

**Agenda**  
**Coral Working Group Meeting**  
**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**  
**Tampa, Florida**

**Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

- I. Council charge-“to determine the criteria and boundaries, and other specifics for potential sites, and once that has been determined, that this group meet with representatives of any potentially impacted fisheries and members of law enforcement.”– Kilgour
- II. April 2014 Coral SSC and Coral AP motion- “to initiate the appropriate action... designating new areas as HAPCs and determine the need to apply regulations to protect these areas, including but not limited to: VK 826,VK862/906; GC 140; GB 299; GB 535; MC 751; MC 885; Pinnacles trend. Also including, when better information becomes available, specific areas in the W. FL slope, examine new areas off Pulley Ridge for inclusion in the HAPC, and areas from the central to the western Gulf.
- III. Discuss individual sites identified in September webinar- order of discussion will begin with areas mentioned in the April 2014 SSC/AP motion, current HAPCs with no restrictions, and then other areas
  - a. Review and discuss criteria identified in the September 22, 2014 webinar
    - i. Species richness and/or diversity, Coral density (sponge density?), Habitat model , Rarity/vulnerable species, Bathymetry
  - b. Evaluate appropriate boundaries or areas
  - c. Make recommendations on appropriate areas
  - d. Potential fishery interactions
  - e. Identify additional data that are needed
- IV. Other Business
  - a. Discuss timeline for next steps
  - b. Discuss next meeting

\* This is the focus of the working group. Individual working group members may choose to present supplementary material to enhance our understanding of these areas and improve the discussion. These presentations need to be made available prior to the meeting so that other group members have adequate time to prepare.

**Coral Working Group Members**

Sandra Brooke, Ph.D.  
 Erik Cordes, Ph.D.  
 Peter Etnoyer, Ph.D.  
 Judith Lang, Ph.D.  
 John Reed  
 Paul Sammarco, Ph.D.  
 George Schmahl

**Council Staff**

Morgan Kilgour / Mark Mueller