

# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Bahia Mar Doubletree by Hilton  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

**June 11, 2018**

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

#### **Habitat and Ecosystem Based Management Committee Members**

Doug Haymans, Chair	Mel Bell, Vice-Chair
Mark Brown	Dr. Michelle Duval
Tim Griner	Jessica McCawley

#### **Council Members**

Charlie Phillips	Anna Beckwith
Zack Bowne	Chester Brewer
Chris Conklin	Dr. Roy Crabtree
Ben Hartig	

#### **Council Staff**

Gregg Waugh	John Carmichael
Dr. Brian Chevront	Myra Brouwer
Kimberly Cole	Dr. Chip Collier
Dr. Mike Errigo	John Hadley
Kim Iverson	Roger Pugliese
Cameron Rhodes	Amber Von Harten
Christina Wiegand	

#### **Observers & Participants**

Monica Smit-Brunello	Dr. Clay Porch
Lt. Warren Fair	Dale Diaz
Erika Burgess	Dr. Jack McGovern
Dewey Hemilright	Dr. Jessica Stephen
Nik Mehta	Shep Grimes
Mary Vera	Dr. George Sedberry
Rick DeVictor	Dr. Erik Williams
Tracy Dunn	Steve Murphey
Karla Gore	Karen Raine
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 Bahia Mar Doubletree by Hilton, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Monday afternoon, June 11, 2018, and was called to order by Chairman Doug Haymans.

MR. HAYMANS: We will call the Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee to order. You have the agenda in front of you. Any additions or changes to the agenda? Seeing none, we will accept the agenda as presented. You have a copy of the December 2017 committee minutes, and hopefully you have reviewed those. Are there any additions or corrections? Seeing none, we will accept those minutes as presented. With that, I'm going to make a commitment to you that we're going to finish by 6:15, and so, Roger, it's yours.

MR. PUGLIESE: We will. We will have an abbreviated version of discussion, or not really. I think, mainly, what I'm going to do is go into the report-out from the advisory panel, which is the primary component of what we were trying to address here today, and, really, what that's going to do is highlight our continued development and work on implementation of FEP II as well as how we're working with our partners in NOAA Fisheries to advance the different aspects that they're working on as well as our regional partners. That said, I will go directly to the report.

MR. HAYMANS: It's Tab 7, Attachment 1.

MR. PUGLIESE: Yes, Tab 7, Attachment 1, and it provides a lot of detail that you can really look at at your leisure, in terms of connections directly to presentations that were provided during the advisory panel meeting, and what we did do is we walked in and opened up with the FEP II Dashboard, and Cameron provided an overview of the entire system.

One of the key things that we highlighted is it has -- It integrates the implementation plan and the roadmap, the final roadmap, and all the sections that were finalized at the last meeting, and so all the pieces and parts of the FEP II Dashboard are operational, and so we provided -- We spent more time and focus on how do we involve from here, and we got into some of the same discussions as before about advancing additional information from state components as well as how we can ramp up our connections with partners, which had a real big component of this entire advisory panel meeting, with the work we did with the Ocean Observing and BOEM at this meeting and the Navy, actually, at the end of the meeting.

One of the things that was really highlighted was that the panel was going to look at going back to the roadmap itself and really get into the guts of what potential partners are and try to advance how we move those components of the roadmap forward and set the stage. We're supposed to be doing this annually, in the spring meeting, to have a review of how many things have been accomplished within the FEP II roadmap and implementation plan, and so we're trying to get ahead of the curve and begin to have some of those discussions in advance of that, and so that was one of the aspects that the panel provided and guidance and additional discussion we'll have in advance of the fall meeting this year.

What that moved us into was the other aspect of everything we discussed here was application, and this next section talked directly about conservation and FMPs, and what it really did was looked at all of the different tools. I had Tina Udouj provide an overview of all the different developed components, but how those tools can be applied and how the services have evolved, so that you can generate reports and components, and, again, this is something that we'll probably

have hands-on activity at the next fall advisory panel meeting, to actually generate some of these individual reports, so you can look at what we have in those sites and align things, such as, for example, the glider tracks that the Ocean Observing Association was looking at and see what those intersect in, in terms of council-managed areas, species that may be affected by those, and there's all types of capabilities that we're really going to advance, and so this gets to really trying to apply and utilize the information.

