

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
JOINT HABITAT & ECOSYSTEM AND SHRIMP COMMITTEES

Hilton Garden Inn Outer Banks/Kitty Hawk
Kitty Hawk, North Carolina
December 8, 2025

Transcript

Joint Habitat & Ecosystem and Shrimp Committees

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Observers and Participants

Other observers and participants attached.

The Joint Habitat & Ecosystem and Shrimp Committees of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at the Hilton Garden Inn Outer Banks/Kitty Hawk in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on Monday, December 8, 2025, and was called to order by Chairman Trish Murphey.

MS. MURPHEY: Let's go ahead and call this meeting to order, and so this is the joint meeting of the Habitat & Ecosystem Committee and the Shrimp Committee, and so I'll go ahead and start with the approval of the agenda. Does anybody have any changes to the agenda? Okay. Any discussion of the agenda? We'll call it approved by consensus.

Also, the approval of the minutes, and this is from the Joint Habitat & Ecosystem and Shrimp Committee in September, as well as the Habitat & Ecosystem Committee from March. Any comments or substantial changes to those minutes? Any objection to those minutes? We'll also call them approved, and so we'll go into this committee.

The Habitat Committee is a committee-of-the-whole and Shrimp Committee is -- Carolyn is the chair. We've got Amy as vice chair, and then we've got Gary, Jimmy, Jessica, myself, Lt. Tom Pease, Andy, and I think Heather is online for Andy, and then Charlie Phillips, and do we have Kathleen? Okay, and so we'll go ahead and turn it over to Kathleen, and we've got Allie at the table as well.

MS. HOWINGTON: Hi, everyone. Can you hear me?

MS. MURPHEY: Yes.

MS. HOWINGTON: Fantastic. I'm so sorry I'm not there with you guys. I had surgery two weeks ago, and I still don't have the go from my doctor for driving up eight hours, and so I'm just going to be doing this virtually, and I hope that's okay. Thankfully, I have Allie there to back me up.

All right, and so this is Coral Amendment 11/Shrimp Amendment 12. The background, of course, and I'm just going to go real fast, because you've seen this before. In September 2024, staff were directed to develop a joint amendment for the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan and the Coral Management Plan to establish a shrimp fishery access area in the northern extension of the Oculina Habitat Bank of Particular Concern.

In June of 2025, the council selected an alternative, and then sent it out for public hearings, and, of course, in September of this year, you received the public comments and provided rationale for how this amendment meets the Coral and Shrimp Fishery Management Plan's goals and objectives.

Now, the objectives for this meeting are we're going to review some of the changes to the amendment, just give you some highlights, review the proposed edit to the purpose and need, and then review the rationale that was developed from your September comments, and then, finally, consider the draft amendment for submission, and so, Allie, if you can scroll down, please, to the next page.

The amendment development timeline, right now we are on schedule for this timeline, but I'm going to go ahead and just let everyone know -- I'm going to put an asterisk right here on that December 2025 review the final draft amendment and consider for approval. I'll discuss this later

on, at the very, very end, when we get to that draft motion, but just letting everyone know highlighting that, that may change, and that we're going to have that discussion later.

Now, the changes to the amendment, some of these highlights, the VMS information has been integrated into Chapter 3. This includes vessel location points from 2014 to 2024. They were split up as a before and after implementation of Coral 8, which closed the area. Also, they were limited to just the vessels that were actively trawling, and then, of course, aggregated for confidentiality, and so, if you want to go look at that, it is in your Chapter 3.

Also in Chapter 3, the social and economic information has been integrated in. Now, this economic information actually ended in 2019, and you see that 2021 there, and that's because this information is from Coral Amendment 10. We didn't want to bring an amendment to you without any information at all. We weren't sure when the shutdown was going to alleviate itself, and, unfortunately, we didn't get the updated sections before the government shutdown occurred, and so we integrated this information in. Revised sections describing the economic and social environment should be completed hopefully before the end of January, but they have not been completed yet.

