

Policy for the Protection and Restoration of Essential Fish Habitats from Energy Exploration and Development

Overview of Revisions
October 28, 2024

SAFMC
Habitat and EBM
Advisory Panel

October 28, 2024
Charleston, SC



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

Progress

Two online meetings – February 7 and March 18 and three onsite meetings

Final Working Group Comments – March 22

Incorporation of Comments – Summer 2024

Organization and Updating the Regs and Science

- Policy Context (formerly Introduction)
- Policy Goal
- EFH At Risk from Energy Exploration and Development - EFH User Guide



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Progress (con't.)

- Threats to Marine and Estuarine Resources from Energy Exploration, Development, Operational, Site Decommission, and Structure Removal
- Threats to Marine and Estuarine Resources from Wind Energy Exploration, Development, Operational, Site Decommission, and Structure Removal
- SAFMC Best Management Practices for Energy Exploration, Development, Operational, Site Decommission, and Structure Removal (n=63)
 - Project Siting and Environmental Regulatory Review, Biological, Licensing/Permitting, Structural/Construction, Cable Location, Navigation/Safety, Mitigation/Compensation, Monitoring/Advancement of Science/Exploration, Collaboration/Stakeholder Engagement



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Progress (con't.)

- Appendix A
 - Table 1. Non-fishing threats identified for the South Atlantic region and the policies that address these threats.
 - Table 2. SAFMC policies and details for what each policy entails.



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Overall Approach

- Forward thinking and consider the uniqueness of our region
- Life cycle considerations
- New EFH considerations
- Exploration and R&D platforms
- Academic collaborations/SEAMAP
- Stakeholder engagement considerations



Working Group Members

- Laurent Cherubin
- Stacy Crowes
- Anne Deaton
- Brian Hooker
- Kathleen Howington
- Paula Keener (Chair)
- Wilson Laney
- Brendan Runde
- David Whitaker
- Pace Wilber
- Jordan Wolfe
- Thomas Jones

