



**January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026  
Council Meeting**

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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

**Amendment 11 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic  
Amendment 12 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region**





# BACKGROUND

- Coral Amendment 11 and Shrimp Amendment 12 are in response to the comments from rock shrimp fishermen petitioning for access to historically important fishing grounds that were closed during Coral Amendment 8.
- The Council attempted to open a shrimp fishery access area (SFAA) through Coral Amendment 10, but the amendment was disapproved.
- In 2024, the Council initiated work on a joint amendment to modify both the Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Shrimp FMP with the same goal as Coral Amendment 10.

# AMENDMENT TIMELINE



July 2022	Coral Amendment 10 was disapproved
December 2023	The Council made a motion to start the resubmission process
June 2024	The Council made a motion to develop a joint amendment to the Shrimp and Coral Fishery Management Plans to accomplish the goal of establishing an SFAA
June 2025	The Council selected a preferred alternative and approved the draft amendment for public hearings.
August 2025	Public hearings
September 2025	The Council reviewed public hearing comments and an updated draft amendment
January 2026	The Council will review the final draft amendment and consider approval for formal review.

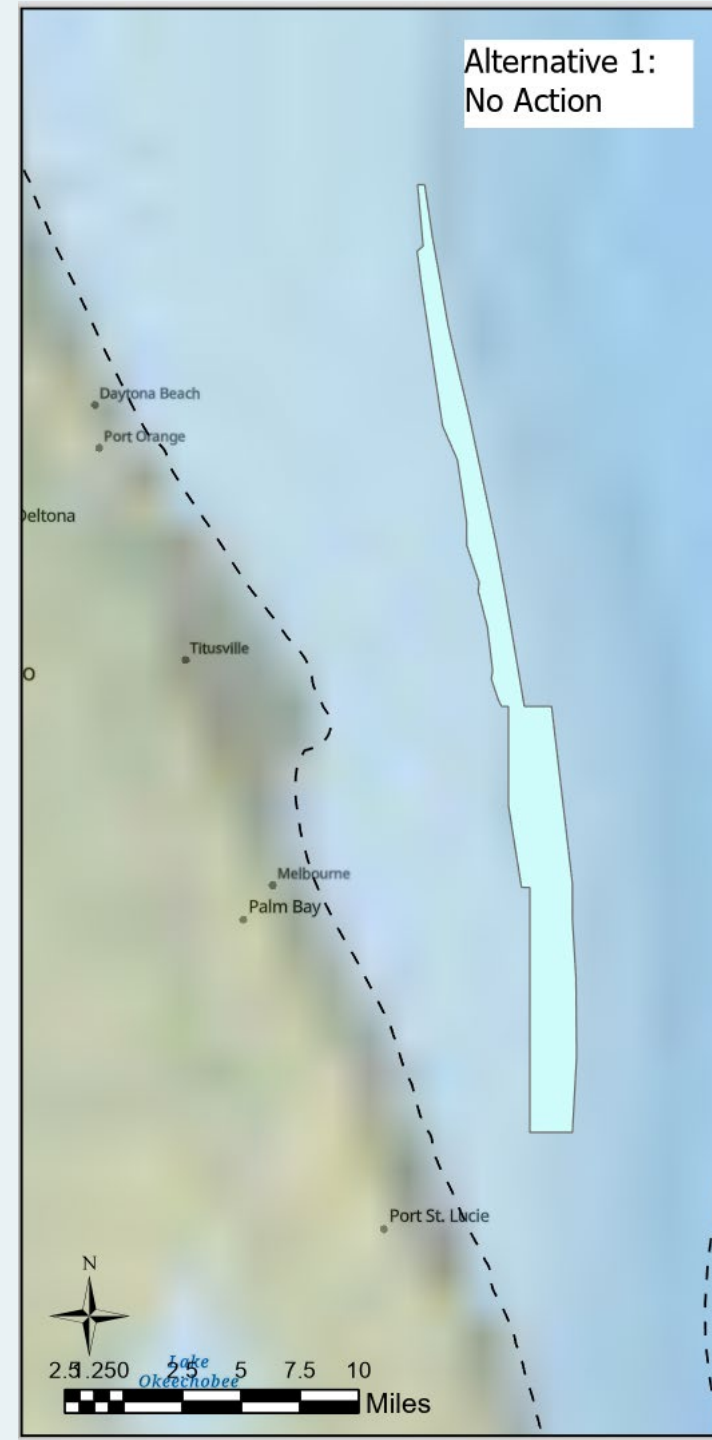
# Purpose and Need

## Purpose for Action

The purpose of this amendment is to reinstate commercial access to this historically important fishing ground for the rock shrimp fishery by creating a Shrimp Fishery Access Area along the eastern boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern in an area where the rock shrimp fishery operated historically while minimizing impacts to deepwater coral.

## Need for Action

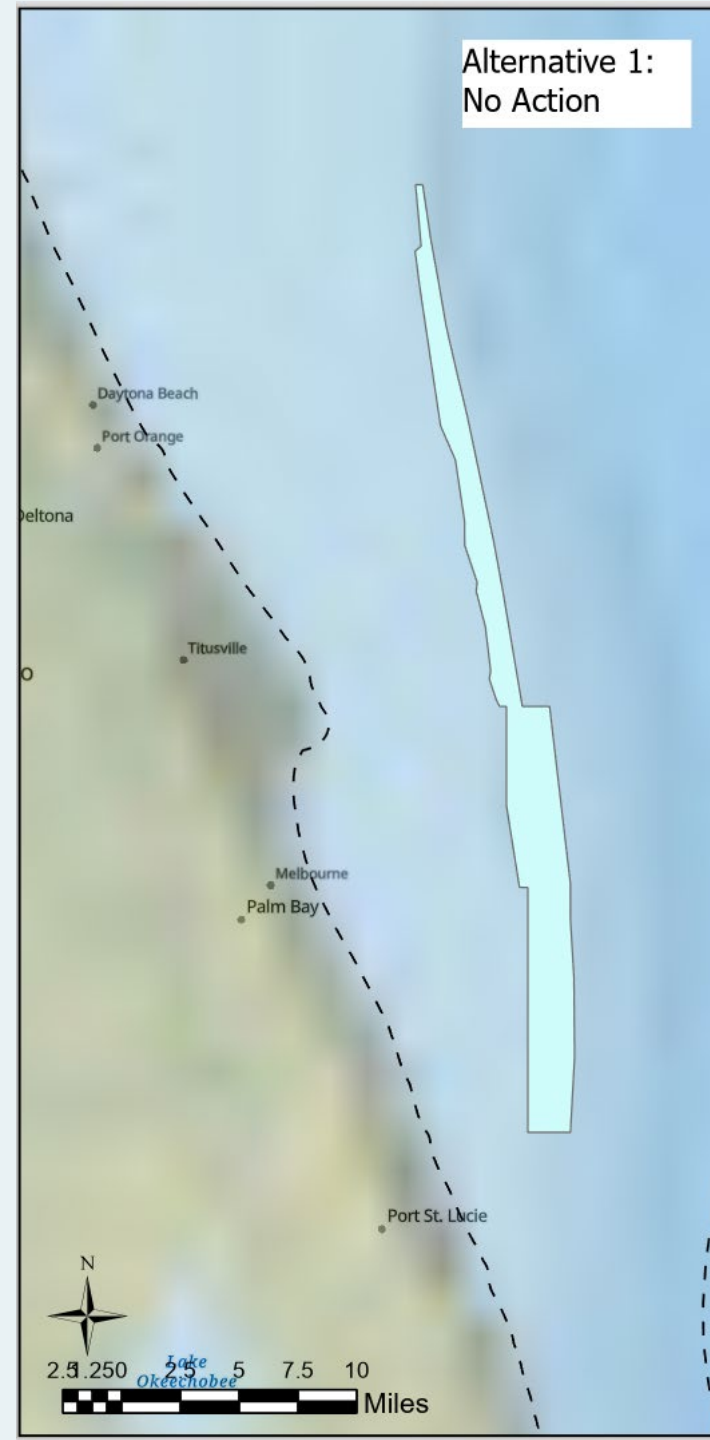
The need for this amendment is to optimize yield in the rock shrimp fishery by expanding access to fishing grounds while minimizing negative impacts to deepwater coral in the Council's jurisdiction.



# ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

**Action 1:** Establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern.

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** There are no shrimp fishery access areas within the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern.





# ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

**Action 1:** Establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern.

**Preferred Alternative 2.** Establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the OHAPC that is **approximately** 16.61 NM<sup>2</sup>.

Allow a shrimp vessel with a valid Commercial Vessel Permit for Rock Shrimp South Atlantic EEZ (Limited Access) to trawl for rock shrimp within the established area bounded by the coordinates below.



Point	Latitude	Longitude
Origin	29°17'31.98"	80°10'22.02"
1	29°10'58.98"	80°08'39.00"
2	29°03'34.98"	80°07'28.98"
3	28°54'25.02"	80°05'22.98"
4	28°48'36.00"	80°04'22.02"
5	28°30'00.00"	80°01'01.02"
6	28°30'00.00"	80°00'46.02"
7	28°46'00.84"	80°03'28.50"
8	28°48'37.14"	80°03'56.76"
9	28°53'18.36"	80°04'48.84"
10	29°11'19.62"	80°08'36.90"
11	29°17'33.96"	80°10'06.90"
Origin	29°17'31.98"	80°10'22.02"

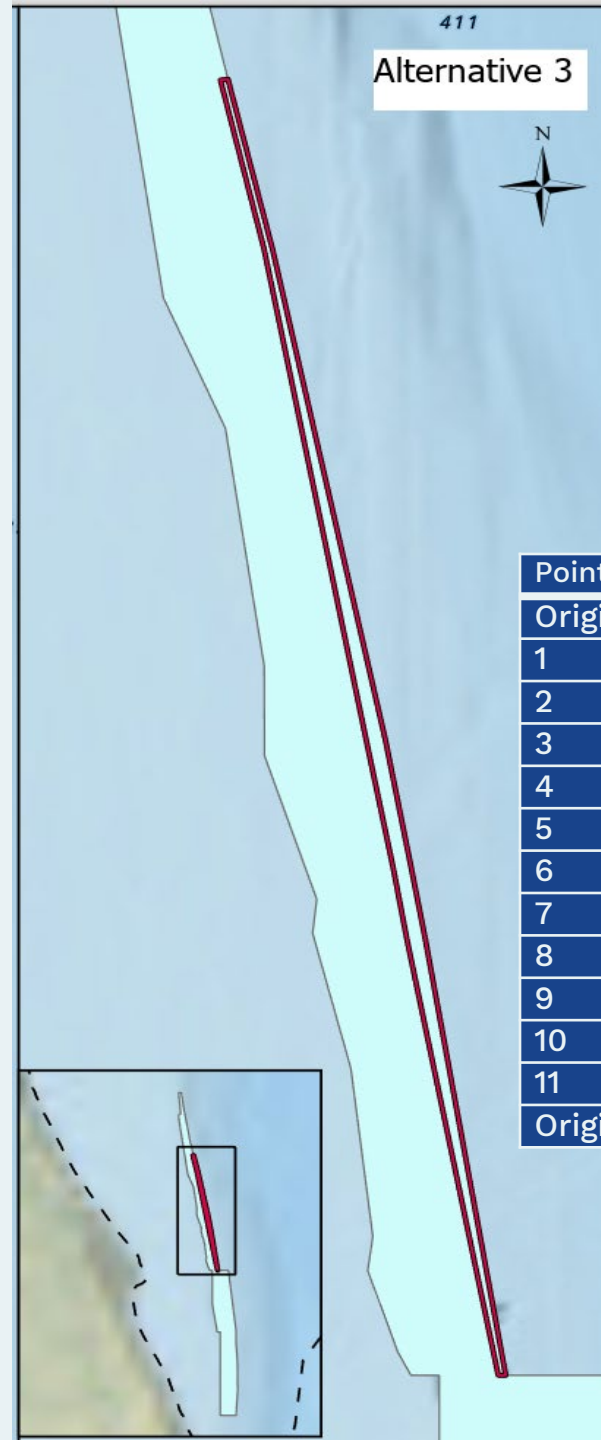


# ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

**Action 1:** Establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern.

**Alternative 3.** Establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the OHAPC that is **approximately** 24.16 NM<sup>2</sup>.