Then you also have your fishery impact statement. This is in your Appendix H, and your Chapter 5. That, again, is the council rationale, and it also includes summarizing public comments and public hearing, not just from this amendment, but also from Coral Amendment 10, and so we were able to put in a lot of information there, a lot of public feedback, and then finalize the council -- Or put the council rationale in there.

Then, finally, during the September 2025 council meeting, staff outlined an analysis identifying the number of times that surf reports, or National Weather Service reports, mentioned upwellings. Based on some public comments, I actually returned to that analysis, because it was suggested that we were underestimating how many upwellings occurred. Instead, I went to the National Buoy Data Center for Cape Canaveral, Buoy Number 41009, if you all are interested, and looked at the buoy data for the sea surface temperature and how many times, on average, that temperature dropped to seventy-five degrees in the May to September, that summertime, that we know that there are more upwellings in the summertime, for the last ten years.

Based on that analysis, it's an average of 1.5 days per year that we are getting an upwelling that's getting to that sea surface temperature. Now, that doesn't necessarily mean that that's every single upwelling. It doesn't mean that we aren't potentially missing some, but I think with that, plus then the surf reports that we mentioned before, we feel pretty good in saying that upwellings in this area are happening in the summer, but they are limited, and so those are some of the draft amendment highlights. Yay. Anyone want to mention anything before we move on to that purpose and need?

MS. MURPHEY: Any questions for Kathleen yet? I see none. Go ahead, Kathleen.

MS. HOWINGTON: Fantastic. All right, and so then the purpose and need. Another outcome of the public hearings was that we received some comments that this amendment was not going to meet the need, and the need was written to say this amendment is going to allow the rock shrimp fishery to attain optimum yield. Public feedback was that we were not going to be able to actually meet optimum yield. I'm so sorry that my dog is barking. One moment. Apparently, there's a delivery man. This is what happens.

Anyway, so we are not going to be -- The public feedback was that we were not being able to attain optimum yield, and so, during drafting, the IPT suggested some new wording to make certain that this amendment is meeting the need for the amendment, which is to optimize yield in the rock shrimp fishery by expanding access to fishing grounds, and so we are maybe not able to attain optimum yield, but we are optimizing the yield. With that, I'm going to hand it off to Allie and Trish, since they're in the room with you and can call on people, and I'm going to go smack my dog.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. Any questions for Kathleen before she smacks the dog? Okay. We'll go to Allie now.

MS. IBERLE: Yes, and so I think we're just, with this, not changing the spirit of the original need. We're just kind of not being as prescriptive, and stating it more as opening this area will help the rock shrimp fishery achieve OY, instead of maybe before it sounded like opening this area would get us to exactly that OY number.

MS. MURPHEY: So would someone like to make a motion on approving the modifications to the need statement? I've got Jessica.

MS. MCCAWLEY: **I move that we approve the modifications to the need statement.**

MS. MURPHEY: I have a second by Kerry. Any discussion? **Any objection to this motion? The motion is approved.**

MS. HOWINGTON: Awesome. Thank you so much, you guys. All right, and so then next I'm just going to review the alternatives. Now, we haven't changed anything on the alternatives, and so don't worry about that. This is just a review. Of course, you have your Alternative 1, and that's your no action alternative, which is just going to keep everything status quo.

Then you have your Preferred Alternative 2. This will establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Particular Concern. This is 14.1 square nautical miles, using this projection measurement that I mentioned last time, and so we added that clarification in to make certain that that square nautical miles measurement is replicable for everyone who uses ArcGIS.

Then, of course, allow a shrimp vessel with a valid Commercial Vessel Permit for Rock Shrimp South Atlantic EEZ to bottom trawl for rock shrimp within this established area bounded by the following coordinates, and these coordinates are identical to what was in Coral 10. I have septuple, dectuple checked, whatever 100 checks is, out of sheer paranoia, and so that is the exact same thing that's been in Coral 10, and you've already seen it before.

