



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# Amendment 10 to the Coral Coral Reef and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat FMP

Executive Committee

September 2020

Roger Pugliese



*....To Conserve and Manage*

# What was removed

Shrimp vessel transit provision moved and addressed in Shrimp Amendment 10

Removed actions to establish new allowable fishing areas for Golden Crab in deepwater coral HAPCs

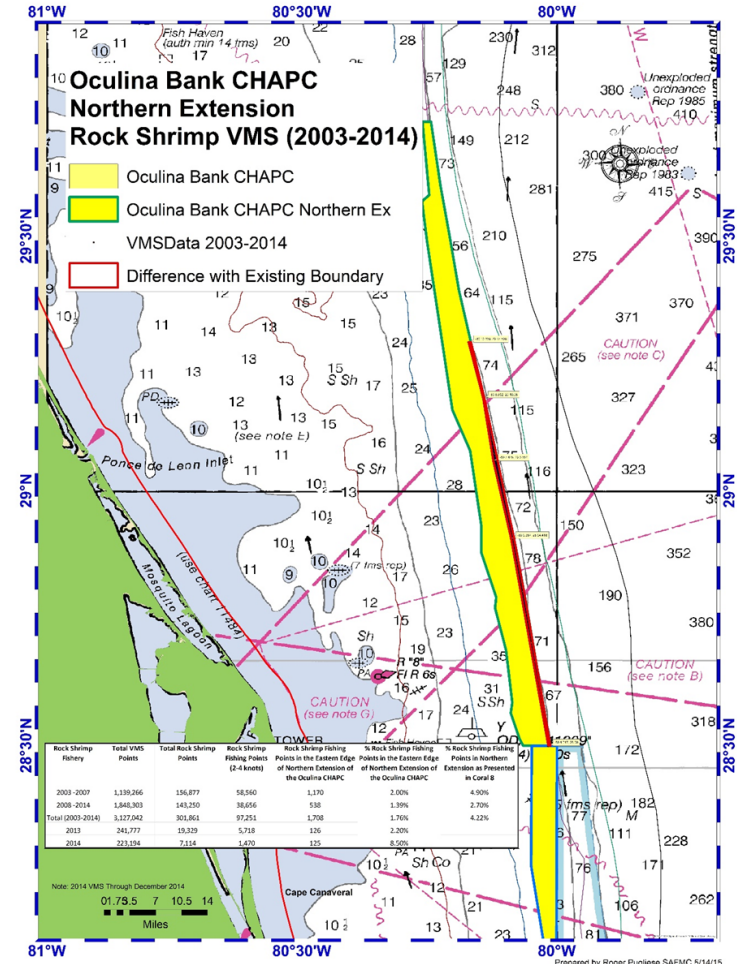
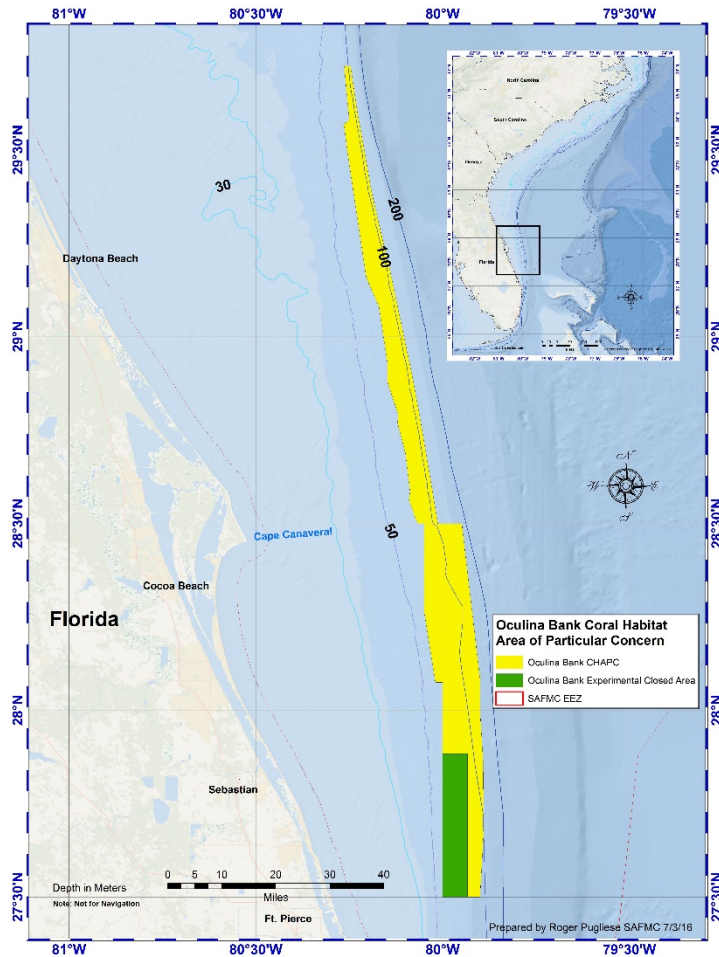


# Issues to be addressed

- Establish a Shrimp Fishery Access Area along the eastern boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank CHAPC
- Expand eastern boundary of the Miami Terrace CHAPC to protect newly discovered or connected deepwater coral ecosystems / habitats observed, mapped / characterized since 2014

