

OVERVIEW

Information and Education Advisory Panel Meeting North Charleston, SC May 5-6, 2014

1. Overview of SAFMC Outreach Activities, 2013-2014

The AP will receive an update on recently completed Council outreach projects and current outreach activities from 2013-2014. AP members will provide recommendations on expansion of outreach activities.

2. Overview and Update of Council Visioning Project & Port Meetings (Attachments 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Since December 2012, the Council has been working on a process for developing a long-term strategic plan for managing the snapper grouper fishery, called the Visioning Project. Council staff have facilitated council member visioning workshops at each Council meeting to develop goals and objectives for the Visioning project and a framework for collecting information from fishery stakeholders through the use of community 'port meetings.' The AP will receive an update on the Visioning Project and associated outreach activities as well as preliminary results regarding outreach needs based on input received at the community port meetings held from February through April 2014.

3. Overview of the Oculina Experimental Closed Area (OECA) Evaluation Plan and the Outreach component of the OECA Evaluation Plan 2014 Draft Report (Attachments 5 and 6)

The AP will receive an overview of the OECA Evaluation Plan; the status of the outreach components of the OECA plan to date; review the draft outreach report prepared by the OECA Outreach Evaluation Team and provide recommendations to the OECA Outreach Evaluation Team for future outreach activities related to the OECA.

4. Update on the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) for the South East Region (Attachment 7)

The AP will receive an update about the ongoing Marine Resources Education Program in the South Atlantic Region. 2014 MREP SE workshops are scheduled for April 22-24 and September 28-October 1 in Tampa, FL. Future workshops beyond 2014 are dependent on funding. AP members will receive an update and provide recommendations for the program.

(Background on MREP: The program, facilitated by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, initially began in New England. The program, developed by fishermen for fishermen, includes the following program goals: to bring fishermen, scientists and managers together in a neutral setting outside the regulatory process; to increase the number of people at work in regional fisheries who are comfortable working with the fishery data and management systems; help policy makers and scientists become more familiar with the inner working of the fishing community; increase the number of fishermen involved in collaborative research and pursuit of best available science; and to develop leadership and promote trust. Additional information about the program is available at: <http://www.gmri.org>.)