



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

March ##, 2025

Andy Strelcheck, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Strelcheck:

Below are items the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is recommending in its Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) five-year review. In addition, please note the follow-up items that have occurred and are recommended to occur over the next five years.

1. Clarify the definition of mangroves and buttonwoods in the EFH User Guide.
 - a. The recommended definition has been integrated into the EFH User Guide.
 - b. Source: Buttonwood Clarification Subgroup Report
2. Include the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources' coordinates for upstream tidal boundaries into the EFH User Guide as an upper boundary for EFH.
 - a. An interactive mapper can be accessed at the following link:
<https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=502517848a324c93b7be7b5f69d6781e>
 - b. The tidal boundary table has been integrated into the EFH User Guide.
 - c. Source: Tidal Freshwater Boundary Subgroup Report
3. Update the Food Webs and Connectivity Policy information with improved prey information, improved food web information, and updated the reference information.
 - a. The working group identified the top 10 prey groups for each Fishery Management Plan by percentage by volume in diet in Appendix A.
 - b. The working group recommends further analysis of the information in Appendix A to identify:
 - i. Total importance of prey or percentage overlap across all FMPs
 - ii. The number of times prey species are identified as a top prey item
 - iii. The EFH by life stage of identified important prey
 - iv. Other indicators that a prey item is highly necessary to a species diet
 - c. The working group recommends investigating the integration of the habitat utilized by important prey species into the EFH User Guide for the next 5-year review.
 - d. Source: FEP II Update for Prey Information and References Subgroup report

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kathleen Howington
(Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net).

Sincerely,

Trish Murphey
SAFMC Chair

Cc: Council Members
Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel
John Carmichael, Chip Collier, Myra Brouwer
Jack McGovern
Rick DeVictor
Monica Smit-Brunello
Pace Wilber, David Dale

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