

Options Paper

for

Coral Amendment 8

December 2012

***NOTE: Areas of further guidance requested of the Council are highlighted throughout the Options Paper**

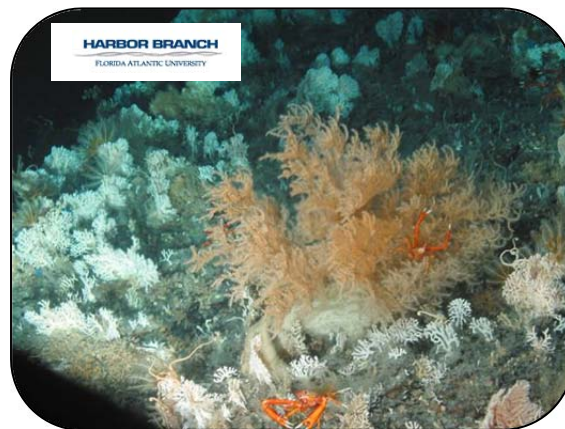


Why is the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council considering taking Action?

Discoveries of previously uncharacterized areas of deepwater coral resources have been brought forward by the South Atlantic Council's Coral Advisory Panel (AP). Recent scientific exploration has identified areas of high relief features and hardbottom habitat outside of the boundaries of existing Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs). During their 2011 October meeting, the Coral Advisory Panel came forward with recommendations to the South Atlantic Council to revisit the boundaries of the Oculina HAPC, Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC, and Cape Lookout Coral HAPC to incorporate these areas of additional deepwater coral habitat. The Habitat AP reviewed the Coral AP recommendations in November 2011 and discussed protection of habitat associated with the deepwater ecosystem. In addition, the APs were presented preliminary analyses of fishing activity (Vessel Monitoring System data) associated with the HAPC extension recommendations. The South Atlantic Council reviewed the Coral and Habitat APs recommendations and associated VMS analyses for expansion of these areas during their December 2011 meeting, and approved the measures for public scoping in Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 (CE-BA 3). The Coral and Habitat APs refined their recommendations for expansion during their May 2012 meetings and presented recommendations for these areas during the June 2012 South Atlantic Council meeting.

The Deepwater Shrimp and Shrimp APs reviewed the Coral HAPC expansion recommendations during their April 2012 meeting, and suggested the South Atlantic Council consider modifications to the expansion proposals brought forward by the Coral AP. The Shrimp APs presented their recommendations for these areas during the June 2012 South Atlantic Council meeting.

The South Atlantic Council deferred development of the Coral HAPC measures until a joint AP meeting is held to discuss the various recommendations. The joint meeting of the Coral and Deepwater Shrimp APs, as well as representatives from the Habitat and Law Enforcement APs was held on October 18, 2012 to allow these groups the opportunity to discuss the various recommendations.



Live Bottom Habitat on Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC. John Reed, HBOL, FAU

Matters related to Timing:

Both the Coral and Deepwater Shrimp APs have discussed that the VMS data as currently included in Coral Amendment 8 is incomplete and does not provide VMS data for earlier years of activity, 2003-2006. Currently, VMS analyses in the Amendment represents 2007-2011. Processing of the VMS data for the earlier years is scheduled to begin by NMFS VMS office by the end of 2012 and an updated dataset will likely be available for review at the March 2013 Council meeting.

Also, Council staff has submitted a request to the Deepwater Shrimp AP Chair for obtaining rock shrimp trawl track information to support analyses of fishery impacts associated with modifications to Coral HAPCs prior to the requirement for implementation of VMS (2003).

Timing Options:

1. Delay approval of Coral Amendment 8 for public hearings at December 2012 meeting until after earlier years of VMS data (2003-2006) and rock shrimp trawl track data have been received and the analyses are updated. Under this scenario, the Council would review the updated VMS and rock shrimp trawl track analyses during the March 2013 meeting. This timeline allows scheduling of spring 2013 AP meetings with all involved APs to review the complete VMS analysis and revised modifications to Coral HAPC areas, and provides the APs and the SSC additional opportunity for input to the Council before approval of Coral Amendment 8 for public hearings.

Under the Option 1 timeline, Council would review a more complete document in March, AP meetings would be held in March/April, the SSC would review in April, and the Council would consider approval for public hearings during the June 2013 meeting. Public hearings would then be held in August 2013.

Do you want to proceed with Option 1?

If so, provide guidance on the structure of spring 2013 AP meetings:

- Do you want to consider a joint meeting of all involved APs? The APs would review revisions to HAPCs based on the outcome of the joint Coral and Deepwater Shrimp AP meeting and the completed VMS analysis. A joint meeting would include the Snapper Grouper, Coral, Habitat, Law Enforcement, and Deepwater Shrimp APs.
- Do you want to consider individual meetings of the APs and a joint meeting of the Coral and Habitat APs (considering their directives are closely aligned)?

2. Approve Coral Amendment 8 for public hearings during December 2012 Council meeting.

Do you want to proceed with Option 2?

The IPT has a recommendation for the Purpose and Need for Coral Amendment 8.

Do you want to accept the IPT recommendation?

Purpose for Action

The ***purpose*** of Coral Amendment 8 is to increase protections for deepwater coral through expansion of the boundaries of the Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern.

Need for Action

The ***need*** for action in Coral Amendment 8 is to address recent discoveries of deepwater coral resources and protect deepwater coral ecosystems in the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction from future activities that could compromise their condition.

Action 1. Expand boundaries of the Oculina Bank HAPC

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not modify the boundaries of the Oculina Bank HAPC.

The existing Oculina Bank HAPC is delineated by the following boundaries: on the north by 28°30' N, on the south by 27°30' N, on the east by the 100-fathom (183-m) contour, and on the west by 80°00' W; and two adjacent satellite sites: the first bounded on the north by 28°30' N, on the south by 28°29' N, on the east by 80°00' W, and on the west by 80°03' W; and the second bounded on the north by 28°17' N, on the south by 28°16' N, on the east by 80°00' W, and on the west by 80°03' W.

Alternative 2. Modify the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC.

Sub-Alternative 2a. Modify the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC from the current northern boundary of the Oculina HAPC (28° 30'N) to 29° 43.5'W. The west and east boundaries would follow the 60 meter and 100 meter depth contour lines, respectively, as represented in the simplified polygon (**Figure 1**). Sub-Alternative 2a = 430 square miles.

Note: The Coral and Habitat APs originally endorsed Sub-Alternative 2a as a preferred alternative after their October 2011 AP meeting. An updated recommendation for a northern extension was developed as a result of the motion approved by the Deepwater Shrimp and Coral APs during their joint meeting. The new alternative is depicted in **Figure 6**.

Sub-Alternative 2b. Modify the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC from the current northern boundary of the Oculina HAPC (28° 30'N) to 29° 43.5'W. The west and east boundaries would follow the 70 meter and 90 meter depth contour lines, respectively, as represented in the simplified polygon (**Figure 2**). Sub-Alternative 2b = 228 square miles.

Sub-Alternative 2c. Modify the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC from the current northern boundary of the Oculina HAPC (28° 30'N) to 29° 43.5'W. The west and east boundaries would follow the 70 meter and 100 meter depth contour lines, respectively, as represented in the simplified polygon (**Figure 3**). Sub-Alternative 2c = 278 square miles.

Note: The Deepwater Shrimp and Coral APs approved a motion at their joint AP meeting in October 2012 to develop a modified version of Sub-Alternative 2c in which the 70-100 meter depth contour lines are used as a basis for a northern extension of the HAPC, with a caveat that adjustments be made to annex obvious hard bottom features (**Figure 6**).

Sub-Alternative 2d. Modify the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC: from the current northern boundary of the Oculina HAPC (28° 30'N) to 29° 43.5'W. The west and east boundaries would follow the 60 meter and 90 meter depth contour lines,

respectively, as represented in the simplified polygon (**Figure 4**). Sub-Alternative 2d = 380 square miles.

Alternative 3. Modify the western boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC from 28° 4.5'N to the north boundary of the current Oculina HAPC (28° 30'N). The east boundary would coincide with the current western boundary of the Oculina HAPC (80° W). The west boundary could either use the 60 meter contour line, or the 80° 03'W longitude (**Figure 5**). Alternative 3 = 76 square miles.

The Coral and Habitat APs have endorsed Alternative 3 as a preferred alternative.

The Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp APs suggest the area within the proposed extension of the western boundary could be a candidate for a shrimp fishery access area because of historical rock shrimp production areas within this proposed extension. During the joint AP meeting in October 2012, the Deepwater Shrimp AP did not develop a specific recommendation for this area and noted an interest in working with the Coral AP to develop a refined alternative in the future.

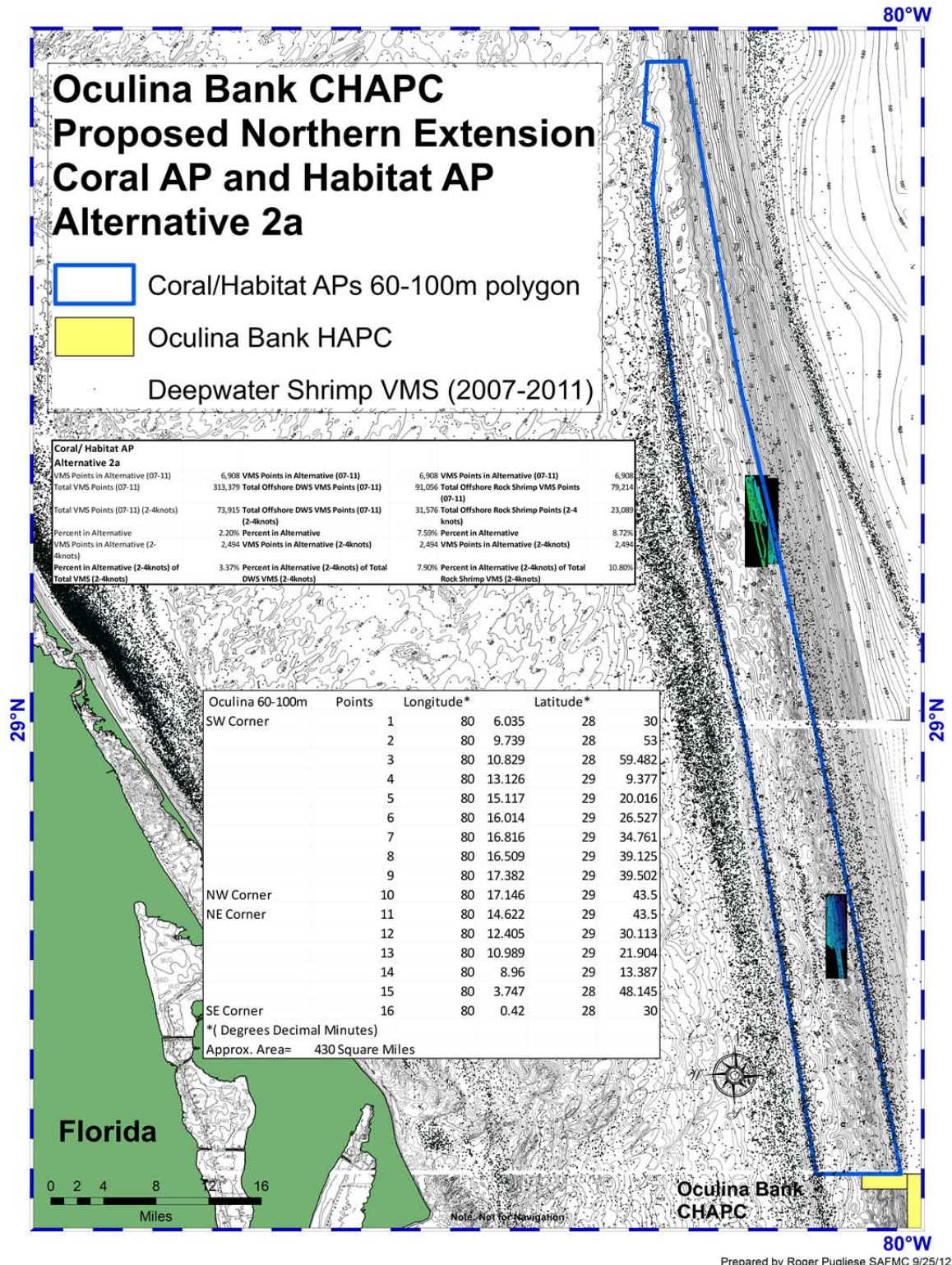


Figure 1. Action 1, Sub-Alternative 2a. Modification to the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC. In this northern zone, the west and east boundaries would follow the 60 meter and 100 meter depth contour lines, as represented in the simplified polygon.

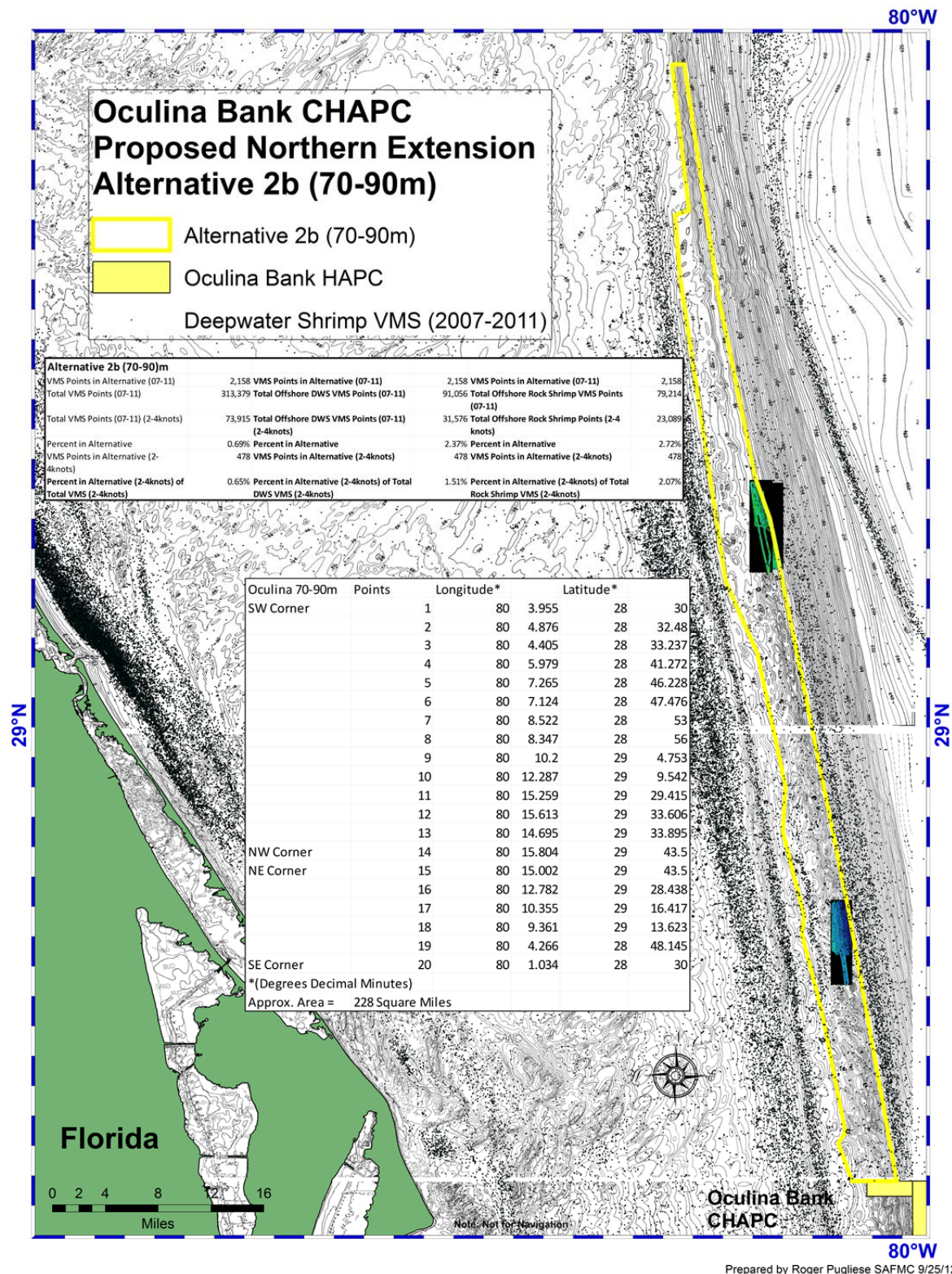


Figure 2. Action 1, Sub-Alternative 2b. Modification to the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC. In this northern zone, the west and east boundaries would follow the 70 meter and 90 meter depth contour lines, as represented in the simplified polygon.