Of course, you have Alternative 3. This is not your preferred, but it is in there as establish a shrimp fishery access area. This would be 18.87 nautical miles, using the same measurement projection, with the same commercial vessel permit, using the following coordinates, which, again, is a little bit larger, and it decreases the distance between the shrimp fishery access area and known coral pinnacles, which is one of the main reasons why you chose Preferred Alternative 2. If you scroll,

Allie, this is just a visual representation of Alternative 1, Preferred Alternative 2, and then, of course, Alternative 3. You've all seen this before.

Then we go on to council rationale, and so, like I said, during the September meeting, we asked you guys to give us feedback on how this amendment is meeting not just the Coral FMP, but also the Shrimp FMP goals and objectives, and so, from that, plus then from other conversations we've been having, staff formed these council rationales for you to review.

I'm not going to read them word for word, but I am going to give you, you know, the highlights again. Preferred Alternative 2 best meets the amendment's stated purpose and need, because it optimizes yield and balances the goal of allowing shippers access to this area.

Preferred Alternative 2 minimizes damage to EFH, while increasing access for the rock shrimp fishery. Of course, you went into detail on that one, with the following reasons, like low frequency of upwellings, the distance with the larger buffer that Preferred Alternative 2 provides, as well as considered, you know, further trawling in the area. It's already an area that was previously harvested.

The council recognizes the rock shrimp industry wants to avoid coral, because it damages their gear, and they rely on that healthy coral habitat for the shrimp population, as well as then rock shrimp fishermen maintain that they're not going to use this area all the time, and it's going to be sporadic. They have to be able to have the skill to be able to use this area, because that current is very strong, and they will have a have to be -- They are required to have a limited access permit and a VMS programmed with that more frequent transmission rate that the council discussed in September. That is what we already do, and so that is keeping status quo, that transmission rate.

This should increase economic and social benefits to the rock shrimp fishermen, by giving them access to a very specific limited historical rock shrimp population, or area. Reopening this area demonstrates science-based management and balances conservation and historical fishing access, as well as it's viewed as a technical correction from the Coral Amendment 8 in 2014, by a few council members, and it optimizes the benefits generated from coral resources while minimizing impacts of humans, specifically the shrimp industry, on coral. Lastly, it meets the directives of Executive Orders 13921 and 14276, and so that's a quick summary. There's more details in that Chapter 5 if you want to go review it.

Trish, before we get to the next two committee actions, may I request that you revise and add rationale above, as needed, and I'll be taking notes, but then, before you get to the draft motion, can you return back to me, so I can give you a little bit of background before we discuss it. Is that okay?

MS. MURPHEY: Yes, and I can do that. Thoughts on revising or adding to the rationale that Kathleen went through? Is everybody happy with that rationale? Okay. I see heads shaking, and so I'll go ahead and turn it back to Kathleen before we get to the motion.

MS, HOWINGTON: You didn't even give me time to type out that you didn't -- That you have no feedback, that you thought it was good. Okay, and now for the draft motion. The game plan was -- The original plan was that we were going to hopefully bring this amendment to the council for finalization.

Unfortunately, because of the shutdown, we weren't able to update that Chapter 3 information. We were able to fill it in with the Coral 10 sections, and so it's still there, but it's just not as up-to-date as we prefer, and it's six years old, and so, while the IPT was returning from the shutdown, and we were getting feedback, we got some feedback from General Counsel, or some guidance from General Counsel, that they were concerned about Chapter 3, the social and economic impacts, not being updated.

They provided guidance that we should wait until after Chapter 3 has been updated to be able to then finalize the amendment. Again, we should be able to get that Chapter 3 updated before the end of January, is the game plan right now, and so then we will definitely be able to bring this back to you guys in March good to go, with minimal changes, draft motions already written, but, ultimately, it's up to you guys if you want to move forward with the Chapter 3 the way they are or if you want to wait until the next council meeting and get it approved then, and so, with that, Trish, I hand it back to you.

