



Habitat and Ecosystem
Advisory Panel
Summer 2026

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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**





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 January 2026

- Added in information on water quality, runoff, dikes, storm runoff, roadway/concrete runoff, culverts, irrigation, wiers, tidal gates, and stormwater management
- Updated and reorganized citations and references
- Updated state-specific rules
- Reorganized the policy section to increase efficiency





Sent Out to the HEAP for Final Edits in April 2026

Added in a few new water
restriction references and
fixed some grammatical
errors



Review New Policy

- Approve edits?
- Does this policy meet the needs of the target audience?
- Does the HEAP approve the policy for council review?



**Thanks for
All the Hard
Work!**

