

OVERVIEW

Ecosystem-Based Management Committee Meeting

March 2, 2010
Jekyll Island Club Hotel
371 Riverview Drive
Jekyll Island, Georgia

The Ecosystem-Based Management Committee will: (A) receive an update on CE-BA 2 development and changes since the December 2009 meeting; (B) provide guidance to staff on actions and alternatives for analysis; (C) receive an update on the National Center for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)'s outreach campaign to control lionfish in the region; and (D) review the draft policy on invasive species and provide guidance to staff.

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2

The SSC met via webinar on January 7, 2010 to discuss fishing level recommendations for data-poor species. The outcome of that meeting was a request memo detailing the data needs. The SSC will hold a meeting in April to discuss development of an ABC control rule for data-poor stocks. It is anticipated that fishing level recommendations for octocorals will be provided to the Council after that. The Interagency Planning Team (IPT) held a conference call on January 13, 2010 to discuss development of CE-BA 2. The IPT is awaiting guidance from NOAA GC on two issues before further development of the document can proceed: (1) can it be assumed that an established Fishery Management Unit excludes invasive species since that would be in keeping with the mandates of the Magnuson Act, and (2) is it possible to transfer management authority of Special Management Zones to the states.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide guidance to staff on actions and alternatives for analysis.

Invasive Species

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), who have conducted extensive lionfish research, have conceived an "Eat Lionfish" campaign to control the lionfish population in the South Atlantic. Top chefs in five cities will be hosting tasting events in spring 2010. NOAA will be working with them to develop press for the event that brings attention to the threat of lionfish and which highlights eating lionfish as a method of conservation and protection for our coral reefs. The media campaign will include not only pitches to major print outlets but also to television producers for The Food Network and The Travel Channel.

At the December 2009 meeting, staff was directed to draft a policy on invasive species that would assist the Council in management decisions regarding invasive species in general and lionfish and orange cup coral in particular. In coordination with Dr. James

Morris of the Southeast Regional Science Center at Beaufort; Mr. Ron Lukens, chairman of the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species; and Mr. James Ballard of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and coordinator of the Regional Panel, a draft policy was developed for Council review.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review the draft policy and provide guidance to staff.

Ecosystem Coordination Activities

Roger Pugliese will provide a summary of recent habitat and ecosystem coordination activities including the South Atlantic Governors' Alliance (Technical Team Creation), Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) "Form and Function", the National Habitat Plan and regional Habitat Partnerships, IOOS and SECOORA and the Habitat and Ecosystem Internet Map Server and GIS Services.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: None.