as production modeling, that has been going on initially at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

The intent is to advance this and begin to look at where it is and how it advances, but also then ultimately how tools are developed for the SSC to be able to actually use this for analysis or for understanding what is going on in individual populations or multiple populations, and so that is going to be happening in the near future, hopefully, and I will get this to you in the discussion on the EBFM discussion.

Some other aspects of coordination is one of our partners under the National Fish Habitat Plan, the Southeast Research Partnership, SARP, is advancing and doing a proposal to do an analysis of fish habitats over time, an update, and that's something that we're going to hopefully coordinate with them on, to look at how that relates to our EFH, distributions of EFH as well as connection to individual species. We're going to have Jessica Graham attend our Habitat Advisory Panel and

get into some of those discussions and opportunities for coordination with other programs, such as the SEAMAP/MARMAP/SEFIS information, to support those types of efforts.

On the Ocean Observing side, the SECOORA group is still advancing refinement and development of new technologies, and hopefully this is going to, again, be coordination, and we've talked about it multiple times, of bringing some of the new technologies to our fishery-independent surveys, such as the ability to use and deploy AUVs as part of the ongoing process of doing surveys as well as doing things such as mapping, while they're going out and taking some of the technology, new technologies, from Teledyne or some of the different AUVs that are available, and so those discussions are ongoing and hopefully will be continuing to advance.

Also, an opportunity to even more closely connect the oceanographic survey information and data with the fisheries information is something that we're going to be continually discussing, and hopefully that will advance some of the discussions we had this morning too and more clearly connect those, but those are just some of the key highlights that I wanted to at least touch on for the coordination.

The other aspect that was on the agenda is that, in order to advance the EBFM in the entire country, there had been a directive to all the regions to create implementation plans for the regions, and we work closely with the Southeast Regional Office, and they developed a draft for the South Atlantic region. Comments were actually -- With the shifting of the timing of the council meeting, and we were going to have a more extensive discussion, but the comments were due this last Sunday, but we have made a request to Sam Rauch for an extension, and we are going to -- We are already drafting some comments specific to it, and what I did want to touch on is we included the draft in the document, and what I was going to highlight is what it's done is it has aligned the specific directives with the principles that were identified in the roadmap that we had seen a while back from NOAA Fisheries, and it's connected with the roadmap for EBFM as well as climate, and a lot of the drivers are the same.

Picking up where I left off before on some directives, I think the biggest things that are coming out of that implementation plan were documenting that, in our region, some of the biggest things that they are tasked to do on the short-term milestones and directives are creation of the climate vulnerability analysis, which we really -- After the discussion this morning, I think that's something that, again, needs to be ramped up and advanced more effectively.

I think what that does is it very specifically addresses many of the individual points that were identified in our two-year roadmap as well as some of the ones in the implementation plan will be, as you go through that process, identified. In addition, things such as supporting -- The other aspect of it was supporting the ecosystem status report. Again, if that's done right and we work with our partners, work with the states and others, a lot of the detail that will support how we advance our implementation plan efforts and the bigger picture will also back-fill all of that, and just making sure the crosswalk -- I think that's something we're going to have to work with the regional staff just to make sure that we document those and that as those different efforts go on that they take advantage of.

In addition to that, there is specifically -- I think it's going to be important that NOAA Fisheries and the Southeast Center again identify a representative, and there would be support from the region to identify a Science Center representative on the Habitat Advisory Panel. Originally, we

had one, and it got pulled back, for various reasons, and I think it's really important. Right now, we have the Habitat Conservation is actually the Vice Chairman of our Habitat Advisory Panel. It's critical timing, and Cindy Cooksey has done an excellent job of kind of bringing where a lot of those other directives that NOAA is doing to the table and keeping on that, but I think having the Center more directed, especially after some of the discussions we had earlier, is going to be really critical, and so that's something I think that, ultimately, we need to get that, and that would just be a standing position for the Southeast Center on the group.

The other aspect is that, in discussions previously on advancement of the climate vulnerability analysis, it was identified that we can build from the core managed species groups that we had that supported our Fishery Ecosystem Plan, and we had the compendium of knowledge of snapper grouper in the Southeast when we did that. I think building from that and tapping those individuals will be critical to advance that.