The other aspect was that Cindy Cooksey, who is now our new vice chairman of the advisory panel, and she's with the Habitat Conservation Division under Pace Wilber, and she highlighted that there's many people that are using the website and the Dashboard and components for developing all the environmental impact statements in the Region for many of our regional partners and organizations, as well as in permitting. Anything that we can do to further refine the information and tailor it so some of those aspects can be addressed would be a real benefit, and so that's something that they wanted to advance, and so we'll be discussing with the Region how to do that as well as with the states, et cetera, and how some of those things can be tailored so they can be used in different aspects. That is something that that's going to evolve the dashboard and tools and components even further from where it is now.

The other aspect of the -- Two of the areas that were highlighted at the last meeting that are going to go live immediately after the council meeting is there is the newest service, that ACCSP service, where you can actually go in and query the information specifically from ACCSP, and that will be part of the tools on the council's website as well as the -- We've been discussing the artificial reef components, and this is going to highlight that and ramp up some of the information systems and a dedicated service to artificial reefs, and so those are both going to be operational after the council meeting. They're fully operational in the background, but we just want to tweak them and make sure that they're going to mesh well and have appropriate introductions in the sessions.

One of the other aspects that was addressed at this meeting was, very specifically, the activities on ecosystem-based management through the National Marine Fisheries Service, and, since Cindy had stepped up and has become the new representative, we tasked her immediately with trying to coordinate a review of everything that is actually happening within our region, and so she highlighted the information on NOAA Fisheries development of their implementation plan that Karla Gore is spearheading with the Region and John Quinlan's advancements of the climate vulnerability analysis in the South Atlantic region and the efforts through Todd Kellison and others at Beaufort Lab on the development of ecosystem status reports.

All of those different components, at some level or other, are going to have some completion by the end of 2018. With that said, there was a lot of discussion at the AP meeting that one of the things that really needs to occur is the opportunity to, say specifically for the climate vulnerability analysis, that they're going to be reaching out for individual species experts to work with our state representatives on the panel, to advance those and to identify those and potentially train those, so they can be part of the process of compiling that information for those individual species.

That also dovetails really nicely with what we did when we did the managed species section and we had the compendium of essentially the snapper grouper expertise, and that's something we're going to work together to make sure that we kind of build all of those together and maybe accomplishing multiple tasks, the climate vulnerability analysis, advancement of Ecospecies,

advancement of what we had talked about with mapping strategies, through one kind of a component meeting or connected discussions.

Again, it's trying to align what is going on with the National Marine Fisheries Service with the council and with our partners to build on everything we've been doing to get those things further, and that's the same way with the ecosystem status reports. There are a lot of our partners with the Landscape Conservation Cooperative and with the Ocean Observing Associations that are building tools and capabilities that really can inform something that could be used in an ecosystem status report.

As a follow-up in the discussion that is highlighted in the report, and there were a number of different points that were kind of bigger-picture things that were highlighted. As we talk about the commitment for those, those are all well and fine to create a lot of different components, and there was some background support that was identified, and a couple of them were that the directives to both the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and the Southeast Regional Office for ecosystems needs to be something more specific, because one of the pushbacks we always get, or not pushbacks, but just acknowledgements, is the fact that a lot of those are not part of their directives and routine, et cetera, and so I think that's some of the intent, from on-high moving down, is that those types of things be identified as part of their routine, so that you can get the commitment to make some of these different products available, so it goes all the way into supporting both the council's activities but also some of these different tools that were tied directly to their national roadmap to the climate roadmap and a number of different things, and so the commitment is there, but they need to make sure that the staff is given sufficient directive that that actually is part of their responsibility.

A couple of the other ones that are kind of foundational things are that funding to core information systems that are supporting, basically, ecosystem management in our region, such as the fishery independent surveys, SEAMAP and MARMAP and SEFIS, are fully funded and we understand what is needed, because a lot of that information is directly going to affect and drive the future into better assessments as well as the ecosystem models that are in development and in process.

