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**RE: Coral 11 and Shrimp 12 - current and sediment information**

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**From** Myra Brouwer <Myra.Brouwer@safmc.net>

**Date** Tue 8/12/2025 9:22 AM

**To** johnkreed48@gmail.com <johnkreed48@gmail.com>; sbrooke@fsu.edu <sbrooke@fsu.edu>

**Cc** jocelyn.karazsia <jocelyn.karazsia@noaa.gov>; 'Shari Anker' <sranker@icloud.com>; Allie Iberle <allie.iberle@safmc.net>; Kathleen Howington <Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net>

Thanks for the comments, John and Sandra. We will include them in the briefing book for the September Council meeting.

To clarify, the DW Shrimp and Habitat Advisory Panels did not have a chance to formally discuss the amendment during their meetings in 2024. The APs received updates on the amendment's progress. The Council did not request additional discussion from the APs since they had already provided feedback during development of Coral Amendment 10 and the action and alternatives in the current amendment are the same.

There will be another public comment opportunity during the September meeting (on September 17 at 4 pm). Coral AP members could provide more feedback to the Council at that time.

Thanks again and I hope you are both well.

Myra



Myra Brouwer, *Deputy Director for Management*

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**From:** johnkreed48@gmail.com <johnkreed48@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 2:30 PM

**To:** Kathleen Howington <Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net>; Allie Iberle <allie.iberle@safmc.net>; Myra Brouwer <Myra.Brouwer@safmc.net>

**Cc:** sbrooke@fsu.edu; jocelyn.karazsia <jocelyn.karazsia@noaa.gov>; 'Shari Anker' <sranker@icloud.com>

**Subject:** RE: Coral 11 and Shrimp 12 - current and sediment information

August 11, 2025

Dear Kathleen et al.

Previously I sent my data about the currents to Kathleen based on over a years' worth of bottom current data that I collected on the shelf-edge deep water Oculina reefs. Current meters recorded the current speed and direction, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for a year. This shows the importance of the westerly flowing upwelling of water up the slope and across the reefs. This provides food and nutrients for the coral which is likely why the Oculina reefs formed there in the first place over 1000 years ago. Attached is Dr. Sandra Brook's letter about the Oculina reefs. Although she wasn't involved with my current meter studies, she made numerous dives on the reefs with the 4-person Johnson-Sea-Link submersible and knows first hand what the bottom conditions can be like, and how different they are from the surface Gulf Stream water.

Unfortunately the people on the SAFMC who are the experts about the Oculina coral and habitat were not allowed to be involved with the proposed Amendments 11/12. How can that be, that the Coral AP was not allowed to vote or attend the recent meeting where the Shrimp and Habitat committees voted for the amendments.

Dr. Brooke who is the Chair of the Coral AP knows a bit about the Oculina coral having studied the reproductive behavior of the coral for her Ph.D. Dissertation.

For transparency's sake, please allow the Coral AP to attend and be part of the future discussions regarding the proposed Amendments 11-12.

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**From:** Kathleen Howington <[Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net](mailto:Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 06, 2025 2:55 PM

**To:** John Reed <[johnkreed48@gmail.com](mailto:johnkreed48@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Allie Iberle <[allie.iberle@safmc.net](mailto:allie.iberle@safmc.net)>; Myra Brouwer <[Myra.Brouwer@safmc.net](mailto:Myra.Brouwer@safmc.net)>

**Subject:** Coral 11 and Shrimp 12 - current and sediment information

Dr. Reed

Thank you for your comments last night. As always, I appreciate your expertise. I have reviewed the document that you referred to in your comment:

[https://safmc.net/documents/attach2\\_habitatapnov122006oculinaresearchsummaryreport-1970-2006-pdf/](https://safmc.net/documents/attach2_habitatapnov122006oculinaresearchsummaryreport-1970-2006-pdf/)

### [06 Oculina Research Summary Report- 1970-2006 - SAFMC](#)

August 18, 2006 Fig. 1. Light shaded area: 1029 km<sup>2</sup> (300 nm<sup>2</sup>) deep-water Oculina Marine Protected Area (MPA) off eastern Florida. The original 315 km<sup>2</sup> (92 nm<sup>2</sup>) Oculina Habitat of Particular Concern (OHAPC) that was designated in 1984 (also known as the Experimental Oculina Research Reserve) is indicated by the boxed area (1995 sidescan sonar coverage) that extends from the Sebastian Reef area ...

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Can you clarify what you said last night about the current running east to west over the coral? I'm reading that there is a nephloid current past 60m depth, and i see the speed of the bottom current, but not the direction.

Have a great day and thank you for your time.

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