The other aspect that was offered by the Habitat Advisory, specifically the state representatives, and those would be individuals that can identify the other species experts, and so to work closely with the state representatives on the Habitat Advisory Panel will ensure that those other species experts are involved in that climate vulnerability work, and so I think those are some very straightforward recommendations, and I think that can happen, and, ultimately, in the way the plan is identified, it's to support the council's implementation plan, and so it goes back to that point about a lot of those very detailed points. I think, if these are done right, they're going to be addressed as these different components are advanced.

One of the other last ones was building a community vulnerability, and the only way they can do the community vulnerability is when we get the species vulnerabilities added in, effectively, and so I think there's a lot of those that are connected, and we will re-emphasize those as we provide that comment back to that, and so I think that's -- We're working closely, and there is the opportunity, but there just has to be the commitment.

The other aspect I think that has been a little bit of frustration from our region is the fact that they need to have those specific directives at the Region, at the Center, integrated into their tasks, because a lot of what I'm getting as they were developing production modeling or initiating some of these different things were those were on top of with no specific directive, and I think those directives have to be part of their standing orders, to make this happen, because all connected.

If we do not get some of those done and we do not collaborate, and it's all connected, and we won't get to where we need to in overall discussions on EBFM and the Roadmap and the Implementation Plan and the discussions we're having on collaboration with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regions. Those are kind of just the highlights on both coordination as well as how we're going to highlight and continue to coordinate on the South Atlantic Implementation Plan, and that's it.

MR. HAYMANS: Thank you, Roger. Are there any questions? Okay. I don't see an email on any of my three email accounts from Wilson, and if he's not online.

MR. PUGLIESE: Wilson is actually online, but I haven't heard any -- He was online. Wilson, if you're there, did you have anything to add to the --

MR. HAYMANS: I just wanted to make sure that he did have an opportunity.

MR. PUGLIESE: Yes, and he's been listening this morning, and we'll work closely with him on any of these discussions, and that was kind of a given.

MR. HAYMANS: Okay. If there's no questions, we are pretty much finished before we got started. That concludes the business of this committee, and I yield back two-and-one-half hours.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on October 2, 2018.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

Transcribed By
Amanda Thomas
October 23, 2018

HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

Wilson Laney, Chair

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HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

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LCDR Jeremy Montes

Steve Poland

Staff contact: John Hadley

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LCDR Jeremy Montes

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Spud Woodward

Staff contact: Myra Brouwer

MACKEREL COBIA

Doug Haymans, Chair

Steve Poland, Vice-Chair

Robert Beal

Anna Beckwith

(Mackerel Cobia Cont.)

Mel Bell

Roy Crabtree

Tim Griner

Jessica McCawley

Spud Woodward

Mid-Atlantic Liaison:

Rob O'Reilly

Dewey Hemilright

Tony DiLernia

Staff contact: Christina Wiegand

PERSONNEL

Chester Brewer, Chair

Mel Bell, Vice-Chair

Doug Haymans

Jessica McCawley

Steve Poland

Staff contact: Gregg Waugh

PROTECTED RESOURCES

Wilson Laney, Chair

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Robert Beal

Mel Bell

Jessica McCawley

LCDR Jeremy Montes

Steve Poland

Staff contact: Christina Wiegand

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Spud Woodward

Staff contact: John Carmichael

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Jesscia McCawley, Chair

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Robert Beal

Roy Crabtree

Tim Griner

Doug Haymans

Steve Poland

Staff contact: John Carmichael

2018 Council Members

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Acting Chair

Jessica McCawley
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission
2590 Executive Center Circle E.
Suite 201
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850)487-0554 (ph); (850)487-4847 (f)
Jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com

Acting Vice-Chair

Mel Bell
SCDNR-Marine Resources Division
P.O. Box 12559
217 Ft. Johnson Road
Charleston, SC 29422
(843)953-9007 (ph); (843)953-9159 (fax)
bellm@dnr.sc.gov

Robert Beal
Executive Director
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St.
Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, VA 22201
(703)842-0740 (ph); (703)842-0741 (f)
rbeal@asmfc.org

✓ Anna Beckwith
1907 Paulette Road
Morehead City, NC 28557
(252)671-3474 (ph)
AnnaBarriosBeckwith@gmail.com