The other aspect, and, again, this is kind of dovetailing with the intent of this entire meeting, was that we need to take advantage of new technology. With South Carolina DNR putting a million-dollars into the R/V Palmetto and giving it a longer life into the system and into surveys, there really needs to be the opportunity to look at adding to that entire operation.

There is absolutely no reason that we shouldn't be carrying additional mapping capabilities and new technology AUV systems. They have a crane on the vessel now that we can carry a number of these different technologies and have such an added effect that, if there is a real commitment in our region to do this, we need to get some of the tools that are normally being used in some of the regions brought into our system, and we have platforms that are already operational to do it and some of those things, and so the commitment is there, and we need to advance those.

Again, that dovetails nicely with some of the discussions later in this meeting, and I had mentioned before about direct connection our habitat protection advisors, and that is key, and they stepped forward and made those recommendations at this meeting. The other this is to support and continue the modeling efforts. As I mentioned before, that modeling effort is totally funded

through the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. Now, they have committed to participating and enhancing and providing inputs, and it is happening.

The efforts of the modeling efforts are actually advancing significantly. The Regional Office, or the Southeast Center, I should say, is providing directly the inputs that are needed for integrating what is done on the other assessments, and so what we have is timelines now where we are looking at -- I was going back and forth with Tom Okey, and we're looking at, by the end of June, to have the model actually assembled. By July 31, the time series will be incorporated and ready to run, and then calibration in August, and actual initial spatial scenarios in September, and so we are moving forward with this.

NOAA Fisheries is stepping forward and providing information into those core areas, and the SEAMAP and fishery-dependent surveys provided key information for the diet compositions, for catch information, for biomass estimates, all types of things that they wrapped up and provided, and the latest fine-resolution ACCSP information is being integrated into the system, and so all the wheels are turning to advance those timeframes that I mentioned.

That really did advance some of the key areas, and one of the other things that was a pick-up from the last meeting is they finalized the threat matrix that connected both the threats from the policies identified and kind of cross-walked all of those, and that will go into the Dashboard, and it's one of the newest components of the Dashboard. Also, in those discussions, identifying what other types of policies may need to be addressed.

The rest of the meeting really was intended to work with our partners, and two major aspects were highlighted. We had presentations from Deborah Hernandez, the Executive Director of the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association, to really set the stage about what is going on with the ocean observing capabilities in the region, the fact that we have multiple plans that have been developed on radar, on glider arrays, on mooring systems, our ten-year build-out plan, the building of the portal system for advancing that information, all these different aspects of what is advancing on observing, and then the idea there is how do we add in the fisheries needs under each one of these different components so that it really justifies how we advance those.

One of the first things we did was, as I mentioned earlier, is taking things like the glider array that is proposed and basically laying over all of our managed areas and different things and having the initial discussion of, okay, how do we adjust these to align those so that, when they're doing their routine surveys, they are capturing those shelf areas, because, I mean, if you look at it, and that's one of the images that was added into the report, there is enough variation that you could literally do that very straightforward, and so we provide a foundation for some of this.

That really provided -- What you see are some recommendations in there on how to advance some of these, and it got to everything from the needs for those different plans, but also even into the beginnings of discussions of what we were talking about earlier, citizen science and opportunities that individuals can begin to collect things such as environmental information and integrate that into the system.

It opened the door about that, and I think we're going to have some discussions next week about how to advance some of those, and I think what came out of the AP discussion was building maybe

something that would be a proposal that could be advanced to do like a test of something that would link these different systems.

One of the other aspects was also other things beyond this, such as -- I talked about new technology under the SEAMAP and other programs and also the integration of the environmental information coming from things such as those vessels on the water already. That needs to also be looked at as the opportunity to take that information and fine-tune the models into the future. It's going to take commitments on both sides to be able to advance that, and there has to be real commitment that they are vested in fisheries to make this happen, and we've had those discussions, and here is the opportunity to do it.

