



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Habitat Committee Virtual Meeting Summary July 22, 2024

ASMFC Staff: Tina Berger, Simen Kaalstad, Toni Kerns

Committee Members: Alan Bianchi (NC), Tiffany Birge (VA), Dave Dippold (PA), Alexa Fournier (NY), Robert LaFrance (CT), Wilson Laney (NCCF), Paul Medders (GA), Mark Rousseau (MA), Eric Schneider (RI), Kent Smith (FL), Marek Topolski (MD), Kate Wilke (TNC, Committee Vice-Chair), Michelle Bachman (NEFMC)

Guests: Victoria Blakey (NCCF), Erin Fleckenstein (NCCF), and proxy for Rachael Peabody

The ASMFC Habitat Committee reviewed and finalized the Habitat Management Series (HMS) document on "Anthropogenic Noise Impacts on Atlantic Fish and Fisheries." Kate Wilke and Dr. Brendan Runde led this effort, completing the document and preparing it for submission to the ISFMP Policy Board. Key decisions included removing incomplete sections, such as the Case Study and Data Gaps, and adding a direct link to the NYSEDA document for further research. Contributors will be acknowledged in a separate section rather than as authors.

The committee also discussed the outline for a new HMS document on shell recycling along the East Coast. Volunteers from various states, including Kent Smith, Russ Babb, Alexa Fournier, and others, will contribute to different sections of the outline. The draft is expected by May 2025, with collaborative writing facilitated through a shared Google document. The focus will be on the best uses for shell material, alternative substrates, and successful program guidelines.

For the 2024 Habitat Hotline (HH), the committee considered broadening its audience and modernizing the content. The proposed format includes recaps of recent activities, state updates on shell recycling, and highlights of FHOAC and acoustic impacts. A timeline was set for drafting sections by October 2024, finalizing by November 2024, and distributing by December 2024.

Action items include submitting the finalized Acoustic Impacts document for ISFMP Policy Board approval, creating a Google Doc for the Shell Recycling Outline, and drafting HH sections. The next meeting will follow up on these items and discuss progress on the Shell Recycling Outline and HH content and format. The meeting concluded with consensus on these action items and plans for the next steps.