

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ft. Lauderdale, FL
June 11, 2018

The Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Committee approved the agenda and minutes from the March 2018 meeting.

Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel May Meeting

Summary

Council staff provided a summary of the May meeting of the Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel including the following topics: spatial presentation of habitat and ecosystem conservation in FEP II Dashboard, regional fishery independent research and data supporting EBFM and the developing Ecopath model, NOAA Fisheries key milestones supporting Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) in South Atlantic Region including a South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report, multi-species / aggregate production modeling, Community Vulnerability Analysis for the South Atlantic, a multi-species Climate Vulnerability Analysis, and supporting SAFMC-led ecosystem-related activities including implementation of the SAFMC Fishery Ecosystem Plan II and ecosystem modeling activities. In addition, facilitated sessions conducted during the Panel meeting resulted in: completing development of a Habitat Policy/Threat Matrix for inclusion into the FEP II Dashboard; identifying fishery monitoring and research needs for integration into strategic plans supporting the Southeast Coastal and Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA); and input on BOEM's Request For Feedback on The Path Forward for Renewable Energy on the Atlantic <https://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Path-Forward/> and associated research needs.

FEP II Dashboard, Habitat and Ecosystem Tools and Model Development

The FEP II Dashboard was updated to include the approved FEP II Implementation Plan and Roadmap and outstanding habitat sections approved at the March 2018 meeting. In addition, two new web services developed by FWRI, the South Atlantic Artificial Reefs Viewer and the ACCSP Data, will go online following the June Council meeting. The South Atlantic Ecopath model funded by SALCC, is on track to be completed in advance of the fall SSC meeting.

Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

1. Support completion of the South Atlantic Ecopath model for the fall SSC meeting.
2. Staff work with regional partners and SECOORA to refine regional ocean observing priorities to better characterize and monitor fish, fish habitat and fisheries operations.
3. Submit online comment to BOEM on Path Forward for Renewable Energy by 7/5/18.
4. Others??

APPROVED BY COUNCIL