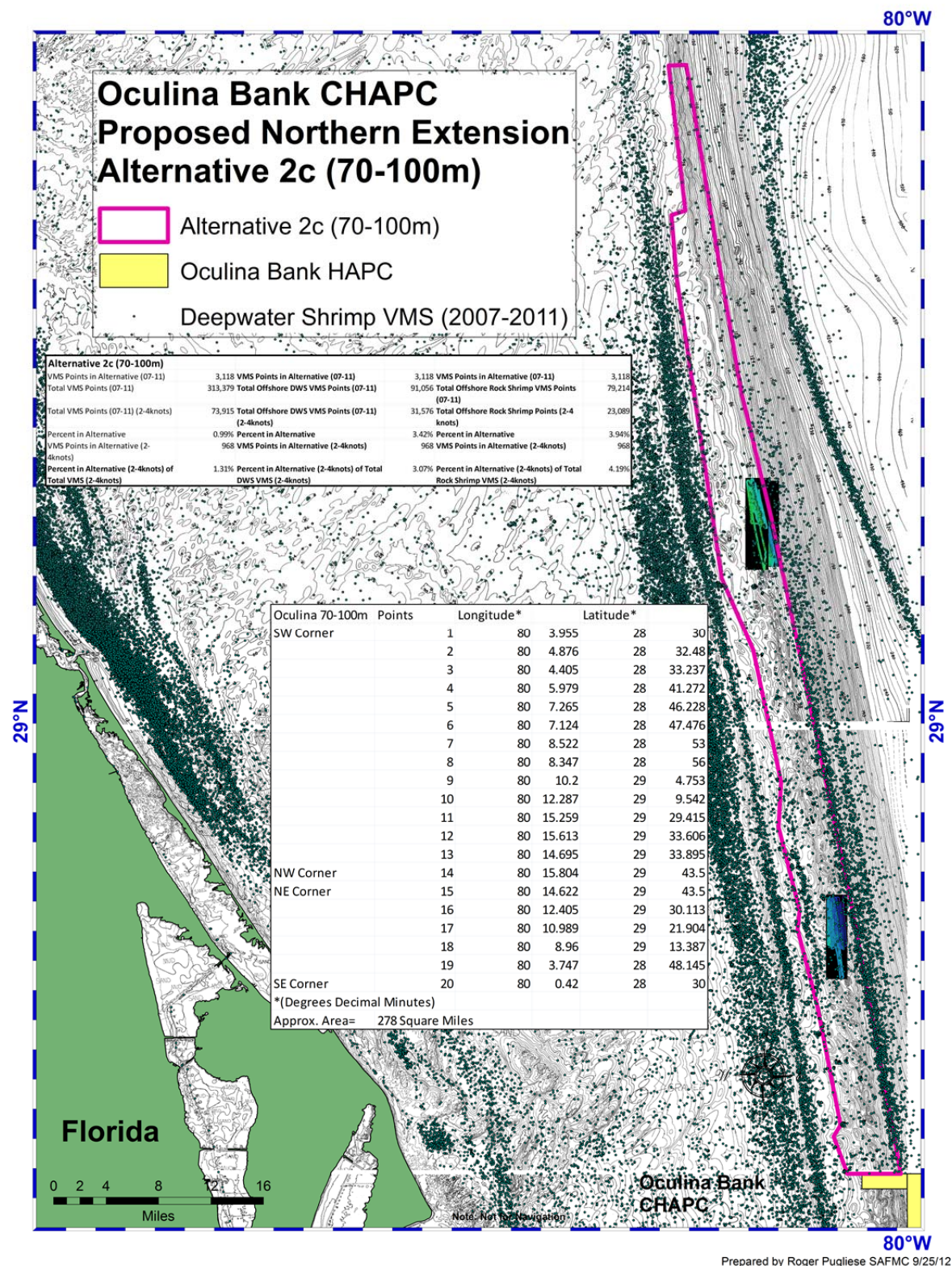
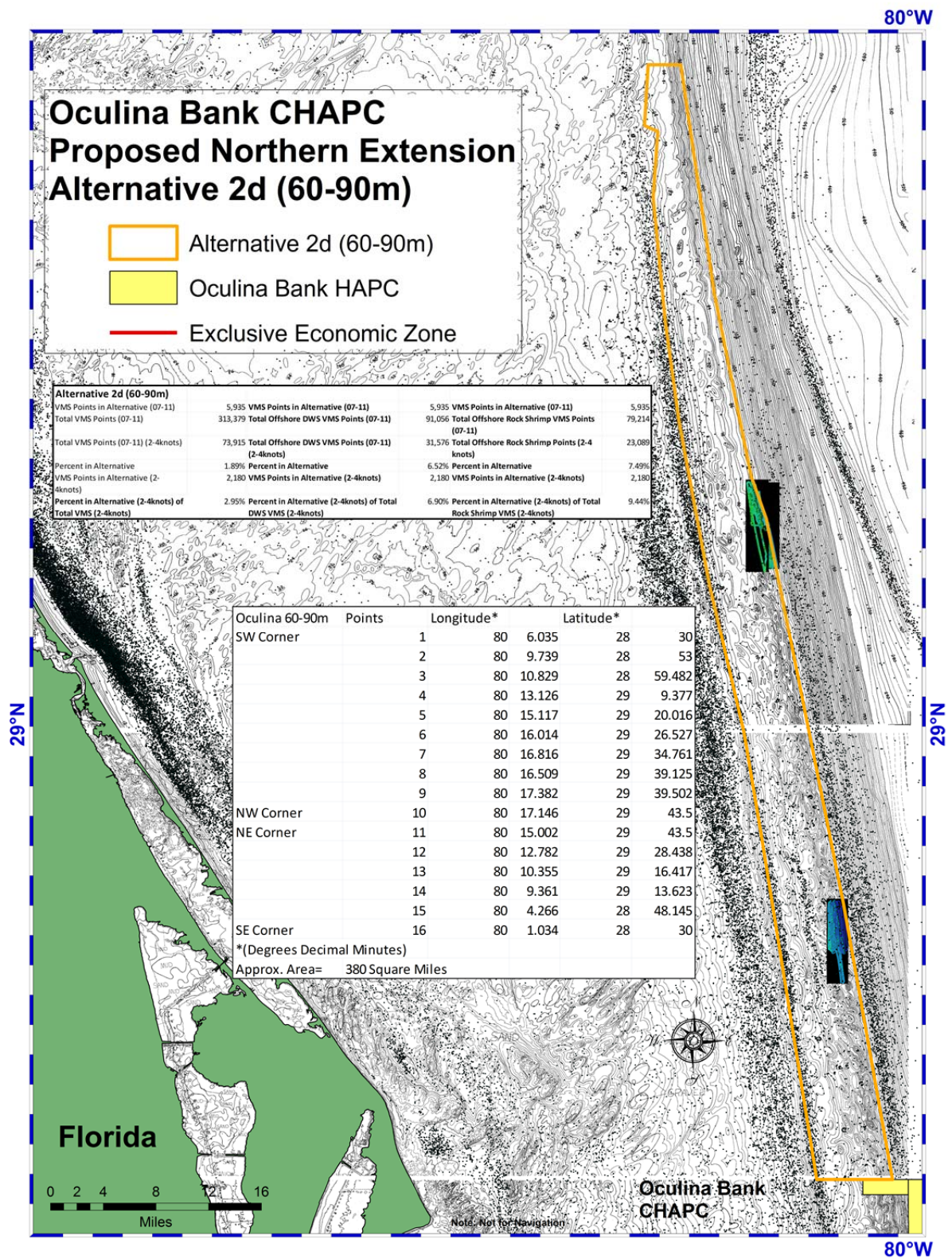


Figure 3. Action 1, Sub-Alternative 2c. Modification to the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC. In this northern zone, the west and east boundaries would follow the 70 meter and 100 meter depth contour lines, as represented in the simplified polygon. The Deepwater Shrimp and Coral APs recommended development of a northern extension alternative that is based off these depth contours while annexing obvious hardbottom features (See **Figure 6**).



Prepared by Roger Pugliese SAFMC 9/25/12

Figure 4. Action 1, Sub-Alternative 2d. Modification to the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC. In this northern zone, the west and east boundaries would follow the 60 meter and 90 meter depth contour lines, as represented in the simplified polygon.

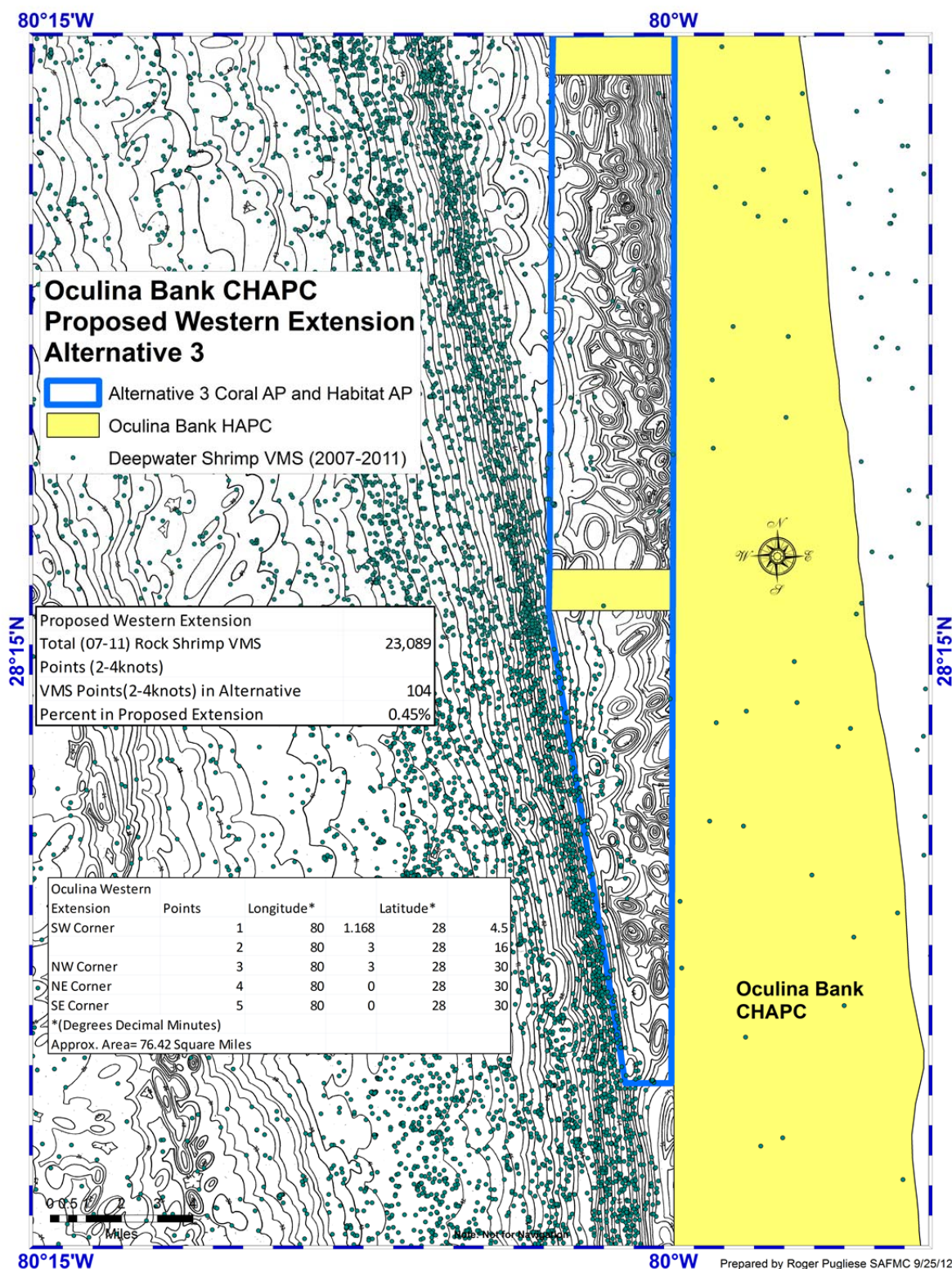


Figure 5. Action 1, Alternative 3. Modification to the western boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC. The west boundary would follow the 80° 03'W longitude between 28° 30'N and 28° 16'N which is the western border of the Oculina HAPC satellite regions, and would follow the 60 meter contour as represented in the simplified polygon. This is a preferred option of the Coral and Habitat APs.

