

Sustainable Fisheries Committee: Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab E

Agenda Item IV: Protocol for Authorizing Sea Turtle Release Gear

Timeline Status: Presentation and Discussion Paper

Council Input and Next Steps: Mr. Charlie Bergmann (SEFSC-Pascagoula) will give a presentation describing the protocols and procedures in use to protect sea turtles from interactions with the reef fish fishery. Staff will present a discussion paper about potential new sea turtle release gears that could be used in the reef fish fishery. The Council may also consider modifications to the framework procedure to allow new gears to be approved for use without an amendment to the fishery management plan. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, an amendment to the reef fish FMP is required and the Committee may provide guidance to staff on how to proceed.

Agenda Item V: Lionfish Research Overview

Timeline Status: Presentation

Council Input and Next Steps: Dr. Tom Frazer will give a presentation highlighting his research on lionfish in the Gulf. This is for information only. No action is needed by the Committee.

Agenda Item VI: Lionfish Actions by Federal and State Agencies

Timeline Status: Presentations and Discussion

Council Input and Next Steps: Short presentations or discussions will be provided on agency actions to monitor or remediate lionfish by NMFS, USFWS, and states that have lionfish activities. This is for information only. No action is needed by the Committee.

Agenda Item VII: Other Business

Timeline Status: Additional items that can be brought up for discussion, but no action can be taken since they have not been announced

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by Committee members, time permitting. If the committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.