

Habitat Protection and Restoration Committee

Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab P

Agenda Item IV: Draft Options: Generic Essential Fish Habitat Amendment

Timeline Status: Presentation and discussion

Council input and next steps: Council staff will provide a presentation to discuss the objectives and timeline for the development of a Generic Amendment to update essential fish habitat (EFH) descriptions for all Gulf fishery management plans. The presentation will review the current method for describing EFH and also introduce two other quantitative approaches that could be used to identify, describe, and refine EFH designations for a few data-rich species. Additionally, a draft options version of the Generic Amendment will be presented to the Committee for review. The Committee is tasked with discussing the proposed alternatives for describing EFH and provide any feedback that would be helpful in developing the amendment. The proposed timeline goal would include finalization of the Generic EFH Amendment in late 2021 or early 2022.

Agenda Item V: Discussion Session on President Biden's E.O. 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

Timeline Status: Presentation and discussion

Council input and next steps: NOAA leadership staff will provide a presentation outlining a preliminary report published by President Biden's office which addresses executive order (E.O.) 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. The report titled, Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful, directly addresses Section 216 (a) of the E.O. with the goal of conserving at least 30% of lands and waters by 2030. A link to the preliminary report is available to the Committee as "Background" in the Council's Briefing Book materials (**Tab P No. 5b**). The Committee should review the preliminary report, ask questions of NOAA leadership, and discuss the E.O.

Agenda Item VI: Comments on President Biden's E.O. 14008 Section 216 (c): Conserving our Nation's Lands and Waters

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and feedback on draft letter

Council input and next steps: E.O. 14008 stipulates that public comment should be collected (Section 216 (c)) to help achieve the goal outlined in Section 216 (a) of conserving 30% of lands and waters by 2030. Regional public comments on the E.O. was obtaining using the Council's "Something's Fishy" tool and results of that inquiry will be presented to the Committee. Additionally, a draft letter will be presented to the Committee for their consideration and review.

The Committee should provide feedback to staff to aid in the development of a submission letter and provide comment on the E.O. that would be pertinent to conservation issues in the Gulf of Mexico.
