

**FINAL SUMMARY REPORT  
FROM THE JOINT HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION &  
ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Hilton Savannah DeSoto  
Savannah, GA  
March 3, 2014**

A joint meeting of the Habitat and Environmental Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committees was held December 3, 2013 in Wilmington, NC. The Committee received a status report from Southeast Regional Office staff on Coral Amendment 8, indicating the proposed rule package is under agency review. Council staff provided an update on the status of the Cooperative Agreement between SAFMC and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program for FY 2014-2016; the proposal submitted in November 2013 remains under review.

Rock shrimp industry representatives, in December 2013, submitted a request to further modify the coordinates for points 16-25 off the eastern boundary of the northern Oculina Bank extension. Council staff reviewed spatial representation of the new options for a northern extension. The Committees recommended the Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel consider options that would allow industry representatives to demonstrate their gear does not damage deepwater coral and associated habitat resources or result in by-catch of managed species in this region of the Oculina Bank. The Committees provided guidance to staff to review options with the AP during their May 2014 meeting, such as research collaboration through a Cooperative Research Program proposal and/or application for an Exempted Fishing Permit.

Council staff discussed the revised SAFMC Essential Fish Habitat Policy Statements addressing alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows, marine aquaculture and submerged aquatic vegetation. The Committees discussed the benefit in having the Habitat AP review comments recently provided by FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on the redrafted policy statements. To facilitate a final review of the statements, Committee members were requested to provide any additional comments to Council staff in advance of the April 1-3, 2014 Habitat AP meeting.

Council staff provided an overview of the timing and process for revisions to the Fishery Ecosystem Plan II and update to EFH and completion of the EFH 5 Year review. Council staff also provided an update on ecosystem activities.

The following motions were developed during the joint Committee session.

**MOTIONS**

- 1. RECOMMEND THE DEEPWATER SHRIMP AP CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFP FOR THESE PARTICULAR AREAS FOR THIS PARTICULAR GEAR TYPE  
APPROVED BY JOINT COMMITTEE**

- 2. RECONSIDER PREVIOUS MOTION  
APPROVED BY JOINT COMMITTEE**
- 3. PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE DEEPWATER SHRIMP AP AT THEIR NEXT MEETING, TO INCLUDE A VARIETY OF TOOLS/OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE AREA OF INTEREST  
APPROVED BY JOINT COMMITTEE**
- 4. SUBSTITUTE MOTION BECOMES MAIN MOTION  
APPROVED BY JOINT COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**DRAFT TIMING & TASK**

- 5. MOTION: ADOPT THE TIMING AND TASK ITEMS AS PRESENTED  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**
  - A. At the May 2014 Deepwater Shrimp AP meeting, provide information on research options the deepwater shrimp industry may consider that characterize fishery impacts in the region of the Oculina Bank HAPC northern extension.
  - B. Work with the Habitat AP to further refine SAFMC policy statements and bring revisions back to the June 2014 meeting, along with additional draft priorities.
  - C. Coordinate with Habitat AP state sub-panel chairs and ecosystem partners to refine membership on review and writing teams for development of the FEP II.

**Ecosystem-Based Management**

**Committee Members**

Doug Haymans, Chair  
 Anna Beckwith  
 Chris Conklin  
 Dr. Michelle Duval  
 Dr. Wilson Laney  
 Jessica McCawley  
 Charlie Phillips  
 Robert Beal<sup>6</sup>

**Habitat and Environmental Protection  
 Committee Members**

Dr. Wilson Laney, Chair  
 Anna Beckwith  
 Chris Conklin  
 LT Morgan Fowler  
 Doug Haymans  
 John Jolley

Charlie Phillips  
Robert Beal