

Habitat Protection and Restoration Committee Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab P

Agenda Item IV: Presentation from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Mexico

Timeline Status: Presentation and Information

Council input and next steps: BOEM will present a progress report on the ongoing development planning for wind energy exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. Currently, potential areas of interest are being identified as sites for construction of offshore wind equipment. At its December 2021 meeting, the Shrimp Advisory Panel (AP) also received an update from BOEM regarding offshore wind energy exploration. Council staff will review the pertinent section of the AP meeting summary report for the Committee's consideration. The Committee should listen to the presentation, ask questions of BOEM staff, and determine if they want to provide a formal letter with feedback.

Agenda Item V: Generic Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment

Timeline Status: Review and discussion

Council input and next steps: Council staff will present on the draft Generic EFH Amendment. The purpose of the Amendment is to update descriptions of EFH for all managed fish stocks. Council staff will present the latest version of the amendment, provide any recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and review the proposed document alternatives. The Committee should comment on the range of alternatives and discuss any additional information or other feedback they would like to have considered in the document.

Agenda Item VI: Draft Response Letter to NOAA Request for Comments on the Area-Based Management related to Executive Order 14008

Timeline Status: Review and input

Council input and next steps: NOAA Fisheries recently published a year one report highlighting the progress on Executive Order 14008: America the Beautiful. The major objective of the initiative is to conserve 30% of lands by 2030. NOAA Fisheries has requested that Council provide feedback on year one report. Council staff will present a draft recommendation letter for the Committee's consideration. The Committee should review the year one report and draft letter, and provide feedback to Council staff.

Agenda Item VII: Other Business

Timeline Status: Additional items that can be brought up for discussion

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