



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel Meeting May 11-12, 2016 Hilton Garden Inn North Charleston, South Carolina

The Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel met May 11-12, 2016 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Charleston, SC. Issues addressed during the meeting included: 1) Status Report on FEP II Development; 2) South Atlantic Renewable Energy Activities; 3) Potential Effects of Sound on Marine Fishes; 4) Impacts of Seismic Testing on Fish and Habitat; South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Regional Conservation Blueprint Development and Training Session; 5) Regional Modeling and Tools; 6) Advances in Navy Research in the South Atlantic Region; 7) Demolition and Artificial Reef Development of Navy Towers off North Carolina and Georgia; 8) NMFS Habitat Conservation Division Report- Miami Harbor Deepening; 9) NOAA NMFS Climate Science Strategy: Collaborative Development of a South Atlantic Regional Action Plan (RAP); and 10) Artificial Reef Policy Statement Development.

Status Report on FEP II Development

An overview of FEP II and EFH Update was provided by Brett Boston, Group Solutions Inc. Lora Clarke (PEW) Co-Chair of the Climate Variability and Fisheries Section Writing Team presented an overview of the Section and policy considerations supporting future habitat policy development. George Sedberry (GRNMS) presented a summary provided by Tracey Smart (SCDNR) Co-Chair of the South Atlantic Food Webs and Connectivity Section Writing Team.

Presentations:

http://safmc.net/sites/default/files/meetings/pdf/Advisory%20Panels/2016/05_Habitat/untitled%20folder/ClarkePresClimateFisheriesUpdateHabEcoAPMay16.pdf

http://safmc.net/sites/default/files/meetings/pdf/Advisory%20Panels/2016/05_Habitat/FoodWebs%20Connectivity%20PresMay16.pdf

http://safmc.net/sites/default/files/meetings/pdf/Advisory%20Panels/2016/05_Habitat/untitled%20folder/GSPresFEP2UpdateMay16.pdf

South Atlantic Renewable Energy Activities

Brian Hooker, BOEM presented an overview of the recent NC Task Force meeting and overall Atlantic renewable energy activities.

Presentation:

http://safmc.net/sites/default/files/meetings/pdf/Advisory%20Panels/2016/05_Habitat/untitled%20folder/BOEMPresNC_WindNotice_SCStatusMay16.pdf

Potential Effects of Sound on Marine Fishes (Lunch Session)

The Panel watched a rebroadcast of the Discovery of Sound in the Sea [DOSITS] Acoustics Webinar, Potential Effects of Sound on Marine Fishes by Dr. Arthur Popper, University of Maryland and Dr. Anthony Hawkins, Environmental Research Institute. Available for viewing through DOSITS - Underwater Acoustics: Webinar Series for the International Regulatory Community/ Archived Webinars: <http://www.dosits.org/resources/all/decisionmakers/ircwebinar/>

Impacts of Seismic Testing on Fish and Habitats

Aaron Rice with Cornell University and David Zeddies with Jasco provided the Panel with an overview of the impacts of seismic testing on fish and habitat. Topics covered included: Characterizing Seismic Testing Activities; Direct and Indirect Impacts of Seismic Testing on Fish; and Direct and Indirect Impacts Seismic Testing on Pelagic and Benthic Habitats.

Presentation:

http://safmc.net/sites/default/files/meetings/pdf/Advisory%20Panels/2016/05_Habitat/untitled%20folder/Rice%26ZeddiesPres_Sound%26Fishes-ImpactsofSeismicTestingonFishandHabitat.pdf

South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Regional Conservation Blueprint Development

Louise Vaughan, SALCC/NCSU reviewed the latest activities on the Conservation Blueprint and SALCC support for developing an Ecosystem Modeling Suite for the South Atlantic region. Model efforts will support Council activities for ECBM and FEP II development and better represent the estuarine and marine systems necessary to refine the Conservation Blueprint.

<http://www.southatlanticlcc.org/blueprint/>

Presentation:

http://safmc.net/sites/default/files/meetings/pdf/Advisory%20Panels/2016/05_Habitat/untitled%20folder/Vaughan-%20SALCC%20Pres_%20ConservationBlueprint%20May%202016.pdf

Regional Modeling and Tools

Pat Halpin, Duke provided a review of regional modeling and tool development.

Advances in Navy Research in the South Atlantic Region

Scott Chappell, USN provided the Panel with an overview of Navy Research activities including mapping/Habitat Characterization & Fish Utilization - Patrick Aircraft Range, Key West; and Long Shoal Oyster Sanctuary, Pamlico Sound, NC. In addition, he reviewed the use of ARIS and PAM to evaluate behavioral impact of pile driving and other noise stressors on marine life. A status report on the demolition and artificial reef development of Navy Towers off North Carolina and Georgia was also provided.

Presentation:

http://safmc.net/sites/default/files/meetings/pdf/Advisory%20Panels/2016/05_Habitat/untitled%20folder/ChappellPres_AdvanacesNavyHabitatResearchMay16.pdf

NMFS Habitat Conservation Division Report

Pace Wilber, NMFS, HCD reviewed the latest EFH consultation activity pertaining to the Miami Harbor deepening.

NMFS Climate Science Strategy- SA RAP Development

To address the NOAA NMFS Climate Science Strategy Roger Pugliese highlighted the collaborative development of a South Atlantic Regional Action Plan. GS created a Basecamp site specifically to support cooperative development with members of the FEP II Climate Variability and Fisheries Writing Team.

Artificial Reef Policy Statement Development

A Basecamp site was created specifically to support what the Panel identified as the core members to participate in artificial reef policy development for the Council. The core FEP II Artificial Reef Habitat Section writing team identified by the AP includes- NC: Jason Peters, SC: Robert M. Martore, GA: Eddie Leonard, FL: Keith Millie, and AP member Brian Hooker, BOEM who have completed most FEP II Section development and will be engaged further to advance the policy statement for the Panel to refine during the November meeting.