Additional Options for Action 1 (Oculina Bank HAPC) for the Council to Consider:

New Proposed Alternative for extension of the northern Oculina Bank HAPC boundary:

A new proposed alternative (**Figure 6**) for a northern extension of the Oculina Bank HAPC was developed as a result of the joint Coral and Deepwater Shrimp AP meeting motion.

The following motion was approved by both APs during the joint meeting:

USE THE 70-100 M CONTOUR LINE FOR A NORTHERN EXTENSION FOR OCULINA BANK HAPC WITH A CAVEAT THAT ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE TO ANNEX HARD BOTTOM FEATURES. THIS IS A MODIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVE 2C.

In order to adjust Alternative 2C to annex obvious hardbottom features, a sub-group of Coral AP members developed a draft proposed alternative depicted in **Figure 6**. The recommendation encompasses areas of high-relief bottom indicative of *Oculina* mounds and modifies the western boundary only to incorporate high-relief bottom. The eastern boundary follows the 100 meter depth contour as indicated in the polygon in **Figure 6**.

The Habitat AP met November 14-15, 2012 and reviewed the proposed northern extension alternative depicted in **Figure 6** and approved this as an alternative for the Council to consider under Action 1.

Do you want to add the new proposed alternative (**Figure 6**) as a new alternative for analysis under Action 1?

(new) Sub-Alternative 2e. Modify the northern boundary of the Oculina Bank HAPC from the current northern boundary of the Oculina HAPC (28° 30'N) to 29° 43.5'W. The west and east boundaries would follow close to the 70 meter and 100 meter depth contour lines, respectively, while annexing obvious hard bottom features as represented in the simplified polygon (**Figure 6**).

Do you want to remove any of the alternatives under Action 1 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix?

Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp AP Recommendation for a new Alternative for the existing Oculina Bank HAPC:

At their April 2012 meeting, the Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp APs came forward with a recommendation for modifying the existing Oculina Bank HAPC. The APs provided rationale that a modification to the existing HAPC would connect highly productive rock shrimp bottom south of the existing HAPC to that which exists north of the HAPC in an area they have discussed that *Oculina* habitat does not occur. They recommended development of a "Fishery Access Area" that follows the 90-100 depth contour to the west and 140 meter depth contour to the east.

During the joint Deepwater Shrimp and Coral AP meeting in October 2012, the APs discussed a modified recommendation for the Fishery Access Area. The Coral AP provided guidance for specific depths that potential configuration of an Access Area consider in order to maintain integrity of deepwater coral habitat within the existing HAPC (at depths between 110-140 meters). Using the 110 meter depth contour would provide a buffer zone for easternmost high relief coral mounds (note: as far as scientists know, high relief *Oculina* mounds occur predominantly between 70 and 100 meters). Concern was expressed by the Coral AP over allowing access within the Experimental Closed Area. The Coral AP also recognized that data is limited on benthic communities and structure in the HAPC at depths greater than 100 meters however solitary *Oculina* colonies occur in depths up to 152 meters.

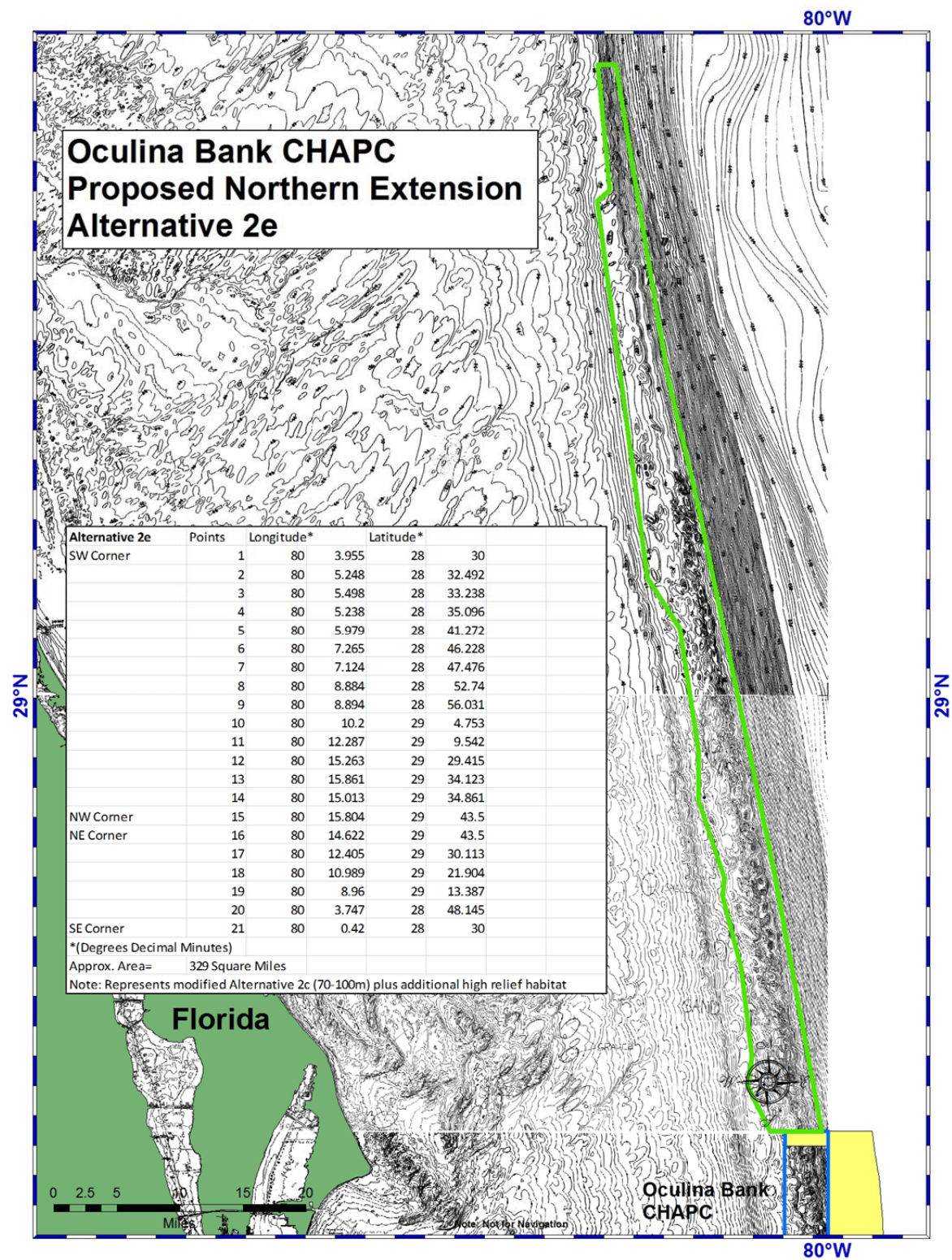
The Habitat AP recommended the Council consider waiting to evaluate a Fishery Access Area until the re-evaluation of the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area is undertaken. An update to the Evaluation Plan of the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area assessment is due to the Council in 2014 (pursuant to SG Amendment 13A).

The following motion was approved by the Coral AP during the joint Deepwater Shrimp and Coral AP meeting after discussion of the original Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp AP recommendation:

AN ALTERNATIVE WILL BE PRESENTED IN RESPONSE TO THE DEEPWATER SHRIMP AP RECOMMENDATION FOR THE EXISTING OCULINA HAPC THAT EVALUATES FEASIBILITY OF A SHRIMP ACCESS AREA WITHIN THE EXISTING OCULINA BANK HAPC AND WITHIN EXISTING PORTIONS OF THE OCULINA EXPERIMENTAL CLOSED AREA AT DEPTHS BETWEEN 110 M AND 140 M.

Do you want to approve development of an alternative that modifies the existing *Oculina* Bank HAPC at depths between 110 meters and 140 meters? A rendition of this alternative would be available at the next Council meeting.

Do you want to move this recommendation to the Considered but Rejected Appendix?



Prepared by Roger Pugliese SAFMC 11/5/12

Figure 6. Recommendation for a new Alternative – 2e. The recommendation for a northern extension is a result of the Joint Coral and Deepwater Shrimp AP meeting in October 2012. The alternative is a modification of Sub-Alternative 2c and tracks closely the 70 and 100 meter depth contour lines while annexing areas of hardbottom habitat based on NOAA bathymetric charts along the western boundary.

Figures A, B, and C represent the different characterizations of the VMS Footprint

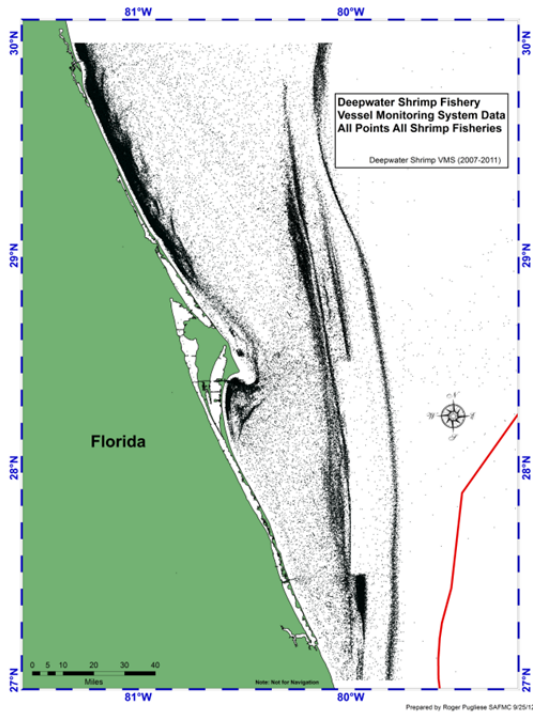


Figure A. Deepwater VMS points (2007-2011).