MS. MURPHEY: All right, Thank you, Kathleen, for sharing that. I had Jessica, and then I have Kerry.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I appreciate all the work that's been done on the document, and the work to try to update those sections. I can't say that I'm not disappointed that -- Maybe we can still approve this today, and then maybe, like we do with codified text, you know, we could allow the chair to re-deem this, after reviewing those updated portions of the document, but I guess that's maybe this is a question for Monica.

Could we really not approve this, even though those sections are partially updated, but not fully updated? I am not suggesting submitting this all the way to the Secretary without updating those sections, but I'm just wondering, since the rest of the document seems to be kind of in a good place, and it's reflective of the rationale the council had, et cetera, and why couldn't we go ahead and approve it, and then allow staff -- Give them license to continue to update those sections, and just some questions there.

MS. MURPHEY: I'll go ahead and jump to Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Thanks, Jessica. I think you've got more legal risk with going with the plan that you just suggested. The problem that I see, the biggest problem, is that you're asking the -- You would be asking the council to take final action on the same analyses that were given to them in Coral Amendment 10, at least in terms of the economic and social information, and the last year of data used in there was 2019, which is already six years old, and so I think it's problematic, in terms of making kind of a poor record for this joint amendment.

Remember that Coral 10 had a lot of public comments, and it was disapproved by the agency, and so I think the council sets themselves up better for success, in terms of waiting a meeting, or having a webinar meeting between now and March, whatever you want to do, but first get that information updated, so you've got a more complete record in front of you when you make your final decision on the amendment.

MS. MURPHEY: Thank you, Monica. Go ahead, Kerry.

MS. MARHEFKA: I'm trying to be diplomatic. It's incredibly frustrating. I am not a person that ever puts a tinfoil hat on. I've never once at this table said anything to that, but this is -- We have been doing this -- Just this part of it, and I know that Jessica and Charlie have been doing this before my time, but my very first council meeting, five-and-a-half years ago, was this.

The fact that it was not a plain as day that this needed to be done, and this happened at the last minute, has me -- Honestly, it's getting me shakingly angry. That's not going to get us anywhere, and I think Monica is --

MR. HEMILRIGHT: (Mr. Hemilright's comment is not audible on the recording.)

MS. MARHEFKA: I know. Thanks. That's why I have Dewey sitting next to me. I think that -- - But, I mean, I think it needs to get said. It's not acceptable, but what I will say is that Monica just presented us with the solution that seems very viable, and I would like to consider the option of doing a webinar meeting.

It sounds like I'm hearing that staff might need about a month to pull this together, and that we have that webinar meeting, and we approve it over webinar. At the very least, what it is, again, is showing some sign of good faith to these people who have put their trust in us getting this done for them, for now I think we can safely say a decade, and so I would throw out to the committee that we suggest to the council that we have a webinar meeting in a month's time to approve this amendment with the updated economic analysis.

MS. MURPHEY: Thank you, Kerry. Carolyn.

DR. BELCHER: Yes, I'm going to just go ahead and say ditto on Kerry, because I went back and did the same thing. I mean, I understand where we've been with the craziness that's happened under the current federal administration, loss of people and all, but, when you look back at what we did in Coral 10, and the dates, they had finalized those estimates on the socio, and so it's not something that was done in the last month. They were approved in March, and we passed it in December of 2021, and so that, to me, is where it's kind of a disappointment, is that it's not something that we didn't know was going to need to be done, and so anyway, but, yes, I'm appreciative that Monica has offered us a solution.

MS. MURPHEY: I have a question. I think that's a great solution. I have a question for probably Heather and Clay. It should take a month, and can this be a priority, so that we can get this in a month? Can this be made a priority for your staff to be able to do this?

