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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Habitat Blueprint Update



Website Update

<https://safmc.net/fishery-management-plans/habitat/>



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Habitat and Ecosystem

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC or Council) works to conserve habitats and their ecosystem functions to ensure the long-term sustainability of fishery resources by identifying and protecting habitats.



Essential Fish Habitat

The Council is required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to identify and describe Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), minimize adverse effects caused by fishing on EFH, and identify other actions to encourage habitat protection. Priority areas within EFH for conservation and management are called EFH-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs or HAPCs) and are designated based on ecological importance.

Resources

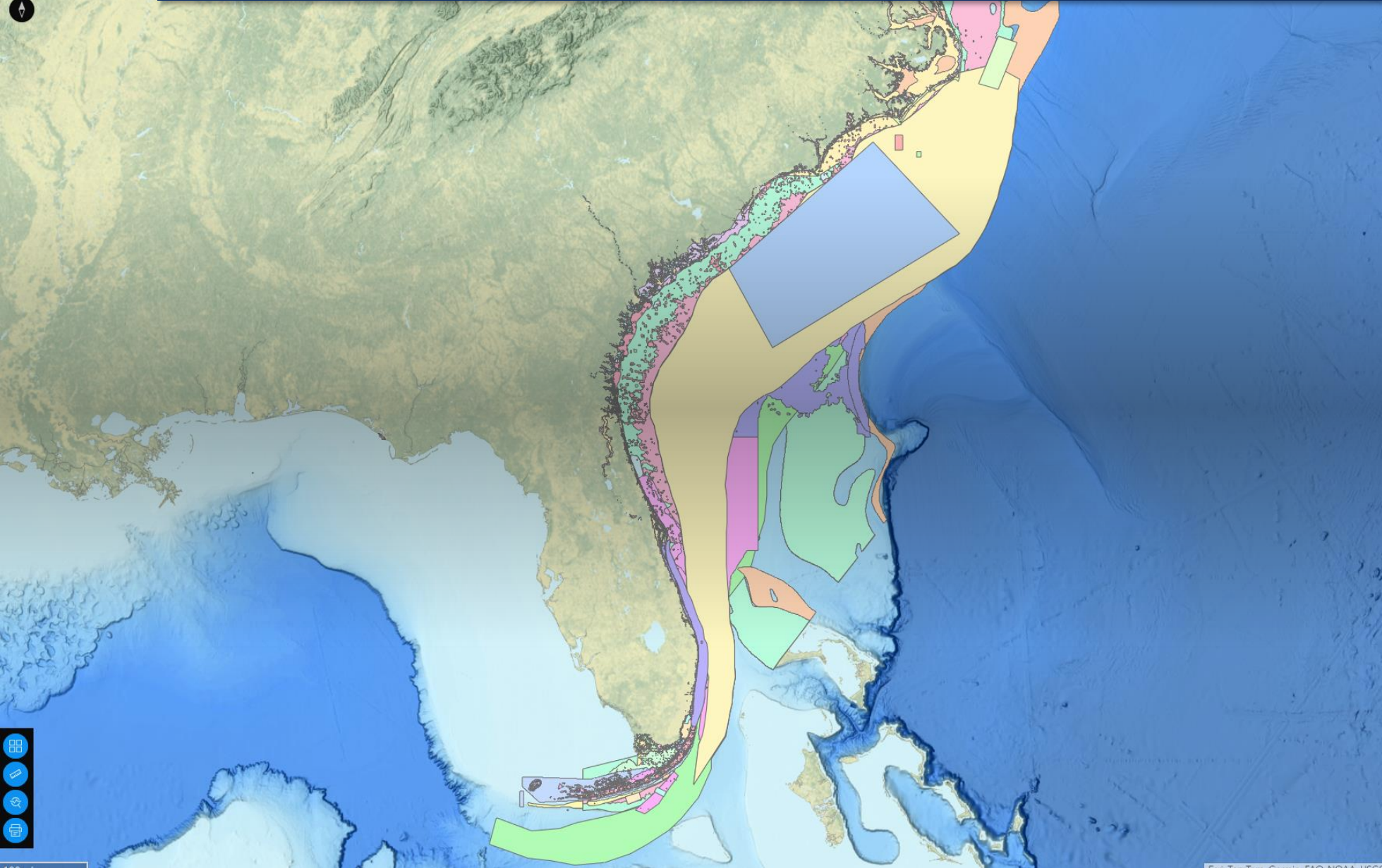
[EFH USER GUIDE](#)

[MANAGED AREAS](#)

[EFH MAPS](#)



EFH Mapper



- ☒ Coral , Coral Reef, Live/Hard bottom EFH
- ☒ Coral, Coral Reef, Live/Hard bottom HAPC
- ☒ Dolphin Wahoo EFH
- ☒ Dolphin Wahoo HAPC
- ☒ Golden Crab EFH
- ☒ Shrimp EFH
- ☒ Shrimp HAPC
- ☒ Snapper Grouper EFH
- ☒ Snapper Grouper HAPC
- ☒ Spiny Lobster EFH
- ☒ Spiny Lobster HAPC
- ☒ Tilefish HAPC



Habitat Article

- October World Habitat Month
- Will touch on the following topics
 - Summarizing SAFMC's early Habitat documents
 - Describing the importance on an ecosystem-based approach
 - Describe EFH and HAPC designations
 - Discussing Habitat Threats, Development, Oil and Gas exploration, and others
 - Describing the Habitat Blueprint, Council policies and the Habitat Ecosystem Advisory Panel
 - looking forward to challenges approaches and more habitat page

Outreach and Communication strategy

Council role with habitat is not well understood



Outreach and communication efforts should focus on clearly stating, the Council's habitat obligations under the MSA and other federal laws, steps taken by the Council to meet its obligations, and the Council's overall approach to habitat issues.

Outreach and Communications Advisory Panel Strategy Recommendations

- Use the website and story maps to increase awareness of the Council's role in habitat protection;
- Consider other Councils' websites and presentation of EFH;
- Highlight habitat protection work separately from ecosystem-based management work;
- Develop a short video on what the Council can and cannot do relevant to habitat;
- Make a general connection between healthy habitat and healthy fisheries;
- Use an infographic to illustrate the role of the Council;
- Include information on water quality
- Start communication with a focus on public concerns related to habitat,
- Share ways the public can make an active impact.



Outreach and Communication Plans



Who is our audience?



What are our key takeaways?



What are the goals of outreach?



What tools do we have to
communicate?



What are key issues we need to
address with outreach?



What are the public's concerns?



Outreach and communication Events

- Any known Habitat or ecosystem related events?
- Any other follow up thoughts?