That really set the stage to open the door to have the discussions to hit it from multiple fronts, and we have our SEAMAP South Atlantic and joint committees coming up, and that's something that I am going to push, as the chair, continuous advancement of this, and so that's something else that is moving forward, and so all these things are all kind of connecting at one time.

The other aspect, the other part, of the collaboration was highlighting how some of these tools can immediately be translated into fishery information needs, and Laurent Cherubin with Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute did a specific presentation on how they were using glider systems to characterize spawning information, using acoustics to be able to connect in and map, literally, distributions of species within some of these different areas, every place from Belize to actually some of the area test beds in the South Atlantic area, and so it was really -- The idea there is, again, how do you use this to actually provide tools and provide response things, and that has major implications for opportunities to figure out how we use those on our individual spawning special management zones and deepwater marine protected areas. That was really intending to -- It was how do we advance this further and how do we get some of these tools and how do we do more of these type of projects to align with the council's needs.

The other major aspect of the meeting was focused on the advancing efforts under renewable energy. We had a very comprehensive review of all the different aspects of things, everything from sand-source model capabilities that we're collaborating with BOEM on to figure out how to really define sand shoal systems and species use to the continuous discussions on OCS, but then really focusing a lot of the efforts on the renewable energy.

Primarily, BOEM has just published the Path Forward for Renewable Energy that is highlighted in here, and they are actually requesting information on how they advance, and that system is just so much different than any other aspect that they have. The research, the detailed research systems, that they have put together for all of this, is pretty phenomenal.

The commitment to align it with whatever is needed for an area, including specifically fisheries needs, is there, and so we really wanted to take advantage of both providing some research recommendations but also having some input on how we advance these different things into the future, and so, again, looking at some of the proposals under this path forward, they were really laying out things that we're considering, such as the reality that the existing technology really is a foundation-based wind system, and so, at a sixty-meter contour, that's about the limit you would go, and so one of the other spatial presentations in this report is aligning that sixty-meter contour with our managed area, and, as it turns out, most of the deeper-edge habitats and protected areas

that we have designated are outside the bounds, and so, preliminarily, in the focus areas, it's away from some of the other areas.

Now, it is a key area, the shelf areas, and I think the idea is that we still have significant considerations on these, and so the discussion there, again, was to advance how we provide -- I think that was the big take-away from the advisors, was that we have very extensive spatial information on species, on habitat, and that that needs to be considered as they advance the effort on the Path Forward and figure out how to be innovative on understanding everything from acoustic implications to placement to even distribution of how some of these different systems might be built, so that they could either work with the fishermen, in terms of creating distributed patterns, so that they may advance fishing opportunities in different areas, and so they're a lot more willing to have those kinds of discussions, and I think the biggest thing we wanted to do was to keep the momentum going, in terms of highlighting how we can ensure that the conservation efforts there to protect species and habitats, but also promoting or providing the incentive that we can work with them to move things forward.

They did extend the comment period to July 5, with an online capability, and what we wanted to do was potentially just pick up on some of the AP recommendations and then craft it so that it does highlight connections to our essential habitat and other areas, so that they understand, which I think they do, about the concerns of the council and some of the significant conservation efforts already in place that need to be taken into consideration in the big picture.

The last point I was going to make is that we also had Laura Busch from the Navy provide an overview of the Fleet Forces review of the entire Atlantic system and how they are proceeding, and I think National Marine Fisheries Service had their input on essential habitat and Magnuson considerations just recently, and, into July, that is supposed to be advance further, and I guess finalized within the next two months.

That is the bulk of everything that happened, and that was really where we wanted to kind of focus. You've got a lot of momentum from our advisors and from NOAA Fisheries and from our regional partners. One final point about the Southeast Regional Association is that, while all the budgets and things are going one way, last year, the 2018 budget, it went from \$30 million to \$35 million. They actually got a \$4.3-million increase, with the acknowledgment of how important things such as HF radar and different aspects of that for the entire area, and so that was the AP's work and our partners' work.

MR. HAYMANS: Questions?

MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Roger. That was efficient. I am impressed. One of the bullets that I saw were birds. If the site is greater than ten miles offshore, they avoid most bird migrations. Actually, I've got friends that work with like manumit up north, and especially off the Georgia bight. That is not necessarily accurate, because they are shooting across, and so, if you want me to have them contact you, because they have got maps that show their bird migrations, because they put tags on a lot of these things, and they are tracking the birds themselves. I can get that to you, and then you can get it to whichever partners need that.

MR. PUGLIESE: Yes, and that's perfect, because the idea is that they tried to pick these bigger-picture areas, and some of them are very generalized, in terms of how they took the approach of

what they put into those. Some of them are very specific, like the closed areas, and they were right off the bat, and I think it just was trying to frame what are the bigger considerations that may need to be taken off the board, right off the front, and so that may be one aspect, but there may be other things, such as building corridors, or things that they need to consider, and that kind of information, I think, will lead them down the road. It's just like us talking about some of the protected areas that aren't necessarily folded in there right now, too.

DR. DUVAL: I definitely appreciate everything that the AP discussed, Roger, and I appreciated all the links to the presentations. I really liked Tina's presentation, and I appreciated Deborah's presentation about -- I didn't realize that SECOORA was also engaged in the use of gliders, and so I think that's awesome.

A couple of things just on the climate vulnerability assessment. I noticed that, in the presentation there, there was a slide on the councils have a role to play and council input, and so I know that there is some species scoring in there that mentions the use of expert opinion, and I guess I would just put in a plug for the kind of expert opinion that we have solicited through the use of our advisory panels and SSCs, as this effort continues forward, and then, in terms of like dissemination of this information or what products would most help the councils, I think maybe some assistance with MSEs, management strategy evaluations, in the face of some of these potential shifts.

I think Ocean Adapt is a great tool that has come out, and I think what really brings things home is when you can visualize them, and so any correlations between managed species and any prey that are going to be impacted by climate change would be nice to know, and I think always the predictive maps of potential distributional changes, like you can see with Ocean Adapt, are great for council members to see, and I think that, rather than reading through a lengthy report, which I think a detailed report is good for background, but also something shorter, like pictorial in nature, can be extremely helpful as well. Thank you.

MR. PUGLIESE: Yes, and I think they're early enough in this process that I think they were just stepping forward to try to pattern it after say ones that have been done in the past, and the fact that we do have partners that have been working on spatial presentations, and we have the ecosystem modeling that is advancing that has connection to some of the environmental work and modeling capability that came out of NC State, and I think those all will lead to maybe more productive, more visual, more creative ways to look at all those different products, or at least that's the intent, is that we've got a number of people that can contribute.

I think, at first, they were almost looking at it as being very focused, and I think that was where the AP even stepped out and them providing some of the expertise, but also opportunities for a lot of the different ones that are already working on some of these that provide, like you said, those visual tools, and I think those are a lot more powerful, and I think we can definitely advance how to integrate those and how to present those and then how to refine those as we work with them, and I think their commitment is to move -- They are looking for some of the guidance right now too, and so I think that's going to be critical.

MR. BELL: Roger, that was a lot of work putting that together, and I really liked having the presentations and all linked in. If you weren't at the meeting, it makes it like you were at the meeting, in some respects, but it's amazing how many different things are going on and just how



much capability is out there, and so just trying to comprehend all of it is kind of overwhelming, quite honestly, but thanks for putting all of that together. That was a nice job.

MR. HAYMANS: I also noticed how easily South Carolina slid the request for Lady Lisa replacement just into the text there.

MR. BELL: She's a wooden boat, and they don't last forever.

MR. HAYMANS: We are replacing ours. Anything else? Any directions for Roger of things that we need to see? Very good. Seeing none, Mr. Chairman, I yield back five minutes. Well, I was premature.

MR. HARTIG: I would be remiss if I didn't get a chance to say that I did get to go to the SECOORA meeting, and I did get to make a presentation, and you do have that behind Tab A-7. What it does -- I mean, you can run the second map slide, and it will show you exactly what the cold-water model showed. The deepwater model showed the cold-water upwelling up on the shelf and moving south.

Then you can see a description of what transpired in the fishery during that time, and it was so cool for Ruoying He to put this stuff together and actually show, exactly on the same timeline that I gave him -- He showed exactly what happened, exactly the same current patterns that changed, without the satellite imagery. It was just with the deepwater model, and so that was really cool, the way that happened. You can actually see what happened, all I've been talking about all these years and other mackerel fishermen have told you, and so the other thing is going to that meeting was really cool.

I mean, I got exposed to these five-minute presentations of what their PIs were doing, and, my goodness, there is some really neat stuff happening in the ocean and in ocean observing, and so it was a really, really great experience, and, if you have a chance to go to one of the SECOORA meetings, I highly recommend it, because you will meet a bunch of people, and you will see some really neat stuff that is happening on the water that Roger tries to explain, but you get actually the presentation to show you what they're really doing, and so it's cool.

DR. DUVAL: Very quick, exactly what Ben was talking about, and I saw Ben's presentation, is one of the reasons why I wanted that extra term of reference added to the cobia assessment, because I think if you can get someone like a Ruoying He at a data workshop, or it doesn't necessarily have to be a data workshop, but talking to the fishermen like that, and, especially for our highly migratory species, that's really important for the folks who are on the water to be able to see confirmation of the changes that they are seeing on the water with those environmental models. Thank you.

MR. PUGLIESE: I will distribute the PowerPoint that actually has the slide that shows that, because that was -- You all might not realize it, but Ruoying got his students to march up -- In the spawning special management zones appendix, and it got buried in an appendix, is a characterization of each one of those area's environmental components that he had his staff do, which the intent was that be the beginning of then how do we environmentally characterize those into the future, full-blown environmental.

He just gave a couple of parameters, but it got us to kind of set the stage, and then this kind of capability -- What has happened is that, from that point to here, things have advanced so far, because what has happened is a new organization or component has developed, the Fathom Science, and they are using cloud calculation capability, through Amazon and Google, that takes it to what might have taken a month to develop or something, they can do it in almost -- Those were literally a couple of days that he was able to generate the entire bottom temperature scenarios, and we're looking at tools that can advance that into the future, as maybe predictive capabilities. We have been talking about this upwelling stuff for a long time, and so having that right in front of them, I think it even impressed many of the other SECOORA members, too.

MR. HAYMANS: Mr. Chairman, I take it back. Is there any additional business to come before the Habitat Committee? Seeing none, that concludes the business of the Habitat Committee.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on June 11, 2018.)

Certified By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcribed By  
Amanda Thomas  
July 19, 2018

## 2018 Council Committees

### SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Chris Conklin  
Michelle Duval  
Ben Hartig  
Charlie Phillips  
Staff contact: Kim Iverson

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Zack Bowen  
Chester Brewer  
Chris Conklin  
Michelle Duval  
Tim Griner  
Charlie Phillips  
Staff contact: Amber Von Harten  
Staff contact: John Carmichael

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Zack Bowen  
Mark Brown  
Tim Griner  
Wilson Laney  
Ben Hartig  
Staff contact: John Carmichael

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Chris Conklin  
Roy Crabtree  
Tim Griner

*(Dolphin Wahoo cont.)*

Jessica McCawley  
LCDR Jeremy Montes  
Mid-Atlantic Liaison:  
Tony Dilernia  
Dewey Hemilright  
New England Liaison:  
Rick Bellavance  
Staff contact: John Hadley

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Doug Haymans  
Jessica McCawley  
Staff contact: Gregg Waugh

#### GOLDEN CRAB

Ben Hartig, Chair  
Jessica McCawley, Vice-Chair  
Chris Conklin  
Tim Griner  
Charlie Phillips  
Staff contact: Brian Chevront

#### HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM- BASED MANAGEMENT

✓ Doug Haymans, Co-Chair  
Wilson Laney, Co-Chair  
✓ Robert Beal  
✓ Mel Bell  
✓ Mark Brown  
✓ Michelle Duval  
✓ Tim Griner  
✓ Jessica McCawley  
Staff contact: Roger Pugliese  
FEP: Chip Collier – Coral/CEBA