I mean, I'm going to take a guess, and, I mean, this is just me, that I don't think it's going to be drastic changes in this section. The majority of the section is there. It's just Section 3.3 and 3.4, and so I would like to think that updating those -- I mean, they've basically just got to update those numbers by adding the, you know, from 2020 to 2025. I just would like a guarantee that, if we go forward with a webinar in January, that we'll have that information. Heather.

MS. BLOUGH: Can you hear me okay?

MS. MURPHEY: Yes, ma'am.

MS. BLOUGH: I appreciate the frustration around the time it's taking to getting things done. I do have to -- I mean, we were out for six weeks, right, with the furlough, and we are balancing this action against many, many other priority actions, some of which are yours and others we have with the Gulf and Caribbean Council. I would like to confer with folks here before we commit to a specific timeline that we could have this ready in a month, for the January meeting, but we can talk here, compare, or talk about priorities, and then get back to you for Full Council on this.

MS. MURPHEY: Thank you, Heather. Clay, do you have anything to add?

DR. PORCH: No, and I defer to Heather, since most of the lift is going to come from her shop, and we would be just doing some reviewing.

MS. MURPHEY: So I just -- Heather, I would really like to stress we've -- I think Kerry has shared it, and everybody knows, around this table, that this has been going on for years and years, and, you know, granted, I'm not an economist, but it just seems like it would be a fairly quick update to do. Again, I think it's just updating the numbers from 2020 to 2025, or at least 2024, and, you know, it's become a priority for this council, because we have been working on it for so long, and every -- I mean, we were talking about the economic and social sections of this chapter were behind schedule way back.

I know that your economist folks -- They all got -- You lost them, and I get that, and it's been a scramble, but I really want to stress that this council wants to go ahead and move this on, because it has been going on for so long that -- I just can't stress how much that this needs to be a priority for the Science Center, and I just can't stress that enough, and so I would appreciate if you could do that. Anybody have any questions? Jessica.

MS. MCCAWLEY: So then I guess my question is, Heather or somebody, at Full Council, let us know by the end of January or not. Can we have that answer maybe by Full Council?

MS. BLOUGH: Yes, and one of the questions we might have for you all is is this your top priority, you know, of the other actions that we have, and that's what I need to take a look at and talk with staff about. We do have just two economists right now for all three regions, but, of course, we're going to do our very best to support this and get it done as quickly as we can, and so let's report back at Full Council.

MS. MURPHEY: All right. Thank you, Jessica. I think that's a great idea, and we can discuss more priorities, but, right now, I guess, from what I've been hearing around the table, is we would like a webinar scheduled at end of January, or February. Okay. Let me -- I'm going to let John speak.

MR. CARMICHAEL: With the possibility for another shutdown January 30, I think we should try to get it in there, and so, just looking at the calendar, and you have some things going on. You have an LE AP, and you've got the SARSRP review in mid-January, and I think we're looking at something from January 22 to January 30 that we're trying to schedule a meeting.

There's a number of windows in there that last week of January has probably the most promise, and so we need information to get to you, for briefing book purposes, two weeks before that, and,

you know, I understand that there's limited people, and fewer resources, but I think that gets right at the heart of what we at the CCC were told, which was we've got to keep getting the job done with the resources that we have.

I think, you know, as Kerry said, like we've been working on this a long time. We're sympathetic to the shutdown, but it's also best scientific information available, and, if we simply don't have the people to do things, and maybe, in some cases, well then is it not available? I think these are legitimate questions that we have to have discussed if we're going to do what the agency leadership told all eight councils about the future, and continuing to manage our fisheries with a different set of expectations going forward, and this is a good test, I think, of what we can actually do, and maybe we don't get the update that we would have liked five years ago, but we need to get enough update now to meet BSIA standards, with an emphasis on the "A".

