

Joint Coral/Habitat Protection Committee Meeting
August 15, 2016
New Orleans, Louisiana

Joint Coral/Habitat Protection Committee Meeting: Action Guide and Next Steps

Agenda Item IV: Draft of 5-year EFH Review

Timeline Status: Draft

Committee Input and Next Steps:

Staff will present the outline and overview of the EFH document. The Committee is requested to review the document and provide staff with any comments or edits that it would like incorporated into the final document. Staff will present the final document to the Committee at the October Council meeting. The EFH 5 year review is due by December 2016.

Agenda Item V: Summary of the Joint Shrimp AP/Coral SSC/AP Meeting

Timeline Status: Information

Committee Input and Next Steps:

Staff will present the summary from the meeting that was held at the Council Office on August 3-4 of the Coral SSC, the Coral AP and the Shrimp AP. The group was tasked with prioritizing areas for HAPC consideration from the 47 areas that the Coral SSC/AP proposed in May 2015. The Committee should make recommendations based on the outcomes of the Joint meeting. Staff was asked to produce a scoping document about these coral HAPCs at the June Council meeting; a scoping document will be presented to the Council at the October Council Meeting focusing on these priority areas. The Committee may discuss locations for scoping for planning purposes, but scoping will not be conducted until the Council is presented with a scoping document.

Agenda Item VI: Letter regarding the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Timeline Status: Information

Committee Input and Next Steps:

In June, 2016, the Council was presented with the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Staff has prepared a letter identifying concerns with the DEIS. The Committee should make any other recommendations on the letter to be included. The joint Shrimp AP, Coral AP, and Coral SSC were also presented with the proposed expansion and made comments that are included in the summary of that meeting. The letter will need to be submitted by Friday, August 19th, 2016.

Agenda Item VII: Discussion on fishing regulations on the Flower Garden National Marine Sanctuary Expansion

Timeline Status: Information

Committee Input and Next Steps:

The Committee should review the proposed regulations for the expansion of the FGBNMS. The current sanctuary regulations are proposed to extend to the entire expansion. The Council has until December 2016 to comment on the proposed regulations. Staff will draft a letter or white paper on the regulations and present it to the Council at the October, 2016 meeting in Biloxi, MS. The Committee should make any recommendations to staff on what to include in this document.

Agenda Item IX: Other Business

Timeline Status: Information

Committee Input and Next Steps:

- The Committee may discuss any non-agenda items here.