

Sharing habitat conservation objectives to guide habitat investments

2014 Council Coordination Committee Meeting

Overview: This is a two-part discussion on increasing NOAA and the Councils' use of habitat conservation as a tool to achieve fishery management goals.

Part 1 – February 2014 CCC meeting Holiday Inn Capitol Hill, Washington, DC February 20, 2014	Part 2 – May 2014 CCC meeting Hilton Ocean Front, Virginia Beach, VA May 13, 2014
<p><u>Purpose:</u> Provide information on current NOAA habitat initiatives to help Councils understand how they can benefit and where they should engage</p> <p><u>Desired outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared understanding of existing habitat conservation tools being used to achieve fishery management goals. • Council understanding of new developments/initiatives driven by the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation. • Council understanding of how they can influence and benefit from NOAA habitat conservation strategies and other opportunities. 	<p><u>Purpose:</u> Position Councils to articulate habitat goals and objectives to partners for potential support and improve coordination across councils on habitat strategies.</p> <p><u>Desired Outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide follow-up on specific habitat partnerships that were discussed at the February meeting. • Highlight recent efforts to connect inshore habitats to offshore fishery productivity. • Discuss concepts to help Councils share habitat priorities and objectives with NOAA and external partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat conservation objectives ▪ Strategic HAPCs ▪ Cross-Council coordination
<p><u>Briefing book materials:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matrix of habitat focus areas (under NOAA Habitat Blueprint) and regional fish habitat partnerships (under National Fish Habitat Partnership) within each Council's jurisdiction. 	
<p><u>Part 2 agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (10 mins) – Kara Meckley, Acting Chief of Habitat Protection, NOAA Fisheries • Linking habitat to fishery productivity (45 mins) – Dr. Correigh Greene, NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center • Presentation and discussion: Options for Councils (90 mins) – Kara Meckley 	
<p><u>Discussion questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can Councils better articulate habitat goals and objectives to NMFS and other partners? • How would these concepts work in the Council process? • How can we enhance cross-Council collaboration on habitat issues? • How can NMFS assist the Councils in this work? 	