Allow a shrimp vessel with a valid Commercial Vessel Permit for Rock Shrimp South Atlantic EEZ (Limited Access) to trawl for rock shrimp within the established area bounded by the coordinates below.



Point	Latitude	Longitude
Origin	29°17'31.98"	80°10'22.02"
1	29°11'19.98"	80°8'54.00"
2	28°53'15.00"	80°5'27.00"
3	28°48'36.00"	80°4'33.00"
4	28°45'57.00"	80°4'4.98"
5	28°30'00.00"	80°01'01.02"
6	28°30'00.00"	80°00'46.02"
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# Summary of Changes since December 2025



- During the December **2025 Council meeting**, the Council received public comment regarding the amendment from 10 individuals, all favoring Alternative 1. Their comments have been integrated into Chapter 5.
- The economic and social **environment sections** (chapter 3.3 and 3.4) have been updated with information through 2023.
- The economic and social **effects sections** (chapter 4.1.2 and 4.1.3) have been updated to reflect the Chapter three updates.

# Economic Environment



- There are two types of federal permits in the South Atlantic rock shrimp fishery: 1) a rock shrimp limited access (RSLA) vessel permit, and 2) a rock shrimp Carolinas Zone (RSCZ) vessel permit.
- The actions and alternatives in this plan amendment would only affect vessels with RSLA permits who actively use their permit

**Table 3.3.1.1** Number of South Atlantic Rock Shrimp Permits from 2019-2025.

Year	RSLA	RSCZ
2019	103	140
2020	101	146
2021	101	138
2022	101	141
2023	101	154
2024	100	141
2025	100	130

# Economic Environment



Table 3.3.1.2 Landings and revenue statistics for active vessels harvesting South Atlantic rock shrimp with an RSLA permit, 2019-2023. Dollar values are in 2024 dollars.

Year	Number of active RSLA permitted vessels	South Atlantic rock shrimp landings (lbs ww)	South Atlantic rock shrimp revenue	Other Atlantic shrimp revenue	Other Atlantic seafood revenue	Gulf seafood revenue (>99% shrimp)	Total revenue	Percent of total revenue that is rock shrimp
<b>Totals:</b>								
2019	21	1,040,704	\$2,530,444	\$8,690,974	\$300,966	\$1,187,280	\$12,709,664	20%
2020	14	304,549	\$673,506	\$6,808,407	\$53,602	\$114,578	\$7,650,093	9%
2021	31	2,196,345	\$6,622,415	\$10,280,862	\$285,382	\$3,608,268	\$20,796,928	32%
2022	35	3,857,347	\$6,555,664	\$6,122,364	\$3,385,979	\$3,940,569	\$20,004,576	33%
2023	14	485,275	\$926,177	\$4,876,090	\$71,132	\$178,311	\$6,051,710	15%
<b>Vessel Means:</b>								
2019		49,557	\$120,497	\$413,856	\$14,332	\$56,537	\$605,222	20%
2020		21,754	\$48,108	\$486,315	\$3,829	\$8,184	\$546,435	9%
2021		70,850	\$213,626	\$331,641	\$9,206	\$116,396	\$670,869	32%
2022		110,210	\$187,305	\$174,925	\$96,742	\$112,588	\$571,559	33%
2023		34,662	\$66,156	\$348,292	\$5,081	\$12,736	\$432,265	15%

