



SAFMC Fishery Management Process & Ecosystem Information 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, governance structures, and its availability and use of ecosystem information in decision-making. The project tasks have been divided into two separate but coordinated projects, (1a) a Fisheries Management Process Review and (1b) an Ecosystem Information Review. The Management Process Review will examine the Council's management program, identify existing challenges, and develop strategies and recommendations to streamline management processes for Council consideration. The Ecosystem Information Review will examine the availability and use of ecosystem data and products in the Council's management process and develop strategies to improved incorporation. The findings from the Ecosystem Review will be considered during the Management Process Review.

Progress and Next Steps

- Two requests for proposals were open in Jun., proposals were reviewed and selections made in Jul. and Aug.
- Contracts are now finalized and work is getting underway for both projects.
- While the two projects are independent, the second will inform the former, as such both projects will be overseen by a single Project Oversight Team (OT).
- Project planning is still underway with a kick-off OT meeting scheduled for Sept.

Project Oversight Team

Contractors: (1a) Aaron Kornbluth, Purcie Bennett-Nickerson, and Steve Poland (1b) Sarah Gaichas

Oversight Team: Myra Brouwer, John Hadley, Michelle Walsh (NOAA SERO), Michelle Bachman (NEFMC), Kiley Dancy (MAFMC), Verena Wang (Gulf Council), Chip Collier, Lara Klibansky

Project Timeline

(ADDITIONAL DETAILS COMING SOON)

2025 ▶ INITIATE

- ✓ Jun - Request for proposals released.
- ✓ Jul/Aug - Proposals reviewed and contractor selected
- ✓ Aug - Project Oversight Team formed
- Sept - Begin monthly Project Oversight Team meetings with contractors; Begin background research and stakeholder engagement

2026 ▶ PROGRAM REVIEW

Contractors will meet with POT and conducts reviews of Council processes and other regional council program reviews and outcomes, as well as Ecosystem Information Availability and Use.

2027 ▶ DEVELOP

Contractors will develop reports 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.