

Coral Advisory Panel and Coral Scientific and Statistical Committee
Scope of Work
February 7-8, 2022
Virtual

Agenda Item IV: Overview of Contract and Roles and Responsibilities of the Coral AP and Coral SSC Roles and Responsibilities

Action: Informational Presentation

Committee input and next steps: CSA has been contracted by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) to assess and provide deliverables on a Gulf of Mexico Mesophotic and Deepwater Coral Assessment. The Coral Advisory Panel and Coral Scientific and Statistical Committee (Panel) serves as a review body for the draft report and related materials and is encouraged to ask questions and provide recommendations to the consultants on how to improve these deliverables prior to being discussed at the April 2022 Council meeting.

Agenda Item V: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Mesophotic and Deepwater Coral Assessment

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The Panel should review the methodology, assumptions, and provide recommendations for improvements for each deliverable. The Panel should discuss if the results are reasonable and valid for moving forward with consideration for management by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Agenda Item VI: *Deepwater Horizon* Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities Restoration–Upcoming Activities and Products

Action: Informational Presentation and Discussion

Committee input and next steps: NOAA Staff will provide an overview on activities and products related to mesophotic and deep benthic communities restoration efforts across the Gulf of Mexico. The Panel is encouraged to ask questions and provide discussion and feedback.

Agenda Item VII: Overview of Coral Reef Conservation Program Outcomes and Products titled: *A proposal addressing changes in coral reef habitats and potential management*

implications to ensure the sustainability of coral reefs and associated fisheries habitats in the Gulf of Mexico

Action: Information, Discussion, and Feedback

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Zeenatural Basher (Council staff) will provide an overview on the Coral Reef Conservation Program Outcomes and Products. Members of the panel should ask questions and provide feedback for any future improvements the Council may want to consider for these efforts.

Agenda Item IX: Public Comment

Action: Information

Committee input and next steps: Members of the public will be able to address the Panel directly with respect to the topics discussed during this meeting and other matters, as time allows.

Agenda Item X: Other Business

Action: Discussion

Committee Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by Panel members, time permitting.
