

**Ecosystem Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab Q**

Agenda Item IV: Update on Fishery Ecosystem Plan

Timeline Status: Information and Feedback

Council input and next steps: The Ecosystem Technical Committee met for the first time to discuss the development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). The topics discussed included ongoing projects by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, ecosystem efforts by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and translating ecosystem information into actionable objectives. The Ecosystem Technical Committee agreed that a successful FEP should have clear goals and objectives, which will provide the tools and background information to support future management actions. The Council Ecosystem Committee will be presented with specific suggestions from the Ecosystem Technical Committee including a mission statement and proposed sections to include in the FEP with their corresponding goals and objectives. The Committee should provide direction to staff regarding vision of the FEP, strategic objectives, proposed timeline, and additional content to include in the document.

Agenda Item V: Southeast Regional Efforts to Build a Foundation for the Fishery Ecosystem Plan

Timeline Status: Information

Council input and next steps: Dr. Karnauskas will provide an update on existing ecosystem-based fisheries management efforts that can inform the development of the Gulf's FEP. She will also present the results of stakeholder workshops geared towards capturing the perceptions and concerns related to the status of the ecosystem and fisheries in the Gulf. The Committee is encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback to help staff move forward with the development of the Gulf's FEP.

Agenda Item VI: Other Business

Timeline Status: Potential Additional Items

Council Input and Next Steps: If time permits, additional items may be brought up for discussion by the Committee.