# Economic Environment Cont.



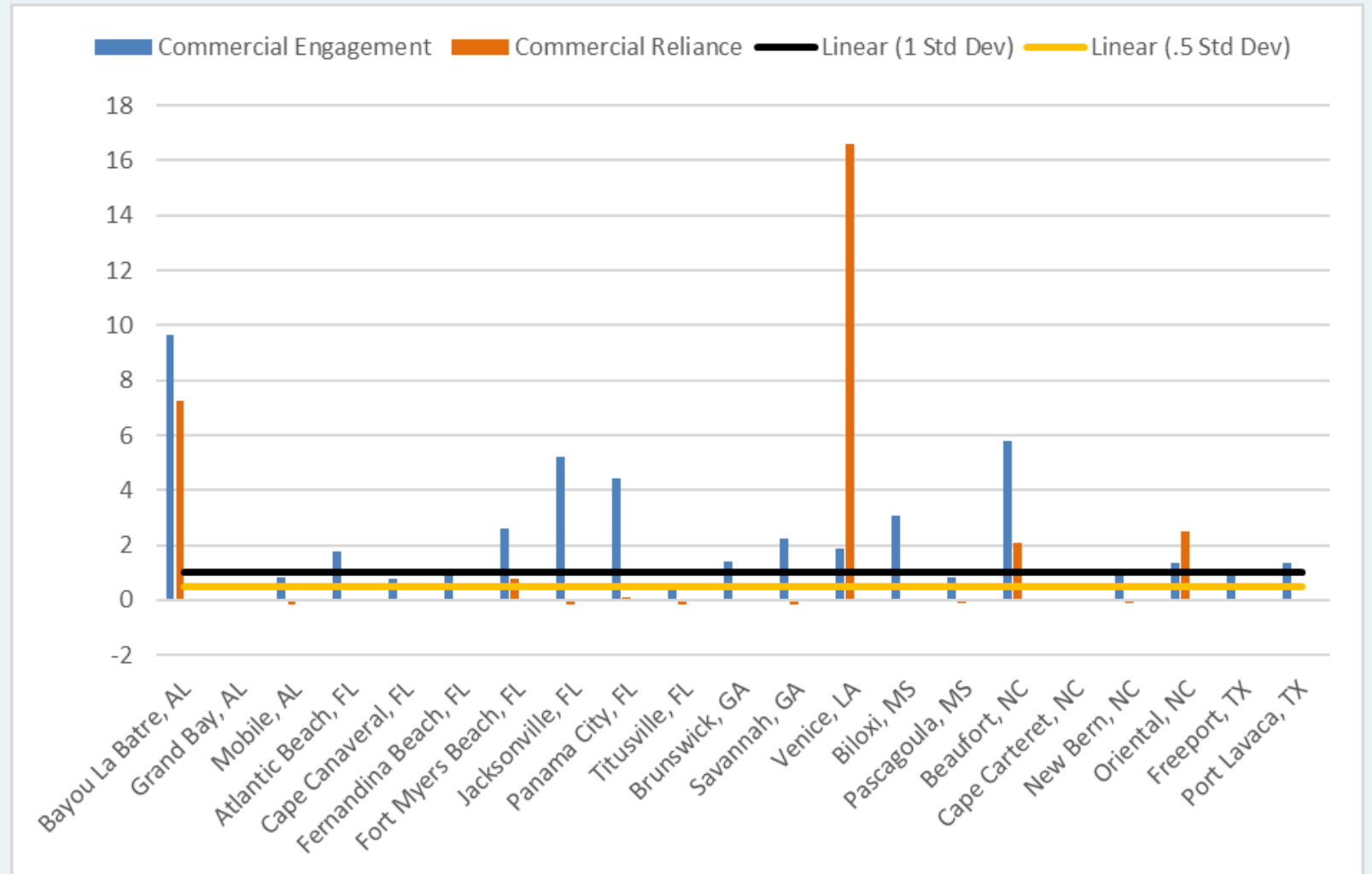
Table 3.3.2.1 Selected characteristics of South Atlantic rock shrimp dealers, 2019-2023. Dollar values are in 2024 dollars.

