

# OVERVIEW

## Joint Habitat and Environmental Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committees

Sawgrass Marriott  
1000 PGA Tour Boulevard  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
June 9, 2014

The Committees will: (A) Receive a Habitat AP Meeting Report; (B) Review & Approve Redrafted EFH Policy Statements on Marine Aquaculture, SAV, In-stream Flow and Marine and Estuarine Invasive Species; (C) Receive a Coral AP Meeting Report; (D) Receive a Status report on Coral Amendment 8; and (E) Receive Update on Ecosystem Activities including: the SALCC Conservation Blueprint; Everglades Water Management; the Pulley Ridge Connectivity Study; Activities of SEAMAP, SECOORA, SARP and GSAA; and Update on FEP II Development.

### **A. Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel Report (Attachment 1)**

The Committee will be provided an overview of and recommendations developed during the April 1-3, 2014 Habitat and Environmental Protection AP meeting held in Charleston, SC. The AP reviewed redrafted Essential Fish Habitat Policy Statements for Marine Aquaculture, In-stream Flow, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, and Marine and Estuarine Invasive Species. Included in the AP report are redrafted statements for Committee consideration and Council approval. In addition, the AP is reviewing and updating the Energy Policy and Beach Dredge and Fill Policy and will further develop two new policy statements on Artificial Reefs and Restoration and provide those for Council consideration as completed. The Panel also broke into State Sub-Panels to review and provide input on lists of preparers of FEP-sections to support development of FEP II. Other general recommendations will be provided in the report.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** The Committee will provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

### **B. Review of EFH Policy Statements (Attachments 2-5)**

The Committee will review EFH policy statements redrafted by the Habitat AP on Marine Aquaculture, SAV, In-Stream Flow, and Marine and Estuarine Invasive Species.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** The Committee will review and approve the redrafted EFH policy statements and provide additional guidance to staff as appropriate.

### **C. Coral Advisory Panel Report (Attachment 6)**

The Committee will be provided an overview of and recommendations developed during the May 7-8, 2014 Coral AP meeting held in Charleston South Carolina. The AP reviewed the status of Coral Amendment 8, reviewed the SAFMC Cooperative Agreement with Coral Reef Conservation Program, received an update on ESA listing status of coral species, and provided

input on the Oculina Evaluation Team 2014 review of the Evaluation Plan for the Oculina Experimental Closed Area.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** The Committee will provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

**D. Status of Coral Amendment 8**

The Council approved Coral Amendment 8 during the September 2013 meeting. Coral Amendment 8 was submitted for Secretarial Review on December 2013. The Committee will receive a status report from SERO staff on publication of the Notice of Availability and Proposed Rule for Coral Amendment 8.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** The Committee will provide guidance to staff as appropriate.

**E. Ecosystem Activities**

The Committee will receive an update on the development of a Conservation Blueprint by the South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SALCC). The Committee will receive a presentation on Everglades Water Management by Peter Ortner, Director Cooperative Institute for Marine & Atmospheric Studies /RSMAS, as it relates to habitat, fish, and fisheries. The Committee will receive a brief overview of the Pulley Ridge Connectivity Study by Peter Ortner, RSMAS. The Committee will receive updates on activities associated with the Southeast Assessment and Monitoring Program (SEAMAP), the Southeast Coastal and Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), the Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP), and the Governors South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA). The Committee will also receive an update on development of FEP II.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** The Committee will provide guidance to staff as appropriate.