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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel November 2023



NOAA fisheries HCD EFH consultation

Annual summary



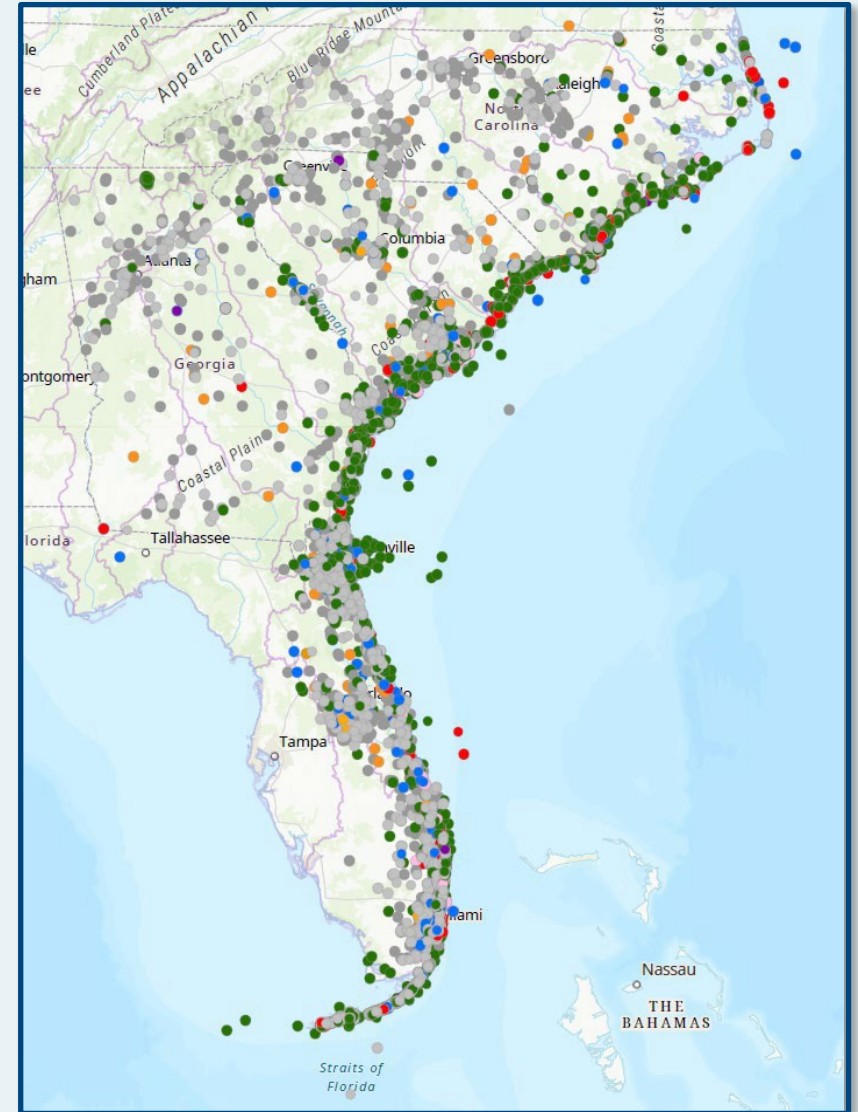
- Additional Staff are being hired
- Consultations by state from 2014-2022: FL 58%, SC 18%, GA 10%, NC 10%, PR/VI 4%
- Consults are mainly intertidal
- Consults are becoming more focused on larger projects i.e. wind
- Reviewed fish passage team, Cape Fear lock and dam, coral conservation projects, offshore wind energy projects, and the Port Everglades Deepening Project

Consultation Requests Received FY2014 to FY2022.

Depending on requesting agency, consultation requests are made via public notices (e.g., USACE) or letter (e.g., FHWA).