Year	Number of Dealers	Statistic	South Atlantic rock shrimp purchases	Other purchase	Total purchase	Percent of total purchases that are rock shrimp	Average price/lb (ww) rock shrimp
2019	8	Total	\$2,289,991	\$27,748,676	\$30,038,667	8%	\$2.43
		Mean	\$286,249	\$3,468,585	\$3,754,833		
2020	7	Total	\$674,370	\$20,469,333	\$21,143,703	3%	\$2.21
		Mean	\$96,339	\$2,924,190	\$3,020,529		
2021	11	Total	\$6,362,823	\$37,453,780	\$43,816,604	15%	\$3.01
		Mean	\$578,438	\$3,404,889	\$3,983,328		
2022	7	Total	\$6,343,856	\$15,931,733	\$22,275,589	28%	\$1.71
		Mean	\$906,265	\$2,275,962	\$3,182,227		
2023	5	Total	\$926,177	\$13,318,873	\$14,245,050	7%	\$1.91
		Mean	\$185,235	\$2,663,775	\$2,849,010		

# Social Environment



Figure 3.4.1.2 is an overall measure of a community's commercial fishing engagement and reliance and includes the communities with the strongest relationship to the commercial sector for rock shrimp.



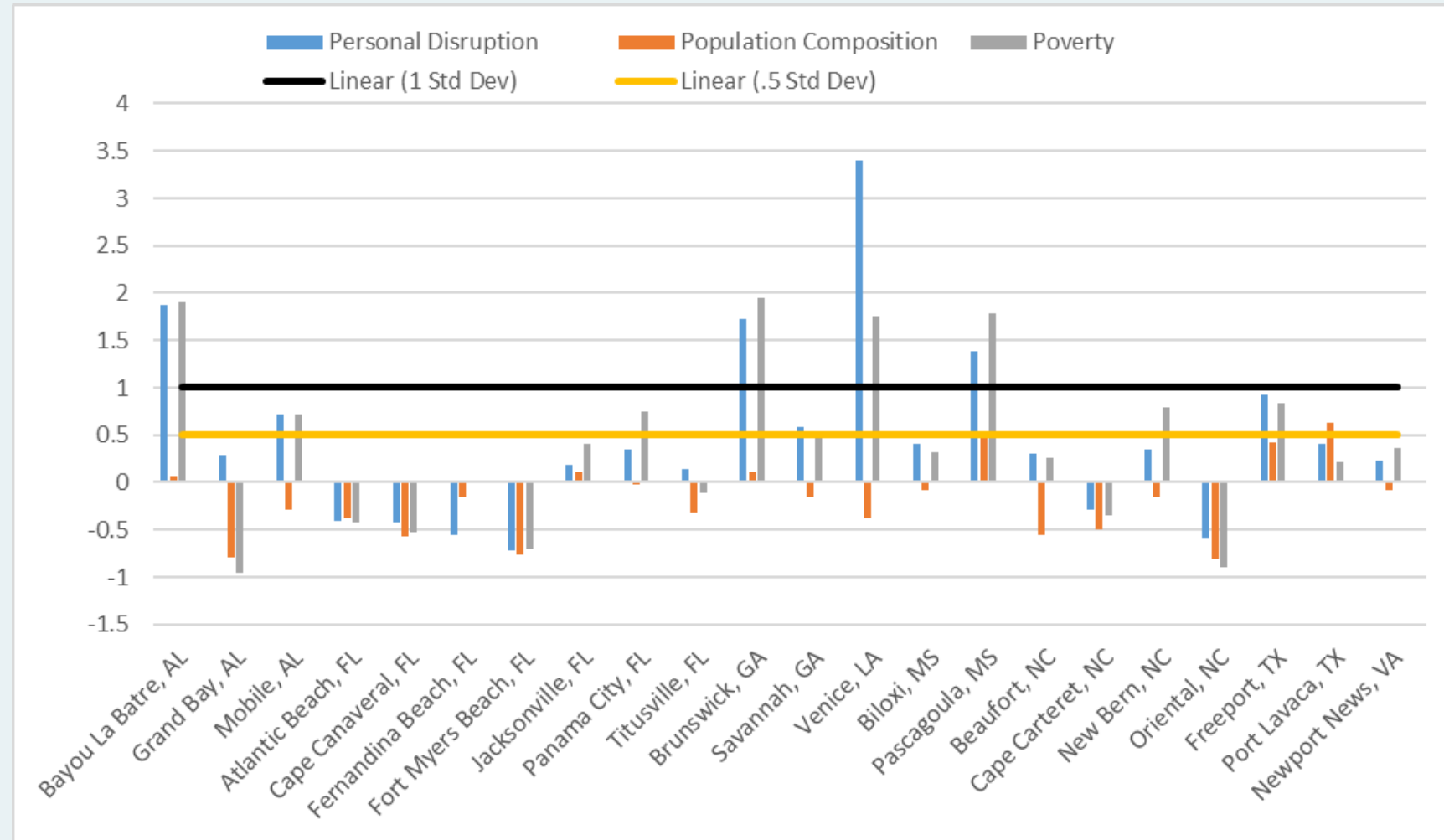
# Social Environment Cont.



