



# Communities Project Phase III: Modeling Effects of Changing Ecosystems on South Atlantic Fisheries and Fishing Communities

## Resilient Fisheries Project Overview

### Description

Phase III of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Communities Project is intended to strengthen ecosystem-based management by using the South Atlantic Region Ecopath with Ecosim and Ecospace model to assess how changing environmental conditions could affect fisheries and the fishing communities that depend on them. Building on the community identification and engagement work in Phases I and II, the project will integrate prior community data into scenario testing, risk and tradeoff analysis, and the development of ecosystem indicators that can support management decisions. Expected deliverables include an updated SAR EwE model, scenario analyses, candidate ecosystem indicators, a final report, and presentations to the Scientific and Statistical Committee and full Council. Proposals are due May 22, 2026 and the project is expected to run from June 2026 through September 2027 with a final report due in July 2027.

For more information please see the [Phase III RFP](#).

### Progress Updates

- The Phase III request for proposals was open from Apr. 22, 2026 to May 22, 2026.
- The proposal review and selection process is now underway and is expected to be complete by late June.

### Project Team

*Contractor:* TBD

*Oversight Team:* TBD

### Anticipated Timeline

**2026**

- ▶ **Apr** - Request for proposals released.
- ▶ **May** - Proposal submission deadline
- Jun** - Proposals reviewed and contractor selected; Project Begins
- Jul** - Project Oversight Team quarterly meetings begin
- TBD** - Review of the reconfigured model, methods, and ecosystem indicators by the SSC

**2027**

- ▶ **Sept** - Final report presentation to full Council and Project Completion.
- Implementation of project outcomes begin.