HCD Response

EFH CRs
FWCA Recs
No Objection
Tech Assistance
10-day Response
Not Reviewed



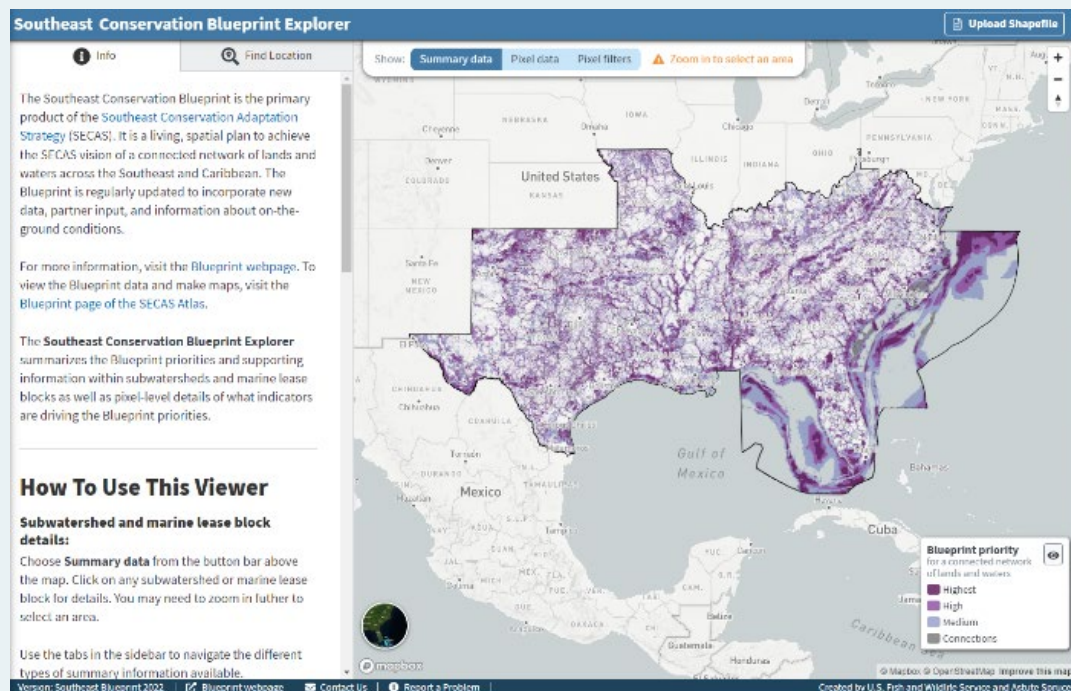
EFH 5 year review

- Buttonwood Clarification Subcommittee Report - Simen Kaalstad, ASMFC
 - Recommended including a clarification of what mangroves means and include buttonwoods under the EFH designation in the user guide
- Limited FEP II Update (Prey and References) Subcommittee Report - Wilson Laney NC State University
 - Work is ongoing
- Tidal Freshwater Boundary Subcommittee Report - Casey Knight, NCDMF
 - Include the table with GPS coordinates for upstream tidal boundaries into the user guide
 - <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=502517848a324c93b7be7b5f69d6781e>
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment Overlap with EFH – John Quinlan, NMFS SEFSC
 - CVA is a method that uses expert elicitation and projections to assess exposure and sensitivity to expected climate change this provides a measure of vulnerability for climate change
 - Working on EFH considerations

SECAS and the Conservation Blueprint



- Received a summary of the blueprint and the partnerships
- They have integrated 18 new indicators into the blueprint and 40% of suggestions from the Gulf and Caribbean workshops
- Have a new web-based platform that they are working on making interactive hoping to provide a visual aid when discussing habitat and temporal shifts



The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) Atlas

Visit the SECAS Website The Southeast Conservation Blueprint Content Library Contact Us

Discover the Southeast Conservation Blueprint

The Southeast Conservation Blueprint is the primary product of SECAS. To learn more about the Blueprint, [visit the Blueprint page of the SECAS website](#).

Below are three options for accessing the Blueprint:

- Blueprint Indicators Connectivity Threats**
[View Blueprint data](#)
Dig deeper into the Blueprint and underlying data layers, and make your own maps.
- Visit the Blueprint Explorer**
Explore the Blueprint and create custom reports in this simple online viewer.
- Download Blueprint data**
Directly download all the Blueprint data and documentation for use in your desktop GIS.