MS. MURPHEY: So, John, you hit on something that is a question for me. You know, we're told we can't wait on data. I know this is older data, but I guess, in my mind, I don't expect big changes, big changes in trends, and so I know Monica is concerned about the age of this data, but, at this point, this is all we've got. How can -- Can't we just move forward with that?

MR. CARMICHAEL: I don't know the answer to that, Trish.

MS. MURPHEY: Because, you know, it's sort of like a rock and a hard place. We've got the best data we've got at this point, and, granted, that best data only goes through 2019, and so, you know, we don't want to keep sitting around waiting on data, even in other species. We don't want to sit around and wait on data. We need to move forward, and so I don't know if that's a question for Monica, and then I've got Carolyn.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: Well, I can jump in and try to answer that. My suggestion would be that, as you've already heard, do not take action without that additional information, because I don't think it gives a very good record for this joint amendment, and remember that Coral 10 did get disapproved, and so I would think, perhaps during this meeting, you could get more information and timelines about what could be done when.

You know, Heather has already said she's going to go back and talk with her staff, see what they've got in the hopper, what they can finish, and I'm sure that they'll be conferring with council staff, and so perhaps you just want to defer on this until Full Council, when you've got more information. I understand frustration. I also understand where we are right now, and so my advice is to not take final action at this meeting.

MS. MURPHEY: All right. Well, thank you, Monica. Then I had Heather, and then Carolyn, Charlie, and then Amy.

MS. BLOUGH: Thanks. I'm okay. Monica spoke to my issue.

MS. MURPHEY: All right. Thank you, Heather. Carolyn.

DR. BELCHER: So I think the difficulty is we're kind of in a rock and a hard place with this, because one of our biggest deficiencies in the past is our socioeconomic data, right, and so kicking it down the line is not adding to that. It's basically kind of, again, kind of adding to the diminishing

of it, because we're willing to go forward without it, or with reduction in it, or knowing that we have better information, and that it's just been an issue behind timeline, right, but the other part of it is just a reminder that the reason Coral 10 didn't go through was because of the bycatch issue, not because of anything that was socioeconomic or otherwise, but, I mean, that's the only thing that I see is the downside with where we are, is that we are always at that detriment of not having enough socioeconomic data, and so I do think that there is that peril of moving forward without the update.

MS. MURPHEY: I think that's a good point, Carolyn. I had Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madam Chair, and, you know, I'm also frustrated that this has taken so long. I mean, when I left council seven years ago, we were still working on this, and this is just another example of why the public and the stakeholders don't trust us, because we're not getting stuff done in a timely manner. I mean, we all agree that we know where we are. It doesn't seem like that much of a heavy lift, but, if we want to rebuild trust with the stakeholders, making these things happen is what it's going to take.

MS. MURPHEY: Thank you, Charlie. I have Amy.

MS. DUKES: Thanks, Madam Chair, and, Heather, I understand the balance of workloads and coming out of a six-week shutdown. I guess I would also ask for perhaps a little bit of compromise, and, looking at the tables of information that are provided for the rock shrimp fishery, most of this information should be readily available.

ACCSP is the primary data source, with the exception of running the model. It's a very small fishery. It should technically be a pretty small, not very timely lift. I would ask not only in addition to coming back at Full Council, if there's any way that some of this information can be updated while we're here, and so perhaps some of these tables can be seen by Full Council. I was just curious. You know, if you don't ask, you don't know, but, to me, I mean, a lot of this is just a query poll, with the exception of the model, of course, and so I was just, again, curious.

MS. MURPHEY: Heather, any thoughts on that?

MS. BLOUGH: I mean, Amy, I'm sorry, and I'm not familiar with the data, or what that would take. I think the best we can do is come back at Full Council and look at this in the context of the other council priorities. Assuming this is the highest priority, and the first thing we should work on, you know, we should be able to turn it around quickly.

