

Coral Committee

Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab N

Agenda Item IV: Results from Coral RFP: Gulf of Mexico Mesophotic and Deepwater Coral Assessment

Timeline Status: Informational presentation and discussion

Council Input and Next Steps: The Council contracted CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. (CSA) to assess available information on mesophotic and deep coral locations in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Viada will summarize the deliverables produced as part of the contracted work, which included an ecological assessment and ranking methods for site prioritization. The Committee is encouraged to ask questions about the work presented.

Agenda Item V: Joint Coral AP and Coral SSC Recommendations and Proposed Next Steps

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: The Coral AP and Coral SSC reviewed CSA's deliverables during their February 2022 meeting. The group recommends the Council assess the recommendations provided by the contractor and continue work to identify additional areas in the Gulf that would benefit from management measures, as well as the creation of a Coral Working Group to advise in the process. Council staff will provide an overview of objectives and timing for convening the Coral Working Group. The Committee should provide comments and recommendations on next steps presented.

Agenda Item VI: Other Business

Timeline Status: Discussion and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: If time permits, additional items may be brought up for discussion during the adoption of the agenda to be considered at a future Committee meeting.
