

**Ecosystem Technical Committee
Scope of Work
March 2, 2020
Tampa, FL – Council Office**

Agenda Item II: Election of the Ecosystem Technical Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Action: Election of Chair and Vice-chair

Committee input and next steps: This Ecosystem Technical Committee is a newly appointed group, so it is time to select a chair and vice chair to lead discussions related to ecosystem approaches to fishery management, and represent the Ecosystem Technical Committee as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: Building a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Gulf of Mexico

Action: Information and Discussion

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Karnauskas will discuss guidance from national ecosystem policies and will present progress on stakeholder workshops, ecosystem status reports, and related foundational work that can inform the development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Gulf of Mexico. The Committee should begin thinking about the visioning and goals of this type of guidance document and how it could better inform Council decisions.

Agenda Item VI: Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Perspective

Action: Information

Committee input and next steps: Mr. Muffley will present the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's ecosystem-approach to fishery management. The Committee is encouraged to ask questions and provide suggestions on approaches that could be applied to the Gulf.

Agenda Item VII: Discussion on the Regulatory Authority of the Gulf Council in the Context of Ecosystem Management

Action: Discussion

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Farmer will lead a discussion on how to develop a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) based on the regulatory authority of the Council. The Committee

is encouraged to discuss how an FEP can be translated into Council actions, such as changing: size limits, seasons, bag limits, zone closures, among other topics.

Agenda Item VIII: Proposed Fishery Ecosystem Plan Outline

Action: Discussion

Committee input and next steps: At its October 2018 meeting, the Council saw a draft of a proposed outline to develop an FEP. The Council also established an Ecosystem Technical Committee to assist on the development and implementation of an FEP. This portion of the meeting will be focused on getting input about the goals of this FEP and the steps to reach that goal. The Committee is encouraged provide specific feedback on the outline and structure of the document to achieve the proposed goals.