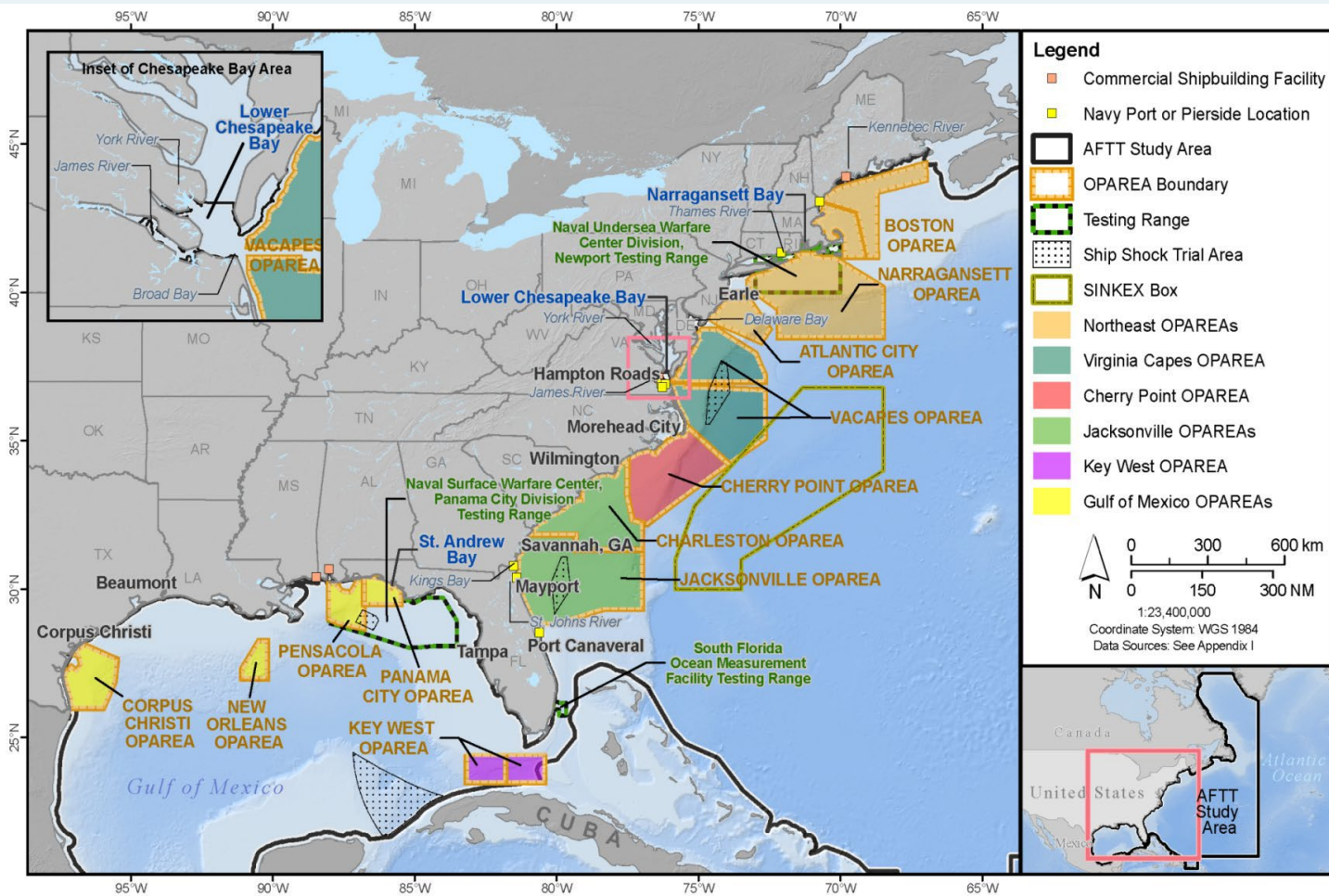
Offshore wind activities

- Reviewed the Coastal Virginia Offshore wind project, Central Atlantic Wind energy areas, Kitty Hawk, and Carolina Long bay projects
- Reviewed the Environmental Studies annual report
- The panel discussed the inclusion of nature-inclusive design materials and the long-term impact of decommissioning projects

EFH Policy Statement on energy

- Work on the policy statement is ongoing
- The plan is to complete a new policy by the April 2024 meeting
- The revisions will be focused on wind policies

U.S, navy Atlantic fleet Training and testing EIS



- The Navy's compliance program evaluates the impacts of military readiness activities on the environment and minimizes effects on protected resources while supporting military readiness.
- Notice of intent to continue training and testing activities in the AFTT Study Area for the reasonably foreseeable future was published Nov 17th.
- The goal is to analyze training stressors i.e., acoustic effects, and develop a document analyzing the environmental impact.
- The mitigation measures employed to minimize the impact of training will continue to be employed.
- The final record of decision on the AFTT Study area is scheduled to occur Oct 3 2025.

Habitat Blueprint

Reviewed the Habitat Blueprint and job description that was approved in September 2023

Reviewed the work plan. Added short- and long-term goals to the workplan

There is ongoing work to convert the workplan to tables

Reviewed the draft annual report outline and recommended specific topics

South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative



- Goal is to protect, restore, and enhance the abundance and biodiversity of saltmarshes
- Working on implementation over the next ten years
- Trying to integrate climate change and how management strategies need to adapt accordingly
- Currently the GIS maps are state-specific but there is ongoing work to make them regionally based

Space operations off East Florida

- This year almost 90 launches
- 85% of launches are commercial
- Currently no consideration for debris and landing zones for EFH
- Space Florida is aware of Indian River Lagoon issues ie discharge and development
- The panel debated the environmental impact of deorbiting structures and debris currently on the ocean floor
- Awaiting FOIA information to make a more informed recommendation



Artemis I launch taken from the Space Florida Launch and Landing Facility



Other business

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 22- 24, 2024. This will be finalized after the December council meeting.
- Vice chair election: Paul Medders was voted in unanimously.
- Meg Withers, the Citizen Science Project coordinator for the SAFMC requested volunteers for the Citizen Science Project Committee.
 - Casey Knight volunteered for this position.



Thank you