I also just want to manage expectations, because, even once you all approve it and submit it to us, we still have to go through the rulemaking phase, right, and so we are trying to do the best we can with very limited resources. We have two economists for three regions. We've instituted all these new prioritization exercises, and we're trying to collaborate with the councils after each meeting, to understand what the highest priorities are, and focus on them first, and I'm sorry that we are not moving as quickly as you all would like.

We are doing the best we can, and we'll talk here internally, between now and Full Council, and figure out how we can fit this in, and so what I'm hearing is you would need it, what, two weeks before the January 22 to 30 timeline, in order to have a webinar, right?

MS. MURPHEY: That would be correct, because the briefing book would be two weeks prior to that January 22 to 30.

MS. BLOUGH: Okay.

MS. MURPHEY: Monica.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: In terms of being able to move this forward, could that be cut a week? Could the council -- Instead of two weeks before January 22, what about the week before, since I'm assuming it would be the only thing on your agenda for the webinar, and that would at least give staff a little more time to complete it, and it's -- You know, it's another place to compromise, I guess.

MS. MURPHEY: All right. Thanks for that suggestion. I'm looking at staff. Could we do a week before? I was actually thinking that it's only two sections in a chapter, really, and that I would think we could review it --

MS. IBERLE: Sorry, and I didn't turn my mic on. I didn't -- I was saying I don't even think we would really need a decision document. We could just use the amendment, the final amendment document, or the final draft amendment document, at that meeting, and so it wouldn't be any -- Like we wouldn't have additional materials.

MS. MURPHEY: So is everybody open to having this webinar in the week of January 22 to 30, with one week time to review? I think this is a nice compromise, trying to work with their staff and us. I guess -- I don't know, and I'm just going to think out loud here. Why don't you guys look at your January 22 to 30 and figure out what dates work for you, and then, at Full Council, maybe we can select a date, if that's possible. Is that okay? I've got Kathleen.

MS. HOWINGTON: No, and I was just going to remind you, Trish, that we have our Habitat AP January 28 and 29, and so you and I are just going to be very busy together.

MS. MURPHEY: So we already need to cross off the 28th and 29th, and so if everybody can look at those dates and see if we can come up with a date.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Those aren't all day.

MS. HOWINGTON: No, and those are four-hour webinars.

MS. MURPHEY: That's right.

MS. HOWINGTON: You and I just signed up for a lot of briefing book stuff.

MS. MURPHEY: Yes, and I forgot about that. Those are two half days, and so that's possible. Let's put our heads together, and come for the Full Council, and maybe we can, you know, settle on a date. Is everybody good with that? Do we need a motion at this point, or do we just do it? Okay. I've got Heather.

MS. BLOUGH: I just wanted to note we have the Gulf Council meeting scheduled for January 26 to 28.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay, but hopefully you'll have your report to us before that date, and then we would just review it. I guess my question is --

MS. BLOUGH: Yes, and I'm just more referring, I guess, to Andy's ability to participate in this.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay, and I think -- So we'll cross that bridge when we get there. I think Andy could probably, you know, designate someone as well, and so I think we can work around this, and just see the best we can. We can come up with solutions. I think, just all the brainstorming we did now, we came up with all sorts of solutions, and so at this -- We just have directions to staff to hold a webinar meeting at the end of January to approve this amendment for submission. The potential date would be the week of January 22 through 30, and have the briefing book one week prior. Be aware that the Gulf Council meeting is also that week, and also the Habitat AP is also that week, and so maybe we can just work around it, and so any other thoughts or suggestions on how to do this? Staff, are you guys good?

MS. IBERLE: I'm good.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. Kathleen, are you good?

