

Ecosystem Committee Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab Q

Agenda Item IV: Ecosystem Technical Committee (ETC) Report

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: The ETC began work on the Council’s tasks to identify Fishery Ecosystem Issues (FEI), and developing metrics to prioritize them. Council staff will summarize the discussions from the April 2023 meeting which include recommendations to modify the FEI loop, identifying areas for stakeholder feedback, potential FEIs for the Council to consider, and draft criteria to rank the prioritization of FEIs. The ETC will continue working on the prioritization metrics for the FEIs, and requested additional direction from the Council on how to properly weigh each metric as well as the meeting proceedings. Council staff will suggest some next steps for the Committee’s consideration.

Agenda Item V: SSC Recommendations on a Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Model to Support Fisheries Management

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Mr. John Mareska (Reef Fish SSC) will review a presentation by Drs. Holden Harris and Skyler Sagarese (SEFSC), who presented their research on ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) with a U.S. Gulf-wide Ecosystem Model. This model demonstrates how the target biomasses of menhaden (prey) and menhaden predators could be achieved by modifying fishing pressure for menhaden or its predators. The spatially-explicit model uses data syntheses for habitat maps, spatial-temporal environmental drivers, functional responses, and initial results/validation. Mr. Mareska will summarize SSC feedback on next steps in model calibration, fitting, and incorporating qualitative scientific and fisher knowledge, and on how to best apply the U.S. Gulf-wide Ecosystem Model to address ecological questions and support regional EBFM. The Committee should review the information presented and ask questions as appropriate.

Agenda Item VI: Other Business

Timeline Status: Discussion and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion if time allows.
