

October 15, 2024

**Request for Proposals: Evaluating Climate-Driven Distribution and Habitat Changes in
South Atlantic Fisheries**

Proposals due November 15, 2024

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC or Council) seeks proposals to update species distributions, fishery distributions, and Essential Fish Habitat designations for species managed under the Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plans.

Climate change presents a myriad of challenges to the stability and productivity of marine ecosystems. In recognition of these challenges the U.S. East Coast Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service undertook the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning effort to begin to consider how to collectively address climate change in fisheries. As a result of that planning effort identifying and monitoring climate-driven changes in spatial distributions and habitat associations has been prioritized.

The ability to identify and monitor climate driven changes is dependent on the availability and integration of appropriate fisheries data sources. In the South Atlantic, existing data limitations present a challenge to understanding climate-driven changes in spatial distribution of species, fisheries, and essential habitats. In addition, some species managed by the Council under the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin and Wahoo, and Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fishery Management Plans have been identified as highly vulnerable to climate change.

The Council seeks proposals for work to identify, analyze and integrate appropriate data sources to update spatial distributions and habitat associations for these species.

More information on the scope of work, project timeline, applicant qualifications, and how to apply, can be found in the request for proposals (RFP). Proposals are due **November 15, 2024**.