



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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OVERVIEW

Joint Meeting of the Habitat and Environmental Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committees

March 4, 2009
Jekyll Island Club Hotel
371 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA

The Habitat and Ecosystem-Based Management Committees will meet jointly on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The Committees will: (A) receive reports from staff on public comments received for the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) and (B) Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1 (CE-BA 1); (C) receive a summary of scoping comments for the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2; (D) receive a presentation from Ken Nedimeyer (Coral AP) on live-rock aquaculture /octocoral harvest and status of the *Acropora* nursery; (E) receive a summary report from Myra Brouwer on the 4th International Deep-Sea Coral Symposium and (F) receive a status report from Roger Pugliese and a presentation by Ginny Fay (NOAA) on the development of the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance.

A Public Comment session has been scheduled on the FEP for 2:30 PM Thursday March 5, 2009.

A. Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) (Attachment 2)

Roger Pugliese will provide an overview of comments on the FEP from the second round of public hearings. The Committee will provide guidance for revision and recommend the Council approve the FEP. The FEP is scheduled to be submitted as a source document to the Secretary along with the CE-BA 1 following the June Council meeting.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

- The Committees will need to approve the FEP for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

B. Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1 (Attachment 3)

Myra Brouwer will provide a summary of comments from the second round of public hearings on the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1.

Timing for the CE-BA1 is as follows:

March 2009	Document revised based on Committee & Council actions
March 2009	Draft proposed rule and DEIS/CE-BA 1 filed by SERO
June 2009	Review DEIS comments and review revise and approve CE-BA 1 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

- The Committees will need to provide guidance to staff on any revisions to the CE-BA 1 document.

C. Summary of Scoping Comments for Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2

Myra Brouwer will provide a summary of comments from scoping meetings for the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2.

Timing for the CE-BA 2 is as follows:

Scoping – January/February 2009	
March 2009	Review scoping comments and develop options
June 2009	Review options
June-August 2009	Develop draft document
September 2009	Review and approve for Public Hearings
November 2009	Public hearings
December 2009	Review, revise and approve for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

Live Rock Aquaculture and *Acropora* nursery (Attachment 4)

At the November 2008 Coral AP meeting, Ken Nedimyer gave a presentation on how he conducts his live rock aquaculture/octocoral harvest operations and presented a status on his on-going nursery work for staghorn and elkhorn corals. In light of the Council considering amending the Coral FMP to modify octocoral harvest in the CE-BA 2, Ken will be providing the Committees with an overview of his activities.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

- The Committees will review scoping comments and provide guidance to staff to develop options for the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2.

D. Report on 4th International Deep-Sea Coral Symposium

Myra Brouwer will provide a short summary of the outcomes of the Symposium.

E. Governor’s South Atlantic Alliance Status Report (Attachments 5-7)

Roger Pugliese will provide the Committee with a status report on the development of the Alliance. Ginny Faye (NOAA) will make a presentation on the Alliance.