MS. HOWINGTON: I'm good. Thank you.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. John, I'm going to just check with you. Are you good? Okay. If John wasn't good, we might as well --

MR. CARMICHAEL: I think we can make it happen.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. I think we can make it happen. We've made things happen before, and so that's what's great about this council, and so do we have anything else for this committee? All right. Well, thank you, Kathleen. Thank you, Allie. We're going to punt to the end of the month, and so I appreciate your thoughts, and we'll adjourn the Habitat and Shrimp Committees.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on December 8, 2025.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

Transcribed By
Amanda Thomas
January 2, 2026

Jt. HE & Shrimp
MOA 12/8/25

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✓ Robert	Beal		Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
✓ Carolyn	Belcher		GA DNR Coastal Resources Division
✓ Gary	Borland		
✓ Amy	Dukes		SC DNR Marine Resources Division
✓ Judy	Helmey		
✓ Francis (Dewey)	Hemilright		
✓ James	Hull	Jr.	
✓ Kerry	Marhefka		
Tom	Pease		Seventh Coast Guard District
✓ Charlie	Phillips		
✓ Tom	Roller		
Robert	Spottswood	Jr.	
Andy	Strelcheck		NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region
Deirdre	Warner-Kramer		Office of Marine Conservation OES / OMC
TBD	TBD		U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Representative

Kristin Foss

Kathy Knowlton

Miles Dover

Sonny Gwin

Dr. Clay Porch

Jt. HE + Shrimp

MON. 12/8/25

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Jt. HE & Shrimp

MON 12/8/25

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Effective October 15, 2025**

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Attendee Report: December 2025 Council Meeting

Report Generated:

12/15/2025 08:43 AM EST

Webinar ID

690-222-395

Actual Start Date/Time

12/08/2025 04:12 PM EST

Staff Details

Attended

Yes

Interest Rating

Not applicable for staff

Attendee Details

Last Name

Aines

Auster

Beal

Blough

Borland

Brouwer

Bubley

Byrd

Coleman

DeVictor

Dukes

Foss

Geeslin

Glaser

Gore

HEMILRIGHT

Hadley

Helmey

Hildreth

Howington

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Iverson

Keener

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Stephen	Jessica
Stephens	Haley
Sweetman	CJ
Vara	Mary
Walter	John
peters	sophonda
sandorf	scott
thomas	suz
young	Jerome
zales	bob
Addis	Dustin
Allen	Shanae
Atkinson	Seth
Baertlein	Heather
Bailey	Adam
Baker	Scott
Banks	Kesley
Barbieri	Luiz
Barile	Peter
Barrows	Katline
Bianchi	Alan
Binion-Rock	Samantha
Bogdan	Jennifer
Boots	Benjamin
Brannon	Gettys
Bruger	Catherine
Bunting	Matthew
Cermak	Bridget
Chandler	Alexander
Crosson	Scott
Cushner	Sascha
DeFilippi Simpson	Julie
Degan	Jacqui

Drexler	Michael
Dunn	Courtney
Dyar	Ben
Farrell	Delaney
Floyd	Brad
Guyas	Martha
HKLNdcltSsjAQdiDatg	ItcEDCXvOzBwWesnJ
Hart	Hannah
Helies	Frank
Herrick	Daniel
Heyman	William
Horton	Chris
Humphreys	Aaron
Judy	Gabrielle
Keppler	Blaik
Klibansky	Lara
Kolmos	Kevin
Law	Alexander
Lee	Jennifer
Levy	Mara
Malinowski	Richard
Markwith	Anne
Masi	Michelle
Matter	Vivian
Matzen	Eric
McClair	Genine
McWaters	Mark
Merck	Nicole
Miele	Valentina
Moir	James
Muffley	Brandon
Neer	Julie
Newman	Thomas
Nuttall	Matthew
OCain	Elijah
ODEN	JEFF
Ott	Emily
Owens	Marina
Pace	Sara
Padgett	Kathryn
Palmrose	Kristin
Porter	Mark
Ramsay	Chloe
Records	David

Reed	John
Rettig	Adam
Reynolds	Kris
Ricken	Joshua
Rodgers	Phil
Runde	Brendan
Salmon	Brandi
Sawicki	Kim
Schlick	CJ
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Seeley	Matthew
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vincent	matthew