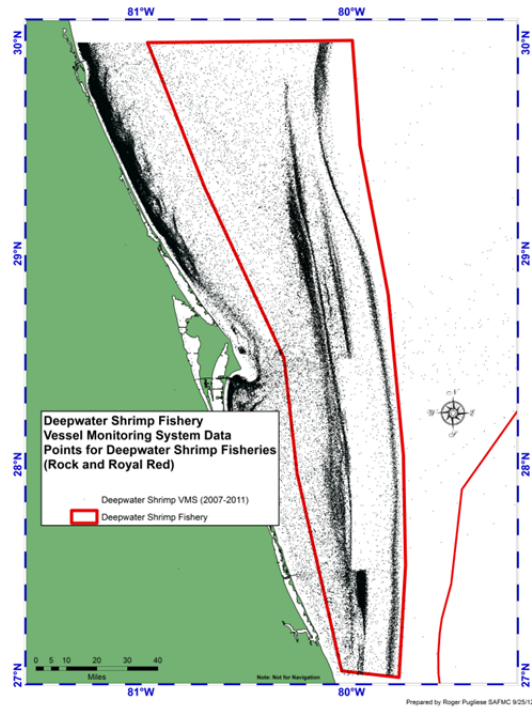


Figure B. Proxy footprint for deepwater shrimp fishery (both rock and royal red shrimp).

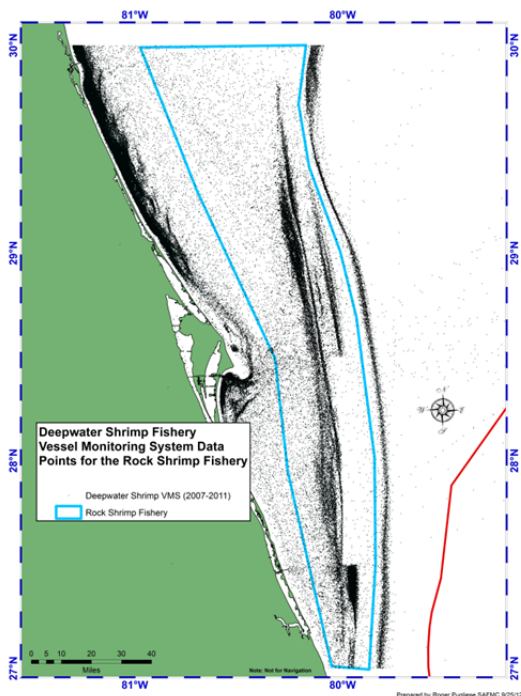


Figure C. Proxy footprint for the rock shrimp fishery.

Deepwater Shrimp Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) points were provided by NOAA Fisheries for the period 2007 through partial 2011. Request for update was submitted to NOAA Fisheries and when system contractor completes work additional information will be provided and further analyses may be possible prior to public hearing. For the analyses, VMS points with speed 2-4 knots are used as a proxy for fishing (CEBA1).

The VMS points were spatially divided to serve as proxies for all shrimp fishing (Figure A), the deepwater rock and royal red shrimp fisheries (Figure B), and the rock shrimp fishery (Figure C). The VMS analyses presented in the Figures and Tables in this Options Paper are divided into three areas: 1) fishing in the Alternative as it relates to all shrimp fishing by permitted vessels carrying VMS; 2) fishing in the Alternative as it relates to deepwater shrimp fishing by permitted vessels carrying VMS; and 3) fishing in the Alternative as it relates to rock shrimp fishing by permitted vessels carrying VMS.

Table 1. VMS descriptive activity corresponding to the alternatives for expansion of the Oculina Bank HAPC.

Oculina Bank CHAPC Proposed Northern Extension- Deepwater Shrimp Vessels Participating the Shrimp Fishery	Alternative 2a	Alternative 2d	New Alt.	Alternative 2c	Alternative 2b	New Alt.
Proposed Extension Alternative	Coral and Habitat Aps	60-90m	New Alt. (Staff)	70-100m	70-90m	New Alt. Shrimp AP
VMS Points in Alternative (07-11)	6,908	5,935	5,376	3,118	2,158	1,346
Total VMS Points (07-11)	313,379	313,379	313,379	313,379	313,379	313,379
Total VMS Points (07-11) (2-4knots)	73,915	73,915	73,915	73,915	73,915	73,915
Percent in Alternative	2.20%	1.89%	1.72%	0.99%	0.69%	0.43%
VMS Points in Alternative (2-4knots)	2,494	2,180	1,325	968	478	159
Percent in Alternative (2-4knots) of Total VMS (2-4knots)	3.37%	2.95%	1.79%	1.31%	0.65%	0.22%
Oculina Bank CHAPC Proposed Northern Extension - Deepwater Shrimp Vessels Participating in the Deepwater Shrimp (Rock and Royal Red Shrimp) Fisheries						
Proposed Extension Alternative	Coral and Habitat Aps	60-90m	NewAlt	70-100m	70-90m	ShrimpAP
VMS Points in Alternative (07-11)	6,908	5,935	5,376	3,118	2,158	1,346
Total Offshore DWS VMS Points (07-11)	91,056	91,056	91,056	91,056	91,056	91,056
Total Offshore DWS VMS Points (07-11) (2-4knots)	31,576	31,576	31,576	31,576	31,576	31,576
Percent in Alternative	7.59%	6.52%	5.90%	3.42%	2.37%	1.48%
VMS Points in Alternative (2-4knots)	2,494	2,180	1,325	968	478	159
Percent in Alternative (2-4knots) of Total DWS VMS (2-4knots)	7.90%	6.90%	4.20%	3.07%	1.51%	0.50%
Oculina Bank CHAPC Proposed Northern Extension as it Relates to the Rock Shrimp Fishery						
Proposed Extension Alternative	Coral and Habitat Aps	60-90m	NewAlt	70-100m	70-90m	Shrimp AP
VMS Points in Alternative (07-11)	6,908	5,935	5,376	3,118	2,158	1,346
Total Offshore Rock Shrimp VMS Points (07-11)	79,214	79,214	79,214	79,214	79,214	79,214
Total Offshore Rock Shrimp Points (2-4 knots)	23,089	23,089	23,089	23,089	23,089	23,089
Percent in Alternative	8.72%	7.49%	6.79%	3.94%	2.72%	1.70%
VMS Points in Alternative (2-4knots)	2,494	2,180	1,325	968	478	159
Percent in Alternative (2-4knots) of Total Rock Shrimp VMS (2-4knots)	10.80%	9.44%	5.74%	4.19%	2.07%	0.69%

Action 2. Implement a transit provision through the Oculina Bank HAPC

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not implement a transit provision through Oculina Bank HAPC. Currently, possession of rock shrimp in or from the area on board a fishing vessel is prohibited.

Alternative 2. Allow for transit through the Oculina Bank HAPC. When transiting the Oculina Bank HAPC, gear must be stowed in accordance with CFR Section 622.35 (i)(2). Vessels must maintain a minimum speed of 5 knots while in transit through the Oculina Bank HAPC. In the event minimal speed is not sustainable, vessel must communicate to appropriate contact.

***CFR § 622.35 (i)(2):**

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (i)(1) of this section, transit means direct, non-stop progression through the MPA. Fishing gear appropriately stowed means—

(i) A longline may be left on the drum if all gangions and hooks are disconnected and stowed below deck. Hooks cannot be baited. All buoys must be disconnected from the gear; however, buoys may remain on deck.

(ii) **A trawl or try net may remain on deck, but trawl doors must be disconnected from such net and must be secured.**

(iii) A gillnet, stab net, or trammel net must be left on the drum. Any additional such nets not attached to the drum must be stowed below deck.

(iv) Terminal gear (i.e., hook, leader, sinker, flasher, or bait) used with an automatic reel, bandit gear, buoy gear, handline, or rod and reel must be disconnected and stowed separately from such fishing gear. A rod and reel must be removed from the rod holder and stowed securely on or below deck.

(v) A crustacean trap, golden crab trap, or sea bass pot cannot be baited. All buoys must be disconnected from the gear; however, buoys may remain on deck.

The Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp APs endorse a transit provision through the Oculina Bank HAPC as a preferred alternative and recommend a modified version of what is identified in Alternative 2. During the Joint Coral and Deepwater Shrimp AP meeting, the Deepwater Shrimp AP approved the following motion for a transit provision:

A TRANSIT PROVISION WOULD ALLOW VESSELS TO CROSS THROUGH THE OCULINA BANK HAPC WITH ROCK SHRIMP ON BOARD, AT A SPEED OF NOT LESS THAN 6 KNOTS, DETERMINED BY PING RATE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT (i.e. 5 MINUTES), WITH GEAR (DEFINED AS DOORS AND NETS OUT OF WATER), WITH A CALL-IN PROVISION IN CASE OF MECHANICAL FAILURE OR EMERGENCY. THIS PERTAINS TO THE ENTIRE OCULINA BANK HAPC.

Do you want to include the Deepwater Shrimp AP's recommendation for a transit provision as a new alternative for analysis under Action 2?

