

ASSIGNMENT

During its April 2023 meeting¹, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) Ecosystem Technical Committee (ETC) continued work on developing a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) to inform the Council when incorporating ecosystem considerations into its fishery management process. At this meeting, the ETC identified a number of Fishery Ecosystem Issues (page 4 of meeting report), but requested additional time to create a procedure for ranking issues as a priority recommendation for Council consideration. To continue work on the FEP, the ETC asked to work independently on developing metrics to prioritize Fishery Ecosystem Issues. To aid in this task, several examples of potential ranking hierarchy approaches either created by the ETC, provided by Science Center staff, or proposed by the public have been made available for your review. This assignment asks each ETC member to consider the provided examples, develop a ranking structure to propose to the group, and provide rationale for their approach. The **objective** of the assignment is to allow an opportunity for individual ETC members to voice their thoughts and recommendations, such that the group can develop documentation for creating a FEI hierarchy ranking and reach a group consensus for a standard ranking approach. Once the FEI hierarchy ranking is **completed** it can be used as a framework to inform the Council and stakeholders on a process for prioritizing work on the individual FEIs.

Attachments:

1. Spreadsheet developed during the April 2023 meeting (1_Gulf_ETC_FEI_Prioritization)
2. Spreadsheet provided by Mr. Chad Hanson (Pew Charitable Trust) during Public Testimony on April 2023 (2_PEW_FEI-prioritization-metrics-v2)

The ranking examples (spreadsheets 1 and 2) are provided as **guidelines** for the development of your proposed ranking system. While a ranking structure that would include the category and the scoring based on issue or magnitude is desirable, ETC members are not obligated to strictly adhere to any one example and are encouraged to explore approaches that may not be reflected in these examples. The scale for scoring should not be larger than 1 – 10. It is ok if your recommendation is solely focused on one category based on your expertise (for example, “impacts to stakeholders”). It is also assumed that some ETC members might suggest combining and reorganizing the spreadsheets provided. The recommendations will be compiled and made available as part of the Briefing Book, and discussed by the group during the publicly noticed meeting scheduled for September 21st.

Submit your recommendations to natasha.mendez@gulfcouncil.org by September 12th, 2023.

¹ https://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/ETC_mtg_April_19_2023_05052023.pdf