

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

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**Agenda Item IV:** Final Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Contract Report

**Timeline Status:** Presentation, review, and discussion

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**Council input and next steps:** The Council is developing a generic amendment to update EFH descriptions for managed finfish and shrimp species. Before generating the new descriptions, it is necessary to identify, and catalog any available contemporary benthic habitat spatial data throughout the Gulf. To conduct this work, the Council contracted with Dr. Bridgette Froeschke (University of Tampa). Dr. Bridgette Froeschke will provide a report on the contract work to date and provide example story maps to illustrate habitat maps. The Council should review the agenda materials, ask questions, and provide any recommendations for modifications for the work. Once the work is finalized, these data will be used to inform the development of the new EFH amendment.