

Ecosystem Technical Committee
Scope of Work
December 14-15, 2021
Hybrid

Agenda Item IV: Roles and Responsibilities

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendation

Committee input and next steps: LGL Ecological Research Associates Inc. (LGL) has been contracted by the Council to develop a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) that will provide a framework to incorporate ecosystem-based fishery management into the Council process. Council staff will provide an overview of the contract milestones and deliverables. The Ecosystem Technical Committee (ETC) serves as a review body for the draft FEP and related materials and is encouraged to ask questions and provide recommendations to the consultant on how to best design an FEP for the Gulf of Mexico region.

Agenda Item V: Case Studies and Lessons Learned from Fishery Ecosystem Planning

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendation

Committee input and next steps: LGL will summarize the approach taken by other regional Councils in the development of their respective FEPs and lessons learned that could be applied in the Gulf of Mexico. The ETC should provide recommendations on how to best apply these concepts to the Gulf FEP.

Agenda Item VI: Stakeholder Assessment and Concept Mapping

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendation

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Scyphers will provide an update on the development of the stakeholder engagement portion of the project. One of the goals of this project is to find a way to capture fishery-ecosystem issues and concerns from Gulf stakeholders. The ETC should provide recommendations on issues to consider, outcomes of the stakeholder feedback received to date, and additional feedback to be considered by the consultant.

Agenda Item VII: Indicator Development for Fishery Ecosystem Planning

Action: Presentations, discussions, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Putnam will provide an update on the development of ecosystem indicators for potential use in an FEP. He will outline the methods, assumptions, and

potential uses of the indicators identified in the analyses completed to date. The ETC should provide feedback on the methods and recommendations in this report and provide guidance on how this can be incorporated into the FEP and the management process.

Agenda Item VIII: Presentation of Proposed FEP Structure

Action: Presentation, discussions, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Heyman will provide an overview of the proposed outline and structure of the FEP. This outline includes proposed sections and key components within each chapter. The ETC is requested to review the materials, provide input on the questions raised in the presentation and make recommendations about the outline that can be used to develop the FEP.

Agenda Item IX: Public Comment

Action: Information

Committee input and next steps: Members of the public will be able to address the ETC directly with respect to the topics discussed during this meeting and other matters, as time allows.

Agenda Item X: Other Business

Action: Discussion

Committee Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by ETC members, time permitting.
