

Ecosystem Technical Committee
Scope of Work
September 10, 2021
Hybrid

Agenda Item V: Status Update on the CCC Subcommittee on Area-Based Management

Action: Information update, discussion

Committee input and next steps: Executive Order 14008 highlighted the need for the regional fishery management councils to contribute to area-based management for conservation, fisheries management, and ecosystem protection. The Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful report directs that “NOAA should work closely with the regional fishery management councils to identify areas or networks of areas where their fisheries management efforts would support long-term conservation goals.” At its May 2021 meeting, Council Coordination Committee (CCC) established a new Subcommittee on Area-based Management to develop a common understanding among the Councils of area-based management measures, and assist the regional councils in coordinating with NOAA to achieve the goals set forth in the EO and report to the Climate Change Task Force. Council staff will provide an update about the progress to date and the anticipated timeline of deliverables for this Subcommittee. This update is for informational purposes, no action is required from the Ecosystem Technical Committee (ETC).

Agenda Item VI: Mid-Term Project Summary of Ecosystem Technical Committee
Overview of Fisheries Ecosystem Planning (FEP) from LGL Consultancy

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 fisheries management into the Council process. LGL will introduce the project and summarize the goals and initial findings. The ETC 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 VII: Case Studies and Lessons Learned

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 on a Gulf FEP.

Agenda Item VIII: Update on Stakeholder Mapping, Engagement, and Mental Modelling

Action: Presentations, discussions, and recommendations

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, best approaches to community engagement, and additional feedback to the consultant.

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.