(new) Alternative 3. Allow for transit through the Oculina Bank HAPC with possession on rock shrimp on board. When transiting through the Oculina Bank HAPC vessels must maintain a speed of not less than 6 knots, determined by ping rate that is acceptable by law enforcement (i.e. 5 minutes), with gear appropriately stowed (stowed is defined as doors and nets out of water). The transit provision includes a call-in specification in case of mechanical failure or emergency.

Action 3. Expand boundaries of Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not expand the boundaries of the Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC.

The existing Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC is delineated by the coordinates identified in CFR §633.35 (n)(iii).

Alternative 2. Expand Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC in the area west of the existing boundary approximately by the 200 meter depth contour between latitude 30°45.0' to the north and latitude 29°52.0' to the south (**Figure 7**).

Note: During their May 2012 meeting, the Coral AP revised their original recommendation, (Alternative 2) depicted in **Figure 9**. The revised recommendation (**Figure 9**) includes known (mapped) benthic habitat and excludes those areas where habitat has not been found. This recommendation is also based on high resolution bathymetry from the Navy indicating high relief mounds in the proposed extension of southern boundary. The western limit of the expanded zone remains as stated in Alternative 2 (following the 200 meter depth contour).

The Coral AP approved a motion at the recent joint Deepwater Shrimp and Coral AP meeting to modify their revised recommendation depicted in **Figure 9** to release a portion of the area that is productive sand bottom for royal red shrimp in the proposed southern extension of the Coral HAPC. The Deepwater Shrimp AP and Habitat APs are in support of this modification for expansion. The new recommendation for an alternative is depicted in **Figure 11**.

Alternative 3. Modify the Coral AP recommendation for expanding the Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC to include area of mapped habitat within the expansion, and exclude areas of royal red fishery activity based on VMS data (**Figure 8**).

Note: The Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp APs previously endorsed Alternative 3 as a preferred measure, with the inclusion of a disabled vessel provision. With the proximity of the open trawable areas adjacent to the existing HAPC and the proposed extension, the APs discussed the importance of a disabled vessel provision to avoid penalty if communication to the appropriate contact is initiated when in distress. At the joint Coral and Deepwater Shrimp AP meeting, the Deepwater Shrimp AP approved modification of the Coral HAPC as depicted in **Figure 11**.

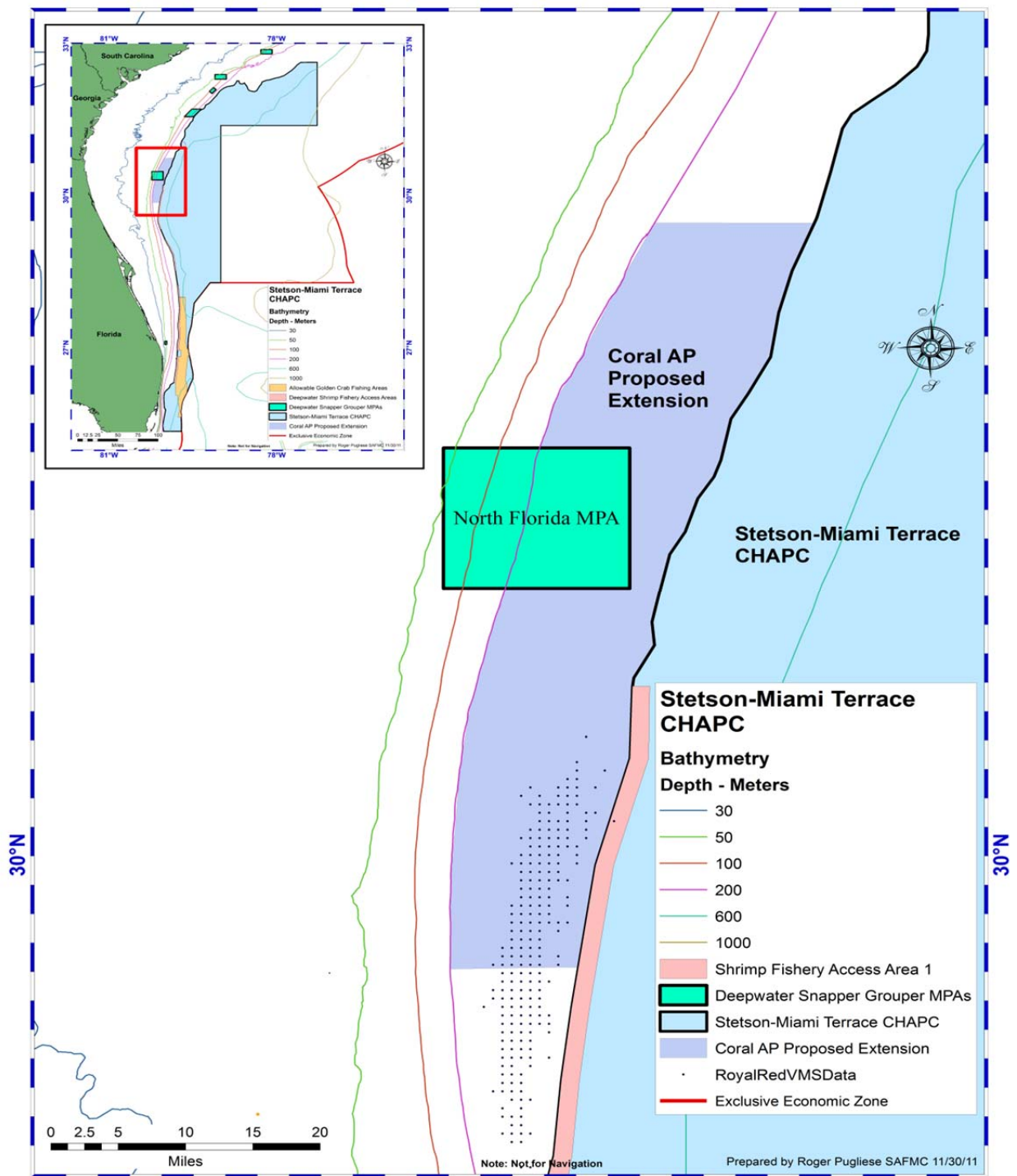


Figure 7. Action 3, Alternative 2, the Coral Advisory Panel’s original proposed expansion of the Stetson-Miami Terrace HAPC western boundary. They have proposed a revised recommendation, depicted in Figure 11.

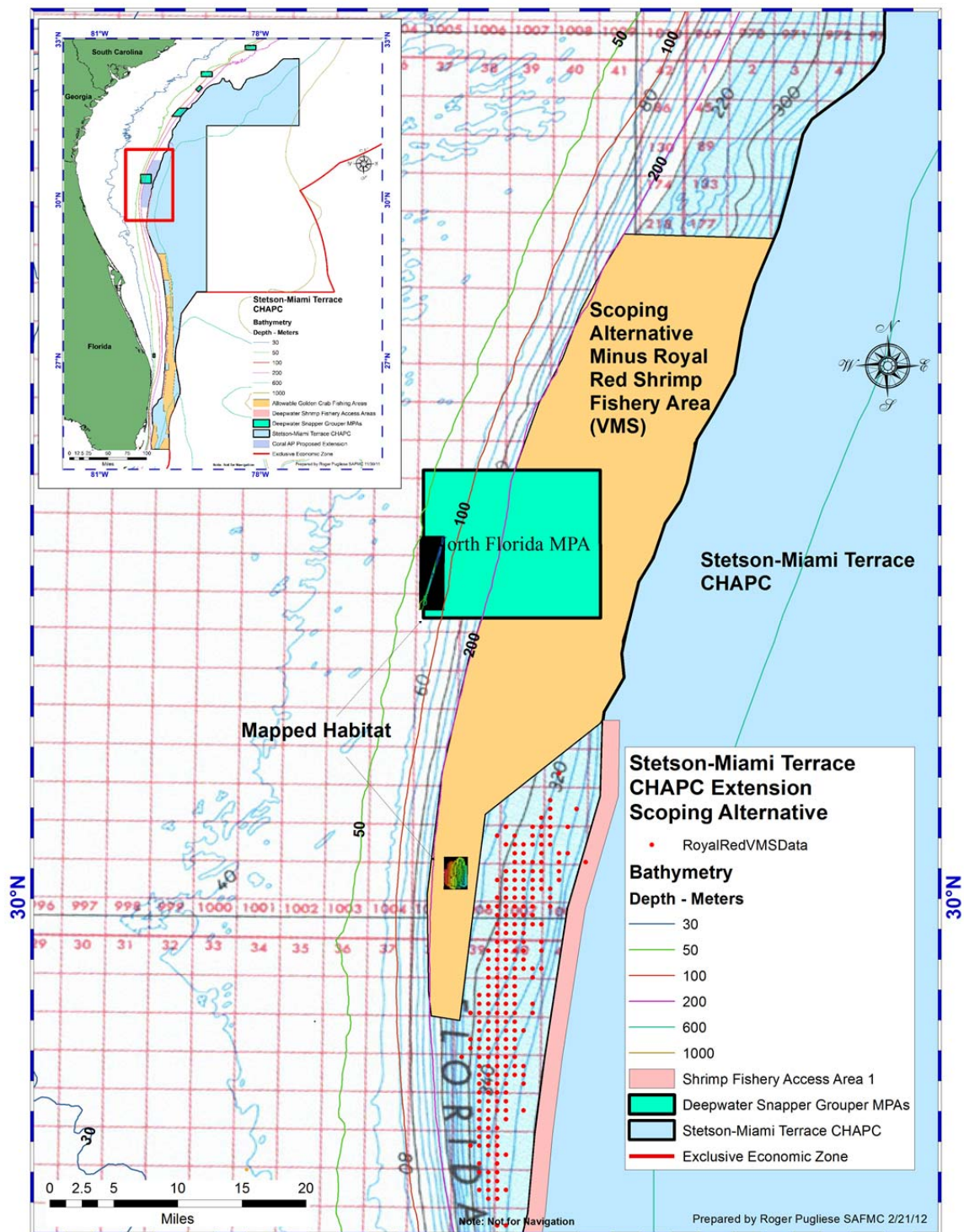


Figure 8. Action 3, Alternative 3, modifications to the Coral AP's original recommendation for expanding the Stetson-Miami Terrace CHAPC based on suggestions from shrimp industry representatives during the CE-BA 3 public scoping process. This figure includes area of mapped habitat within the Coral AP's original proposed extension and excludes areas of royal red fishery activity based on VMS data. This represents the original preferred option of the Deepwater Shrimp AP. The Deepwater Shrimp and Coral APs have proposed a revised recommendation, depicted in Figure 11.