Figure 3.4.1.3 provides social vulnerability rankings for place-based communities identified as important to commercial fishing for rock shrimp.

Several communities exceed the threshold of one standard deviation above the mean for at least one of the indices (Bayou La Batre, Alabama; Brunswick, Georgia; Venice, Louisiana; and Pascagoula, Mississippi).

These communities would be the most likely to exhibit vulnerabilities to social or economic disruption resulting from regulatory change.



# Effects Analysis



Since December 2025, there has been no change on the **biological, social, economic, and administrative effects** of the preferred alternative.

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



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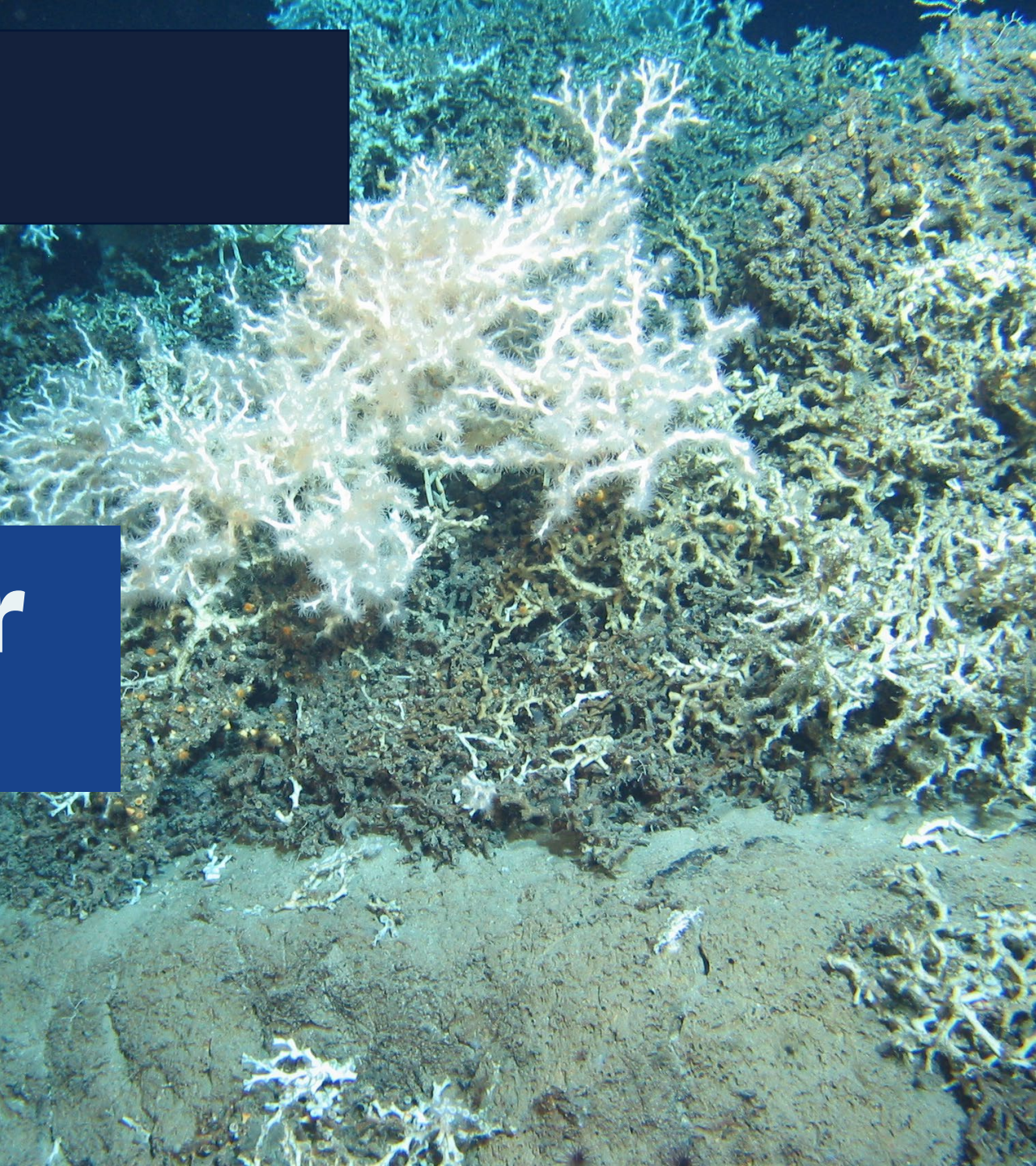
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# Public Comment