## 2018 Council Members

### SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

#### COUNCIL CHAIR

✓ Charlie Phillips  
Phillips Seafood/Sapelo Sea Farms  
1418 Sapelo Ave  
N.E. Townsend, GA 31331  
(912)832-4423  
Ga\_capt@yahoo.com

#### VICE CHAIR

Mark Brown  
3642 Pandora Drive  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466  
(843)881-9735 (ph.); (843)881-4446 (f)  
Capt.markbrown101@gmail.com

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

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

✓ Zack Bowen  
P.O. Box 30825  
Savannah, GA 31410  
(912)398-3733 (ph)  
zackbowensafmc@gmail.com

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

Dr. Michelle Duval  
NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
PO Box 769  
3441 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
(252)808-8011 (ph); (252)726-0254 (f)  
michelle.duval@ncdenr.gov

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

✓ Ben Hartig  
9277 Sharon Street  
Hobe Sound, FL 33455  
(772)546-1541 (ph)  
mackattackben@att.net

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

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

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

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); (202)736-7350 (f)  
Warner-KramerDM@state.gov

Monica Smit-Brunello  
Dr. Clay Porch  
Lt. Warren Fair  
Date Diaz  
Dewey Hemilnight  
Erika Burgess  
Dr. Jack McGovern  
Rick DeVictor  
Dr. Erik Williams  
Dr. George Sedberry  
Nik Mehta  
Dr. Jessica Stevens  
Tracey Dunn  
Steve Murphy  
Mary Vera

Karla Gore  
Karen Rain  
Shep Grimes  
Dr. Marcel Reichert

# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## Council Staff

### Executive Director

✓ Gregg T. Waugh  
[Gregg.waugh@safmc.net](mailto:Gregg.waugh@safmc.net)

### Deputy Directory-Science & Statistics

✓ John Carmichael  
[John.carmichael@safmc.net](mailto:John.carmichael@safmc.net)

### Deputy Director-Management

✓ Dr. Brian Chevront  
[Brian.chevront@safmc.net](mailto:Brian.chevront@safmc.net)

### Fishery Scientist

✓ Myra Brouwer  
[Myra.brouwer@safmc.net](mailto:Myra.brouwer@safmc.net)

### Outreach Specialist

Kathleen Howington  
[Kathleen.howington@safmc.net](mailto:Kathleen.howington@safmc.net)

### Admin. Secretary/ Travel Coordinator

Cindy Chaya  
[Cindy.chaya@safmc.net](mailto:Cindy.chaya@safmc.net)

### Public Information Officer

✓ Kim Iverson  
[Kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:Kim.iverson@safmc.net)

### Purchasing & Grants

✓ Kimberly Cole  
[Kimberly.cole@safmc.net](mailto:Kimberly.cole@safmc.net)

### Senior Fishery Biologist

✓ Roger Pugliese  
[Roger.pugliese@safmc.net](mailto:Roger.pugliese@safmc.net)

### Fishery Scientist

✓ Dr. Chip Collier  
[Chip.collier@safmc.net](mailto:Chip.collier@safmc.net)

### Outreach Specialist

✓ Cameron Rhodes  
[Cameron.rhodes@safmc.net](mailto:Cameron.rhodes@safmc.net)

### Administrative Officer

Mike Collins  
[Mike.collins@safmc.net](mailto:Mike.collins@safmc.net)

### Financial Secretary

Suzanna Thomas  
[Suzanna.thomas@safmc.net](mailto:Suzanna.thomas@safmc.net)

### Outreach Specialist

✓ Kelsey Dick  
[Kelsey.dick@safmc.net](mailto:Kelsey.dick@safmc.net)

### Citizen Science Program Manager

✓ Amber Von Harten  
[Amber.vonharten@safmc.net](mailto:Amber.vonharten@safmc.net)

### Fishery Biologist

✓ Dr. Mike Errigo  
[Mike.errigo@safmc.net](mailto:Mike.errigo@safmc.net)

