

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Via Webinar
September 16, 2021

The Committee approved an agenda and minutes from the June 2021 meeting.

Coral Amendment 10

Council staff reviewed the decision document including actions and analyses in the amendment that incorporated input from the June 2021 meeting. During Committee discussion the Southeast Fisheries Science Center staff explained that a survey of the area could be conducted within a year depending on availability of funds. The Committee considered that there isn't data available on corals in the area at present and given that the area was previously utilized by the rock shrimp fishery, approved a motion supporting submission of Coral Amendment 10 for Secretarial Review. The Committee made the following motions:

MOTION 1: APPROVE THE REVISED PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS IN CORAL AMENDMENT 10

Purpose for Action

The purpose of Coral Amendment 10 is to consider establishing a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern where the fishermen who have a valid limited access Commercial Vessel Permit for Rock Shrimp (South Atlantic exclusive economic zone) would be able to fish for and possess rock shrimp.

Need for Action

The need for Coral Amendment 10 is to help achieve optimum yield in the South Atlantic rock shrimp portion of the shrimp fishery and increase economic and social benefits to rock shrimp fishermen by increasing access to historic rock shrimp fishing grounds, while maintaining protection of the *Oculina* deep water coral ecosystems.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

SUBSTITUE MOTION: THE COUNCIL MOVES TO TABLE ACTION ON CORAL AMENDMENT 10 FOR NO LONGER THAN ONE YEAR TO ALLOW THE SEFSC TO CONDUCT NECESSARY SURVEYS WITHIN THE PROPOSED SFAA.
COMMITTEE MOTION FAILED

MOTION 2: APPROVE AMENDMENT 10 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CORAL, CORAL REEFS, AND LIVE HARBOTTOM HABITAT OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE

ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND REDEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL (1 no, 0 abstentions)

Habitat Program Blueprint

Council staff provided an update on the development of the Habitat Blueprint and a summary of the workgroup's progress.

Other Business

There were no items discussed under other business.

Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Fall Meeting

MOTION 3: APPROVE TO FOLLOWING LIST OF TOPICS FOR THE HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADVISORY PANEL MEETING:

- Briefing on Committee Action
- Status of Amendment Development (Coral 10)
- Status of NOAA Fisheries South Atlantic Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Status of NOAA Fisheries South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report
- NOAA Fisheries HCD EFH Consultation Update - Wind, Ports, Mitigation Banking
- Presentation NCCOS Wilmington-East Mapping
- Presentation by BOEM Offshore Wind Activities in South Atlantic Region
- Beach Dredge and Fill Policy Statement Update
- Development of a SAFMC Habitat Blueprint and AP Input
- East Coast Climate Scenario Planning Update

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Timing and Task(s)

MOTION 4: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

- Prepare Coral Amendment 10 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.
- Coordinate with Habitat Ecosystem Advisory Panel Chair in planning for November 2021 AP Meeting.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL