



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair
Charlie Phillips, Vice Chair

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
Gregg T. Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

Overview

Protected Resources Committee

December 10, 2015
Doubletree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront
2717 W. Fort Macon Rd.
Atlantic Beach, NC

The Protected Resources Committee will meet to discuss South Atlantic protected species and receive updates on associated regulatory/management actions that the Council should be knowledgeable of when managing South Atlantic fisheries. SERO Protected Resource Division (PRD) staff will report on (1) protected resources-related updates for the South Atlantic region and (2) the Compliance Policy for Turtle Excluder Devices established as part of the Southeast Shrimp Fishery Biological Opinion. Council staff will brief the Committee on (3) the draft ESA/MSA Integration Agreement. Following, the Council will be briefed by US Fish and Wildlife Service staff on the status updates for (4) American Eel, Atlantic Sturgeon, and the Red Knot. The Committee will discuss potential action for each item, provide guidance to staff, and address issues under Other Business as needed.

1. South Atlantic Protected Resource-Related Updates (Attachment 1)

Staff from the SERO Protected Resources Division (PRD) will provide the Committee with an update on protected resources issues in the South Atlantic region.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide input on the updates, discuss, and take action as necessary.

2. Compliance Policy for Turtle Excluder Devices (Attachment 2)

The 2014 Southeast Shrimp Fishery Biological Opinion listed as a term and condition of the biological opinion that NMFS must develop methods and standards for determining non-compliance of turtle excluder device (TED) requirements in the Southeast Shrimp Fishery. The SERO Protected Resources Division has developed a draft policy for monitoring TED compliance. SERO Protected Resources Division Staff will give a presentation on the draft policy for TED compliance.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

3. ESA/MSA Integration Agreement (Attachment 3)

In January 2015, NMFS released a policy directive on ESA/MSA Integration. The directive implemented recommendations from the ESA Working Group, which was convened by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) and the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) to make recommendations on how to improve the involvement of regional management councils in the ESA section 7 consultation process. The ESA Working Group also provided recommendations on how to improve transparency in data used for ESA jeopardy determinations, but these will be addressed by NMFS in a separate document.

Council staff presented a draft ESA/MSA Integration Agreement to the Council in June and September. Council and PR staffs are continuing to work on the Integration Agreement. The Committee will discuss items and topics included in the latest draft (**Attachment 3**) Integration Agreement between the South Atlantic Council and SERO PRD in regards to coordination with and involvement of the Council in section 7 consultations.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review the draft Integration Agreement and provide input as necessary. Provide direction to staff on content and timing for the Integration Agreement.

4. Updates on American Eel Status Review, Atlantic Sturgeon, and Red Knot Listing

Wilson Laney, US Fish and Wildlife Service, will give an update on American Eel Status Review, Atlantic Sturgeon stock assessment, and Red Knot listing conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Services.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Discuss and take action as necessary.

Protected Resources Committee

Wilson Laney, Chair

Jessica McCawley, Vice-Chair

Mark Brown

Zack Bowen

Jack Cox

Michelle Duval

LTJG Tara Pray

Robert Beal

Attachments

Attachment 1: Protected Resources Updates for the South Atlantic (2nd BB)

Attachment 2: NMFS SERO Turtle Excluder Device Compliance Policy May 2015

Attachment 3: Draft ESA MSA Integration Agreement (2nd BB)