### Fishery Social Scientist

✓ Christina Wiegand  
[Christina.wiegand@safmc.net](mailto:Christina.wiegand@safmc.net)

### Fishery Economist

✓ John Hadley  
[John.hadley@safmc.net](mailto:John.hadley@safmc.net)

### SEDAR Coordinators

Dr. Julie Neer- [Julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:Julie.neer@safmc.net)  
Julia Byrd- [Julia.byrd@safmc.net](mailto:Julia.byrd@safmc.net)

# June Council Mtg Day 1 6/11/18

Last Name	First Name	Email Address
Abeels	Holly	habeels@ufl.edu
Bianchi	Alan	Alan.Bianchi@ncdenr.gov
Brennan	Ken	kenneth.brennan@noaa.gov
Bublely	Wally	bublelyw@dnr.sc.gov
Byrd	Julia	julia.byrd@safmc.net
Clarke	Lora	lclarke@pewtrusts.org
Conklin	Chris	conklinsafmc@gmail.com
Defilippi Simpson	Julie	julie.simpson@accsp.org
Diaz	Dale	Saltwaterlife@live.com
Duval	Michelle	michelle.duval@ncdenr.gov
Erwin	Gwen	gwen.erwin@myfwc.com
Foss	Kristin	kristin.foss@myfwc.com
Gerhart	Susan	susan.gerhart@noaa.gov
Godwin	Joelle	joelle.godwin@noaa.gov
Guyas	Martha	martha.guyas@myfwc.com
Hadley	John	john.hadley@samfc.net
Hart	Hannah	hannah.hart@myfwc.com
Helies	Frank	frank.helies@noaa.gov
Hemilright	Dewey	fvtarbaby@embarqmail.com
Hildreth	Delaine	delaine.hildreth@dnr.ga.gov
Hudson	Rusty	DSF2009@aol.com
Iverson	Kim	kim.iverson@safmc.net
Jiorle	Ryan	ryan.jiorle@mrc.virginia.gov
Laks	Ira	captainira@att.net
Laney	Wilson	wilson_laney@fws.gov
Levy	Mara	mara.levy@noaa.gov
Lloyd	Victor	vic_lloyd@bellsouth.net
Lupton	Dee	dee.lupton@ncdenr.gov
Mehta	Nikhil	nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov
Miller	Kyle	kyle.miller@myfwc.com
Neer	Julie	julie.neer@safmc.net
O'Donnell	Kelli	kelli.odonnell@noaa.gov
Poland	Steve	steve.poland@ncdenr.gov
Pulver	Jeff	Jeff.Pulver@noaa.gov
Rock	Jason	jason.rock@ncdenr.gov
Sedberry	George	george.sedberry@gmail.com
Shipman	Susan	susanshipman@att.net
Stephen	Jessica	jessica.stephen@noaa.gov
Takade-Heumacher	Helen	htakade@edf.org

Travis	Michael	mike.travis@noaa.gov
bowen	zack	fishzack@comcast.net
brewer	chester	wcbsafmc@gmail.com
brouwer	myra	myra.brouwer@safmc.net
sandorf	scott	scott.sandorf@noaa.gov
t	suz	suzanna.thomas@safmc.net
Blow	Wes	wesamy2000@cox.net
Christophoer	Michael	mchristopher@elementalmethods.com
Exley	Gary	river92@bellsouth.net
Howington	kathleen	kathleen.howington@safmc.net
dilernia	tony	tony@rocketcharters.com



# Mandatory Public Sign In 6/11/18

Name	Last	Email	Address	How do you participate in fisheries in the South Atlantic?				If Other, please provide more information:
Rusty	Hudson						Seafood Dealer/W wholesaler	Fisheries Consultant
Lora	Clarke						NGO	
Art	Sapp	artsapp@hotmail.com	2270 ne 25th street LHP FL 33064	Private Recreational Angler	Charter/Headboat/For-Hire	Commercial Fisherman		
Kelie	Ralston			Private Recreational Angler			NGO	