

Ecosystem Technical Committee
Scope of Work
May 9, 2025
Gulf Council Office
Tampa, FL

Agenda Item IV: Gulf Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Status Review and Inflation Reduction Act project update

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: Council staff will provide an overview of the objectives of the Gulf Council Inflation Reduction Act projects. Next, staff will review FEP development progress to date, including updates and status for the FEP stakeholder engagement and communications plan with the proposed support of a social science consultant. The Ecosystem Technical Committee (ETC) should consider the information presented, ask questions, and provide feedback as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: Pilot Fishery Ecosystem Issue: Red Tide

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The Council approved of using red tide as a pilot Fishery Ecosystem Issue (FEI) to test the FEI Loop. Council staff will present a draft of the pilot red tide FEI and Dr. Mandy Karnauskas will provide information on ongoing red tide research that is relevant to fisheries management. The ETC should consider the information presented, provide recommendations to refine the red tide FEI draft, guide the red tide FEI loop toward management application as appropriate, and discuss a path forward for the red tide FEI. Recommendations from the pilot red tide FEI will be presented to the Council at its June 2025 meeting, including progress on the red tide FEI and lessons learned from piloting the FEI Loop.

Agenda Item VI: Next Steps to Develop and Operationalize the Gulf FEP

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Committee input and next steps: The ETC should discuss further modifications to the draft outline of the FEP document and the FEI Loop, and provide recommendations for additional considerations necessary to operationalize the FEP. Recommendations and modifications will be presented to the Council before staff begin drafting the FEP document.

Agenda Item VII: Update on Ecosystem Status Reports for the Gulf

Action: Presentation and discussion

Committee input and next steps: Dr. Karnauskas will provide a presentation on progress toward updating the 2017 Ecosystem Status Report for the Gulf. The ETC should consider the information provided, ask questions, and discuss the use of Ecosystem Status Reports and ecosystem indicators for informing FEIs as appropriate.

Agenda Item VIII: Public Comment

Action: Information

Committee input and next steps: Members of the public will be able to address the ETC directly with respect to topics discussed during the meeting if time allows.

Agenda Item IX: Other Business

Action: Discussion

Committee input and next steps: The ETC will discuss additional topics as necessary.