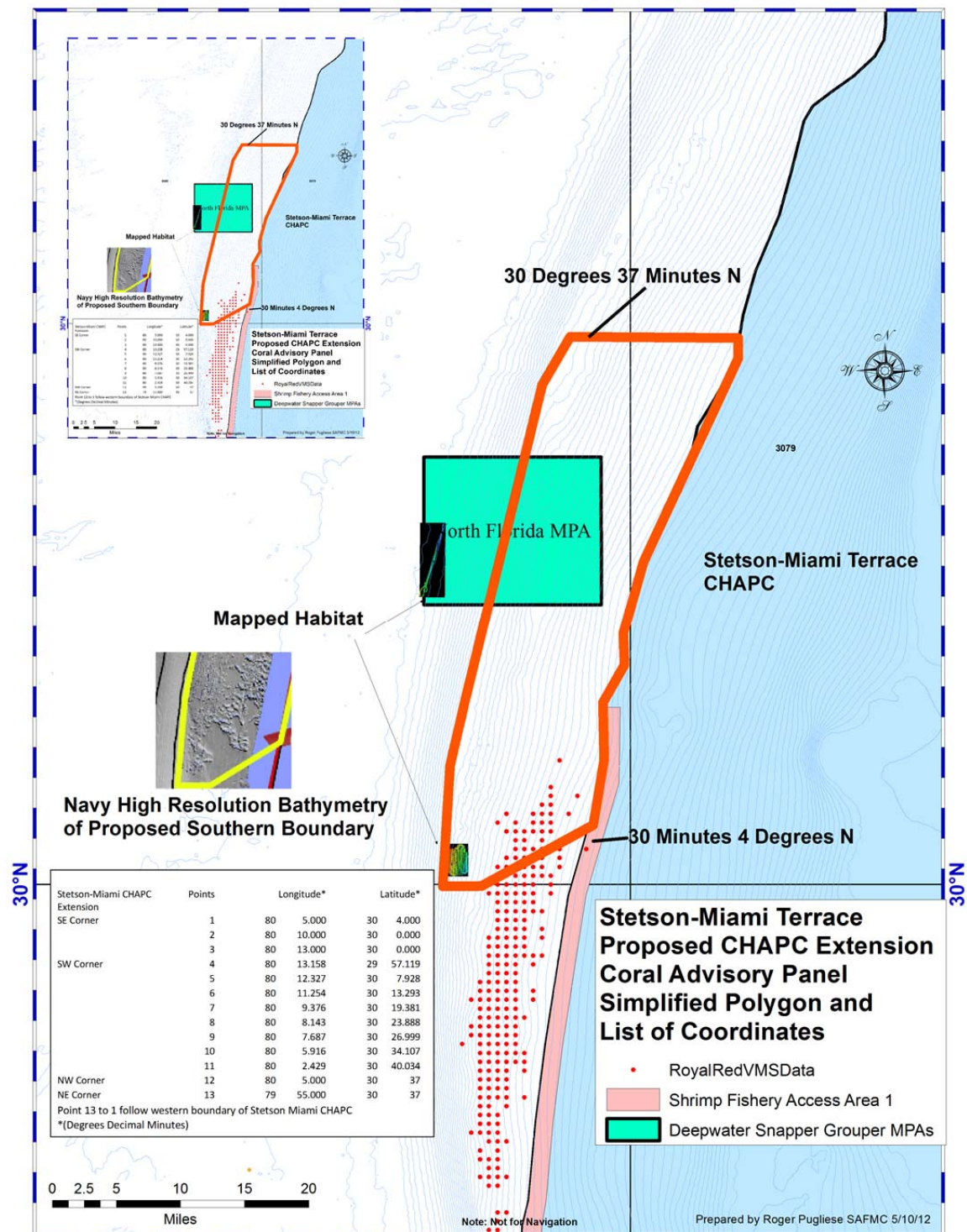


Figure 9. Coral and Habitat AP previous preferred recommendation for modification of Action 3, Alternative 2. A revised preferred recommendation is depicted in **Figure 11**.

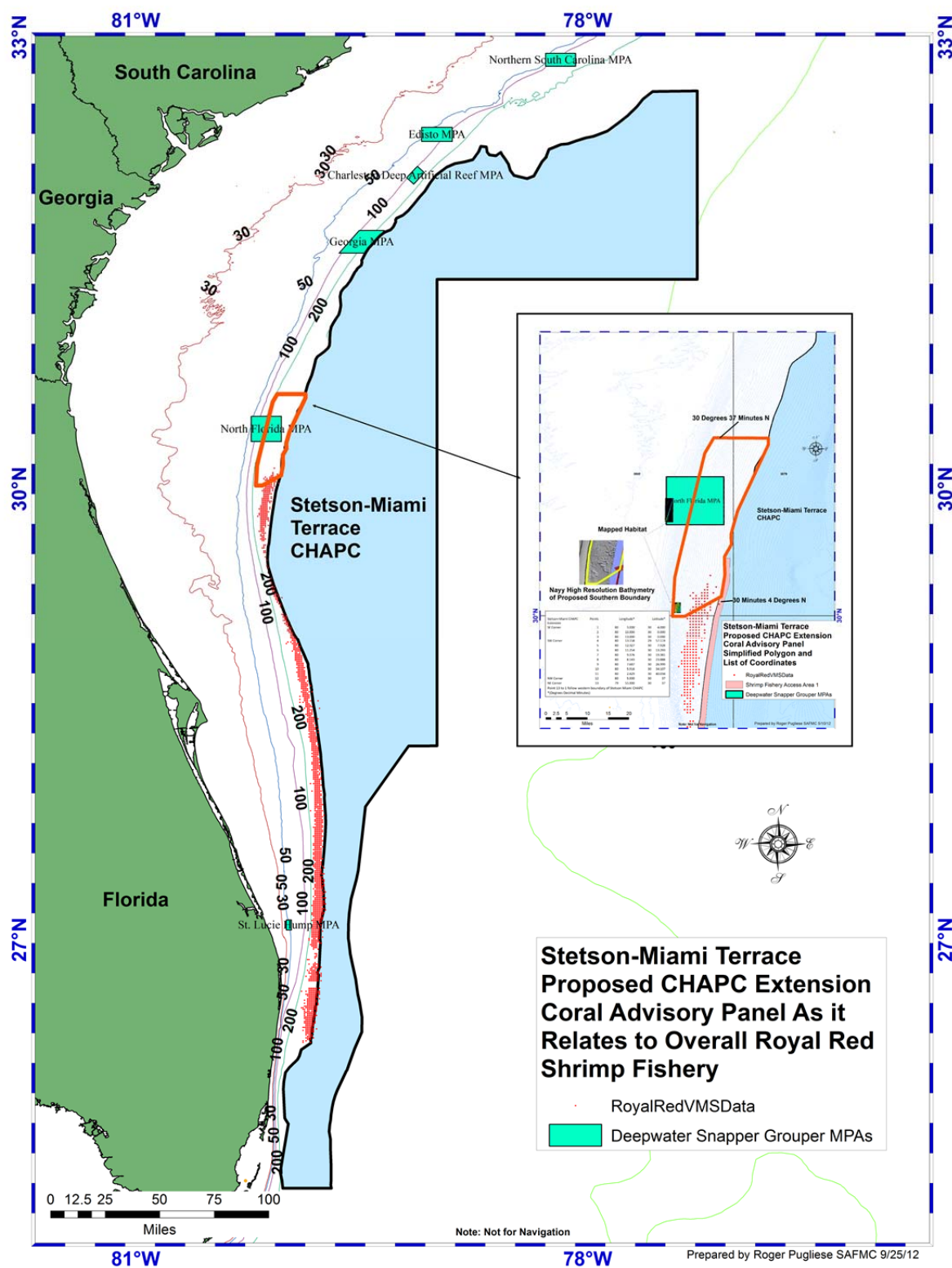


Figure 10. Coral and Habitat AP recommendation for modification of Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC as it relates to overall royal red shrimp fishery activity based on VMS data.

Additional Options for Action 3 (Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC) for the Council to Consider

The Coral and Deepwater Shrimp APs discussed modifying the proposed alternative for expansion of Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC previously recommended by the Coral AP. The new proposed alternative is depicted in **Figure 11**. The APs agreed upon the following motion at the joint Deepwater Shrimp and Coral AP meeting in October 2012:

MODIFY THE SOUTHERN SE BOUNDARY OF THE STETSON MIAMI TERRACE CHAPC EXTENSION IN A MANNER TO RELEASE THE FLATBOTTOM REGION TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WHILE MAINTAINING PROTECTION OF CORAL HABITAT. REFER TO CONCEPTUAL DIAGRAM AND WORKING WITH DR. ROSS TO DEVELOP LINES FOR THIS AREA.

