

FINAL
**SUMMARY REPORT - HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Key West, Florida

The Committee met on June 8, 2015 and addressed the following: received a report on the April 7-8, 2015 Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel; was provided an overview of the status and updated timing for the FEP II development process and associated regional ecosystem coordination efforts facilitating its completion; received a report on the February 2015 South Atlantic Ecosystem Modeling Workshop; was provided updated analyses of rock shrimp Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data through 2014 and re-analyzed catch data from 2013 and 2014; was provided an overview of the 10-year Oculina Experimental Closed Area (OECA) Evaluation Team Report which includes progress toward meeting the objectives, a recommendation to maintain the current OECA regulations, size, and configuration, and a response to the request for a shrimp access area in the OECA and OHAPC; and an update on Coral Amendment 8 Final Rule which is expected to publish after the Council meeting.

Recommendations for ongoing FEP II Development: Develop Executive Summary for FEP II; Enhance use of online tools and visibility of Habitat Conservation/Ecosystem Based Fishery Management and FEP II development (e.g., use SAFMC Digital Dashboard to highlight effort and collaboration with Regional Partners)

NO MOTIONS WERE MADE