



South Atlantic Management Program Review

Resilient Fisheries Project Overview

Description

This project will address the goal of improving the Council's responsiveness and adaptability to dynamic fisheries and ecosystems by evaluating and improving regulatory processes and governance structures. The contractor will review the Council's management program and identify existing challenges. They will then leverage strategies and best practices identified during similar program review initiatives conducted at other regional councils to develop recommendations for Council consideration. Approval for this project was received in June 2025. Two request for proposals are now open for this project, both will close June 30, 2025.

Objectives

1. Evaluate how ecosystem and species information product (e.g. Ecosystem Status Reports) development and availability can better support Council allocation decisions and management actions.
2. Review outcomes of other U.S. Regional Fisheries Council program reviews and identify management process efficiencies and opportunities for the SAFMC to realize program improvements that will allow the Council to act in a more expedited manner.
3. Identify opportunities to further use of cooperative, constituent-engaged data collection and research.
4. Evaluate committee structure and use: compare SAFMC committee operations with the NEFMC, MAFMC, Gulf Council and ASMFC.
5. Evaluate opportunities for the Council to build upon the existing considerations of risk in its control rule, to account for increasing environmental uncertainties.

Project Oversight Team

Contractors: TBD

Oversight Team: Myra Brouwer, John Hadley, Lara Klibansky, Chip Collier (additional membership TBD)

Anticipated Project Timeline

2025

INITIATE



Jun - Request for proposals released.

Jul - Proposals reviewed and contractor selected

Jul - Project Oversight Team formed

TBD - Begin monthly Project Oversight Team meetings with contractors

2026

PROGRAM REVIEW

Contractor will meet with POT and conducts review of Council processes and other regional council program reviews and outcomes.

2027

DEVELOP

Contractor will develop a report including recommendations for Council action.

IMPLEMENT

Contractor will present report to Council. The Council will consider approval of recommendations and directing staff to implement recommendations.