The Habitat AP endorsed new Alternative 4 for a modification to the Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC during their November 14-15, 2012 meeting.

Do you want to include new alternative 4 (depicted in **Figure 11**) under Action 3 for further analysis? New Alternative 4 could also replace Alternative 2 and move existing Alternative 2 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.

(new) Alternative 4. Modify the southern southeast boundary of the Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPC western extension in a manner that releases the flatbottom region to the extent possible while maintaining protection of coral habitat (as depicted in **Figure 11**).

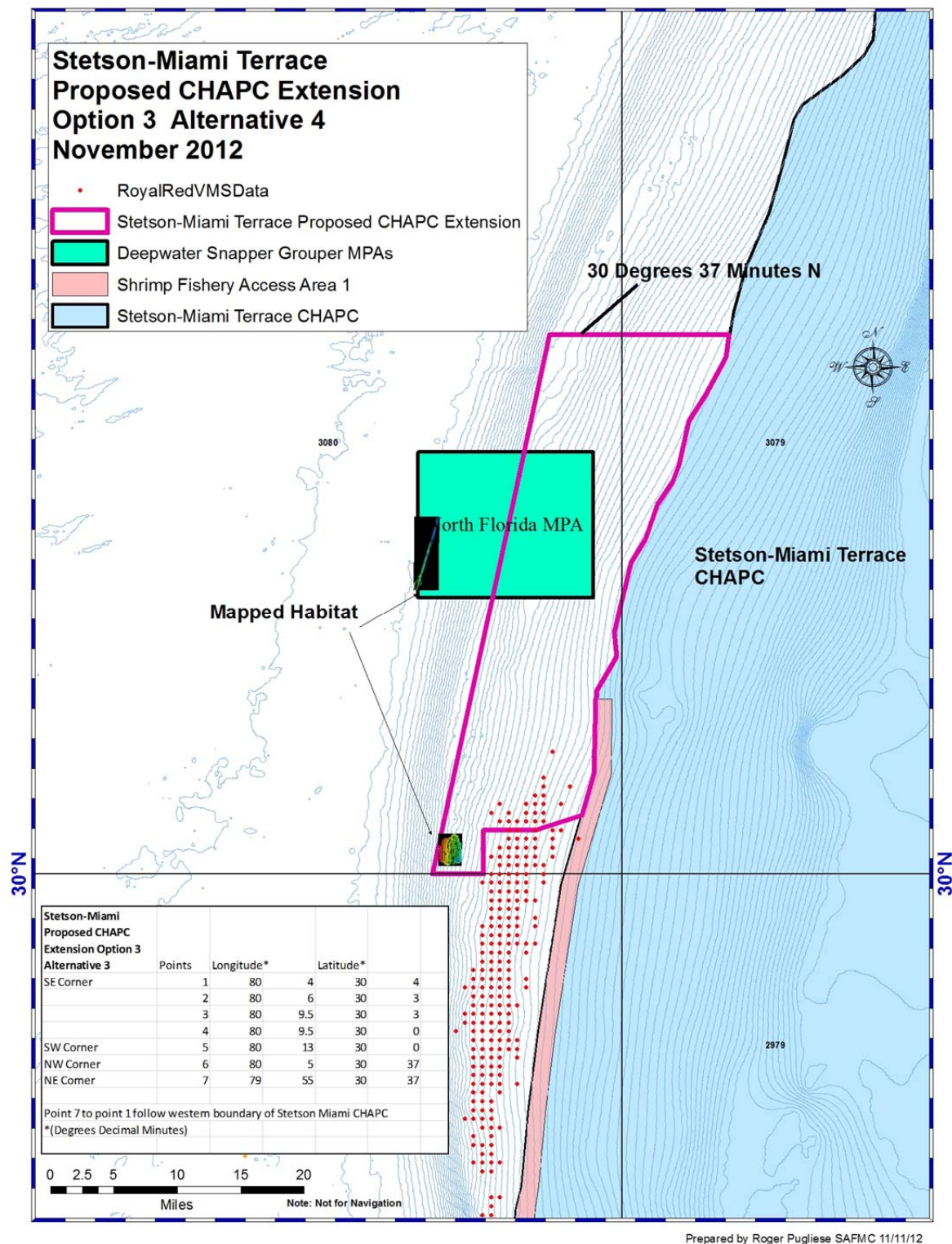


Figure 11. Recommendation for a new proposed western extension of Stetson-Miami Terrace Coral HAPCAs as a result of the joint Deepwater Shrimp and Coral AP meeting in October 2012.

Action 4. Expand boundaries of Cape Lookout Coral HAPC

Alternative 1. (No Action) Do not modify the boundaries of the Cape Lookout CHAPC.

The existing Cape Lookout Coral HAPC is identified by the following coordinates:

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
34°24'37"	75°45'11"
34°10'26"	75°58'44"
34°05'47"	75°54'54"
34°21'02"	75°41'25"

Alternative 2. Extend the northern boundary to encompass the area identified by the following coordinates (**Figure 12**):

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
34°24.6166'	75°45.1833'
34°23.4833'	75°43.9667'
34°27.9'	75°42.75'
34°27.0'	75°41.5'

The Coral and Habitat APs have endorsed Alternative 2 as a preferred. The APs discussed this would incorporate an area of newly discovered deepwater coral *Lophelia* habitat north of the existing boundary.

The Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp APs did not endorse a preferred alternative.

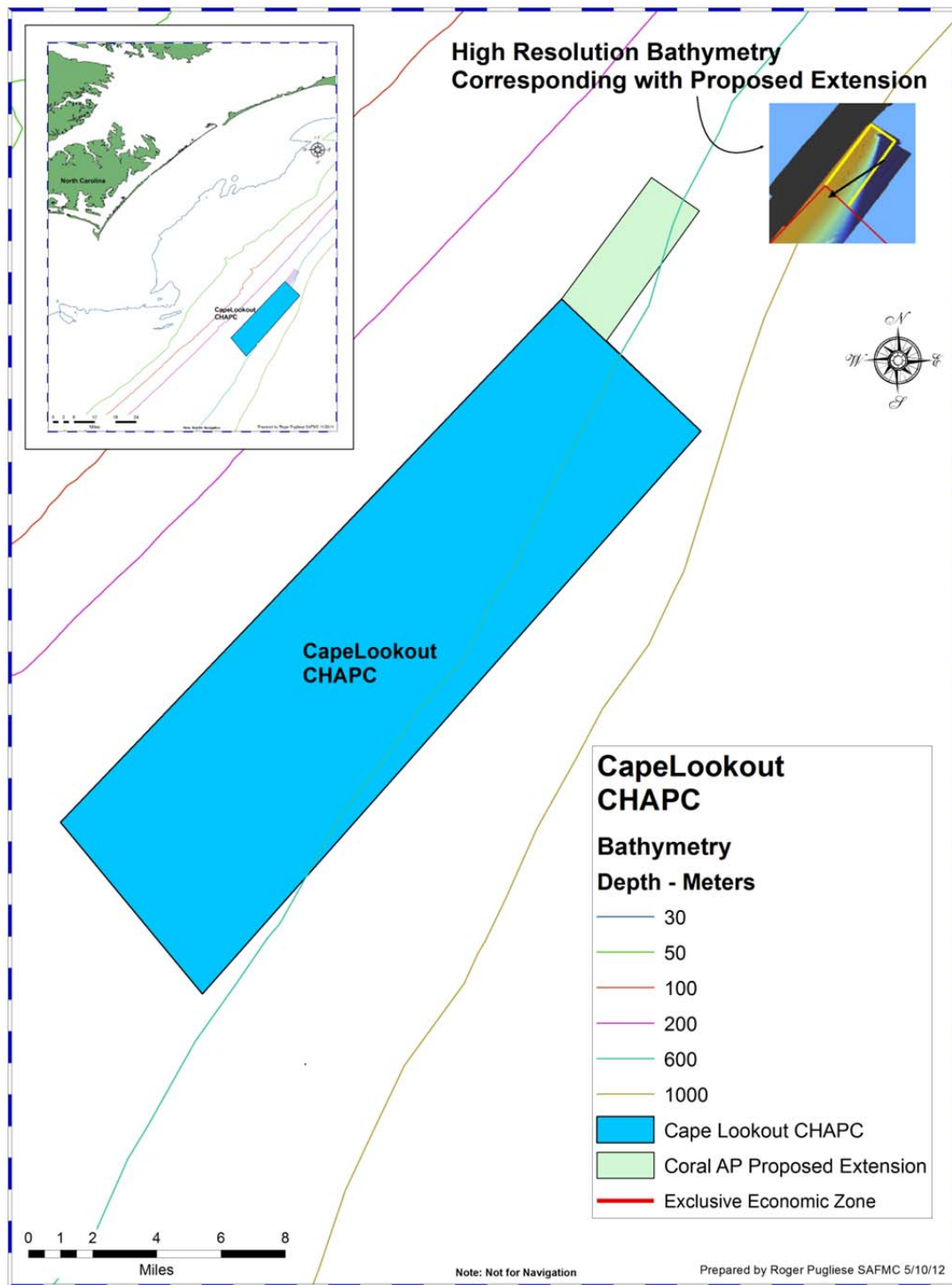


Figure 12. Action 4, Alternative 2. Coral Advisory Panel’s proposed expansion of the Cape Lookout Coral HAPC northern boundary. This represents the preferred option of the Coral and Habitat APs.

Other Issues to Discuss?

Re-review Timing Options on .pdf p.3 and discuss approval for public hearings.