✓ Chester Brewer
250 Australian Ave. South
Suite 1400
West Palm Beach, FL 33408
(561)655-4777 (ph)
wcbsafmc@gmail.com

✓ Dr. Kyle Christiansen
150 Cedar St.
Richmond Hill, GA 31324
(912)756-7560 (ph)
christiansensafmc@gmail.com

Chris Conklin
P.O. Box 972
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
(843)543-3833
conklinsafmc@gmail.com

✓ Dr. Roy Crabtree
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Region
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727)824-5301 (ph); (727)824-5320 (f)
roy.crabtree@noaa.gov

Tim Griner
4446 Woodlark Lane
Charlotte, NC 28211
(980)722-0918 (ph)
timgrinersafmc@gmail.com

Doug Haymans
Coastal Resources Division
GA Dept. of Natural Resources
One Conservation Way
Suite 300
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912)264-7218 (ph); (912)262-2318 (f)
haymanssafmc@gmail.com

Dr. Wilson Laney
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Atlantic Fisheries Coordinator
P.O. Box 33683
Raleigh, NC 27695
(919)515-5019 (ph); (919)515-4415 (f)
Wilson_Laney@fws.gov

✓ LCDR. Jeremy Montes
U.S. Coast Guard
909 SE 1st Ave.
Miami, FL 33131
(305)415-6788(ph); (305)710-4569(c)
Jeremy.J.Montes@uscg.mil

• Stephen Poland
NC Division of Marine Fisheries
PO Box 769
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557
(252)808-8011 (direct); (252)726-7021 (main)
Steve.Poland@ncdenr.gov

Art Sapp
2270 NE 25th St.
Lighthouse Pointe, FL 33064
(954)444-0820 (ph)
artsappsafmc@gmail.com

Deirdre Warner-Kramer
Office of Marine Conservation OES/OMC
2201 C Street, N.W.
Department of State, Room 5806
Washington, DC 20520
(202)647-3228 (ph)
Warner-KramerDM@state.gov

✓ Spud Woodward
860 Buck Swamp Road
Brunswick, GA 31523
(912)258-8970 (ph)
swoodwardsafmc@gmail.com

OPEN AT-LARGE SEAT

Dr. Jack McGovern
Monica Smit-Brunello
Dr. Erik Williams
Dr. Tom Frazer
Rick DeNictor
Erika Burgess
Dr. Marcel Reichert

Council Staff

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Executive Director

✓ Gregg T. Waugh
Gregg.waugh@safmc.net

Deputy Directory-Science & Statistics

✓ John Carmichael
John.carmichael@safmc.net

Deputy Director-Management

✓ Dr. Brian Chevront
Brian.chevront@safmc.net

Fishery Scientist

✓ Myra Brouwer
Myra.brouwer@safmc.net

Outreach Specialist

Kathleen Howington
Kathleen.howington@safmc.net

Admin. Secretary/Travel Coordinator

Cindy Chaya
Cindy.chaya@safmc.net

Public Information Officer

✓ Kim Iverson
Kim.iverson@safmc.net

Purchasing & Grants

✓ Kimberly Cole
Kimberly.cole@safmc.net

Senior Fishery Biologist

✓ Roger Pugliese
Roger.pugliese@safmc.net

Fishery Scientist

✓ Dr. Chip Collier
Chip.collier@safmc.net

Outreach Specialist

✓ Cameron Rhodes
Cameron.rhodes@safmc.net

Administrative Officer

✓ Mike Collins
Mike.collins@safmc.net

Accounting

Suzanna Thomas
Suzanna.thomas@safmc.net

Outreach Specialist

✓ Kelsey Dick
Kelsey.dick@safmc.net

Citizen Science Program Manager

✓ Amber Von Harten
Amber.vonharten@safmc.net

Fishery Biologist

✓ Dr. Mike Errigo
Mike.errigo@safmc.net

Fishery Social Scientist

✓ Christina Wiegand
Christina.wiegand@safmc.net

Fishery Economist

✓ John Hadley
John.hadley@safmc.net

SEDAR Coordinators

✓ Dr. Julie Neer- Julie.neer@safmc.net
Julia Byrd- Julia.byrd@safmc.net

September Council mtg webinar-day 2- 10/2/18

| Last Name | First Name | Email Address |
|--------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Bailey | Adam | adam.bailey@noaa.gov |
| Bianchi | Alan | Alan.Bianchi@ncdenr.gov |
| Bonura | Vincent | SailRaiser25C@aol.com |
| Bowen | Zack | fishzack@comcast.net |
| Bubley | Wally | bubleyw@dnr.sc.gov |
| Burgess | Erika | erika.burgess@myfwc.com |
| CLARKE | LORA | lclarke@pewtrusts.org |
| Cheshire | Rob | rob.cheshire@noaa.gov |
| Conklin | Chris | conklinsafmc@gmail.com |
| Cox | Jack | dayboat1965@gmail.com |
| Cunningham | Leda | lcunningham@pewtrusts.org |
| Cunningham | Leda | ledacunningham@gmail.com |
| DeVictor | Rick | rdevictor@yahoo.com |
| Denes | James | jamesd156@yahoo.com |
| Dingle | Julie | dinglej@dnr.sc.gov |
| Fenyk | Cynthia | cynthia.fenyk@noaa.gov |
| Foss | Kristin | kristin.foss@myfwc.com |
| Foster | Dean | dfoster@pewtrusts.org |
| Glasgow | Dawn | glasgowd@dnr.sc.gov |
| Gore | Karla | KARLAGORE@GMAIL.COM |
| Gray | Alisha | alisha.dileone@noaa.gov |
| Hart | Hannah | hannah.hart@myfwc.com |
| Howington | kathleen | kathleen.howington@safmc.net |
| Hudson | Rusty | DSF2009@aol.com |
| Johnson | Denise | denise.johnson@noaa.gov |
| Laks | Ira | captainira@att.net |
| Laney | Wilson | wilson_laney@fws.gov |
| Lazarre | Dominique | dominique.lazarre@myfwc.com |
| Leonard | Shane | mshaneleonard75@gmail.com |
| McGovern | John | John.McGovern@noaa.gov |
| Mehta | Nikhil | nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov |
| Miller | Kyle | kyle.miller@myfwc.com |
| Morrison | Wendy | wendy.morrison@noaa.gov |
| Package-Ward | Christina | christina.package-ward@noaa.gov |
| Petersen | Bo | bopete@postandcourier.com |
| Pugliese | Roger | roger.pugliese@safmc.net |
| Pulver | Jeff | Jeff.Pulver@noaa.gov |

| | | |
|------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Ralston | Kellie | kralston@asafishing.org |
| Records | David | david.records@noaa.gov |
| Sapp | Art | artsappsafmc@gmail.com |
| Sedberry | George | george.sedberry@gmail.com |
| Seward | McLean | mclean.seward@ncdenr.gov |
| Sramek | Mark | Mark.Sramek@noaa.gov |
| Takade-Heumacher | Helen | htakade@edf.org |
| Wrege | Beth | beth.Wrege@noaa.gov |
| Young | Ryan | wfdtruckie@yahoo.com |
| brewer | chester | wcbsafmc@gmail.com |
| h | g | mec181@yahoo.com |
| iverson | kim | kim.iverson@safmc.net |
| poland | steve | steve.poland@ncdenr.gov |
| sandorf | scott | scott.sandorf@noaa.gov |
| smart | tracey | smartt@dnr.sc.gov |
| t | suz | suzanna.thomas@safmc.net |
| vara | mary | mary.vara@noaa.gov |
| Beaty | Julia | jbeaty@mafmc.org |
| Duffin | Ben | Benjamin.duffin@myfwc.com |
| Helies | Frank | frank.helies@noaa.gov |
| Iberle | Allie | aboltz1@jhu.edu |
| Rhodes | Ray | rhodesr@cofc.edu |

Tuesday Sign-in Sheet - 10/2/18

| Name | Last | Email | How do you participate in fisheries in the South Atlantic? | | | | |
|-------|------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|-----|----------------------|
| Leda | Cunningham | lcunningham@pewtrusts.org | | | | NGO | |
| Lora | Clarke | | | | | NGO | |
| Dean | Foster | | | | | NGO | |
| Rusty | Hudson | | | | | | Fisheries Consultant |