

DEEPWATER CORAL INFORMATION REPORT

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program (DSCRTP) conducted the first season of west coast deep-sea coral research during summer of 2010. This research is aimed at providing improved understanding of the distribution, density, abundance, and biology of corals and sponges; and ultimately will help to inform management decisions in west coast waters. NOAA allocated \$800,000 in FY 2010 to this research. Two more years are planned, subject to available funding. The Council's Habitat Committee received a briefing on this topic in October, 2009; and Council staff attended a workshop in January, 2010, and provided input to the development of research priorities.

A representative of the National Marine Fisheries Service will provide a preliminary report on this year's research.

Council Action:

Council Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 1, West Coast Deep-Sea Coral Workshop Report.
2. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 2, Report to Congress on Implementation of the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program (Available electronically only, on the Council's website).
3. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 3, NOAA Strategic Plan for Deep-Sea Coral and Sponge Ecosystems (Available electronically only, on the Council's website).
4. Agenda Item E.2.b, NMFS Report on 2010 deep-sea corals research off the U.S. West Coast.
5. Agenda Item E.2.c, Supplemental Habitat Committee Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report on Recent Coral Research Activities
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion

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