## Council Member Introductions

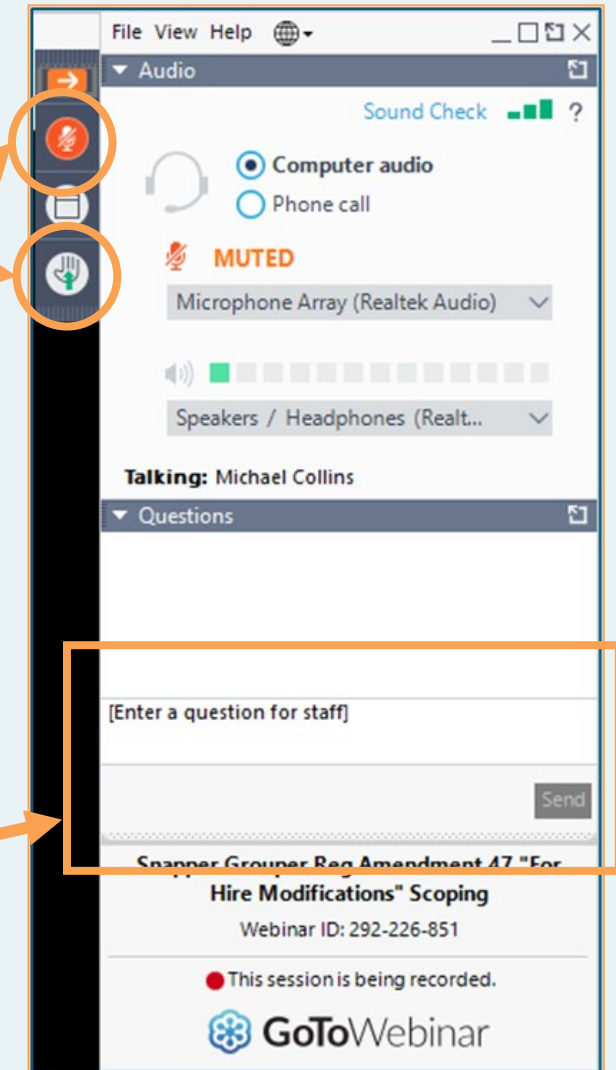


# Public Comment How To

If you would like to make a comment click on the hand icon and we will unmute you after we finish calling on those who have signed up online

After we give you the ability to unmute, you can unmute (or mute) your microphone by clicking the microphone icon. **Red** is muted, **green** is unmuted.

You can type a question into the text box if technical issues arise and we will assist you



# Public Comment How To

- We want to optimize the time available for everyone to speak, we will not respond to questions.
- Based on the number of people signed up to provide comment, each commenter will be given a specific length of time to speak.
- The display will show green when you begin your comments; it will change to yellow when you have 1 minute remaining and when it shows red your time is up.



Thank you for joining us for today's public comment session during the January 2026 Council Meeting. We are grateful you have taken the time to join us.