



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

**Alterations to the Riverine, Estuarine and Nearshore
Flows Policy to address impacts from freshwater
discharges and impediments to river flow**

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Flow policy

- In April 2024, the HEAP received a presentation on the impacts of flow alterations and storm drainage on the Indian River Lagoon
- In response to this presentation, the HEAP added revisions to the policy to the work plan
- SAFMC agreed to the addition in December 2024
- The working group has met six times

Major Changes

Finished prior to July 15, 2025

- Added in information on water quality, runoff, and stormwater management
- Updated and reorganized citations and references
- Updated state-specific rules
- Reorganized the policy section to increase efficiency
- Removed mentions of anadromous and diadromous





Major Changes Finished Prior to January 9, 2026

Added in

- Water quality details
- Dikes
- Tidal gates
- Roadway/concrete runoff
- Wiers
- Culverts
- Irrigation



Review New Policy

- Approve to send to water quality experts?
- Who do we send it to?
 - Florida DEP: Scott Eastman
 - SC DES: 401 department
 - NC 401
 - NC State storm water work
 - SCDES Water Quality Division: Karin Skipper, Director and Hydrology Section Manager Scott Harder
 - Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)
 - NC Coastal Federation (Jacob Boyd: Saltmarsh Conservation Coordinator)
 - St. Johns River Water Management District
 - IRL National Estuary Program

**Send the policy out to
water quality experts**

**HEAP discusses proposed
revisions during the
summer 2026 meeting**