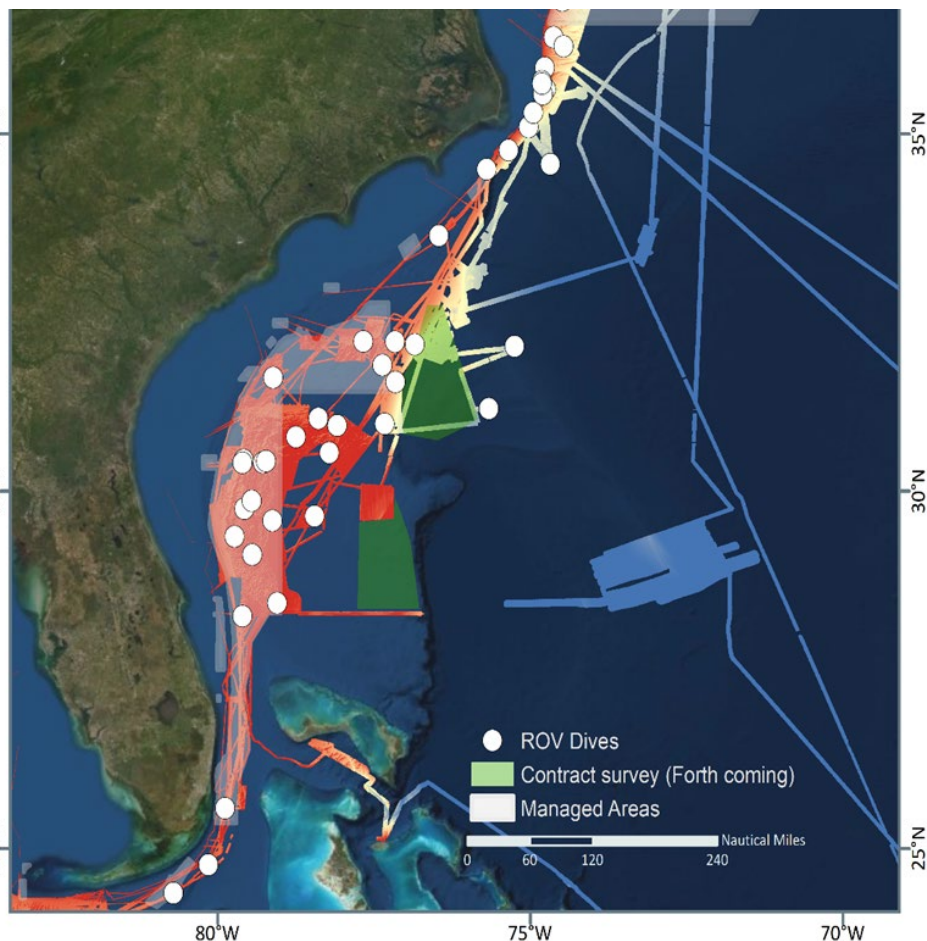


# Oculina Bank CHAPC and Area of Focus in Northern Extension



# Mapping Deepwater Coral Ecosystems

## Stetson Miami Terrace Deepwater Coral HAPC and the Blake Plateau



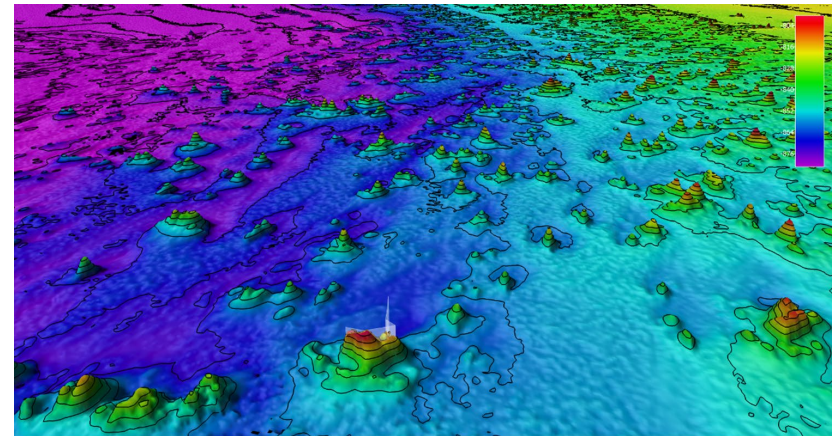
- *Okeanos Explorer* since 2012 has conducted surveys and ROV dives and mapped 34,000+ km<sup>2</sup> in the CHAPC as of January 2020. OER and NOAA Partners have focused effort in the SA region to specifically address Council priority areas with subsequent mapping to engage Office of Coast Survey, involve 3 *Okeanos Explorer* cruises and OER funded Fugro surveys





# Key Takeaways Supporting Conservation Action

Mapping and ROV exploration continues to reveal an extensive distribution of *Lophelia* coral habitat on the Blake Plateau verifying the complex deepwater ecosystem and unique components like the “Million Mounds”, extend significantly east of the present CHAPC boundary unprotected.



# Next steps for this amendment...

Presentation to Habitat and Ecosystem Advisory Panel Update on Research in SA Deepwater Coral Ecosystems ([Oct 2019](#) [April 2020](#)) **Oct 2020**



NOAA Director of OER Presentation to Committee/Council Overview of Mapping, Observation and Characterization of SA Deepwater Coral Ecosystems Supporting Action in Coral Amendment 10 **Dec 2020**



Options discussed/developed for scoping **Dec 2020/March 2021**



Scoping meetings, AP meetings and Public hearings held **2021**

