



CCC AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT (ABM) SUBCOMMITTEE

Roger Pugliese
CCCABM SC SAFMC Member



New England
Fishery Management
Council



CCC AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

- Created at the May 2021 CCC Meeting.
- Membership: 9 members:
One staff member per Council plus one Council member as Chair.
- Three NOAA staff participate as observers.

Members:

Eric Reid, (NEFMC) Chair	Deirdre Boelke (NEFMC)
Jessica Coakley (MAFMC)	Mark Fitchett (WPFMC)
John Froeschke (GMFMC)	Kerry Griffin (PFMC)
Roger Pugliese (SAFMC)	Miguel Rolon (CFMC)
Dave Witherell (NPFMC)	

Observers from NOAA Fisheries:

Heather Sagar
Tim Haverland
Michelle Lennox

CCC ABM SUB-COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Assist CCC with 30x30 effort.
 2. Prepare a report of existing fishery conservation areas.
 3. Prepare a journal article about area-based management in the US EEZ.
- Since June 2021, the ABM Subcommittee has met 7 times via webinar.
 - Great progress to date on:
 - 1) draft definition and criteria for conservation areas;
 - 2) database of existing fishery conservation areas in federal waters; and
 - 3) summary tables and maps with conservation area estimates (in km² and %).
 - Final report scheduled for Spring 2022 CCC Meeting.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION AREA?

DRAFT WORKING DEFINITION:

For the purposes of the CCC Subcommittee report, a conservation area is an:

- 1) established, geographically defined area, with
- 2) planned management or regulation of environmentally adverse fishing activities, that
- 3) provides for the maintenance of biological productivity and diversity, ecosystem function and services (including recreation and seafood production).

From a Council perspective, conservation areas are established to:

1. Protect aspects of the ecosystem and maintain biodiversity ([Ecosystem Conservation](#)).
2. Address spatially driven fishery management challenges such as mortality reduction, stock rebuilding, allocation, catch limits, or bycatch concerns. ([Year-round Fishery Management](#)).
3. Areas designed to address spatially driven fishery management challenges, but these measures are in place seasonally ([Other or Seasonal Fishery Management](#)).

REGIONAL CONSERVATION AREA SPREADSHEETS

Each area is catalogued: Conservation Area Type, Focus/Objective, Area Name, Size (nm²), Year implemented, CFR, Relevant prohibitions, adjacent State water restrictions (y/n), Application of America the Beautiful principles.

South Atlantic Region Conservation Areas. Example of Preliminary Data . Size is for an individual area.						
Type*	Primary Species / Focus	Area Names (# subareas)	Size (nm ²)	CFR	Prohibitions/Restrictions	ATB Principles Applied
Ecosystem Protection	Deepwater Coral Habitat	Stetson Miami Terrace CHAPC	15,287.70	50/chapter-VI/part-622/subpart-K/section-622.224	Bottom longline, trawl, dredge, pot, or trap, anchor or grapple and chain, fishing for or possession of coral.	1,2, 3, 5, 7, 8
Ecosystem Protection	Snapper Grouper	Snowy Grouper Wreck MPA	126.67	50/chapter-VI/part-622/subpart-I#622.183	No fishing or possession of any snapper grouper species.	1,2, 3, 5, 7, 8
Fishery Management	Dolphin and Wahoo	East Coast Florida Pelagic Longline Closed Area	29,898.97	50/chapter-VI/part-622#622.274	If pelagic longline gear is on board a vessel, a person aboard such vessel may not fish for or retain a dolphin or wahoo in the East Florida Coast closed area.	1,2, 3, 5, 7, 8
Fishery Management	Snapper Grouper	Sea Bass Pot Prohibited Area	14,098.43	50/chapter-VI/part-622/subpart-I#622.182	A sea bass pot may not be used in the South Atlantic EEZ south of 28°35.1' N. lat. (due east of the NASA Vehicle Assembly Building, Cape Canaveral, FL).	1,2, 3, 5, 7, 8
Seasonal Closure	Black Sea Bass	Commercial Black Sea Bass Pot Closure	9,750.09	50/chapter-VI/part-622/subpart-I#622.189	Commercial Black Sea Bass Pot Closure November 1-30 and April 1-30	1,2, 3, 5, 7, 8

VERY PRELIMINARY RESULTS – NUMBER OF CONSERVATION AREAS

Table 1. Number of Council established conservation areas, by objective* and region, in the U.S. EEZ. Note: All data are preliminary.

Region	Ecosystem Protection	Year-round Fishery Management	Seasonal Fishery Closures or Other	Total # (all areas)
New England	13	4	22	39
Mid Atlantic	5	19	6	30
South Atlantic	163	19	17	199
Caribbean	7	0	0	7
Gulf of Mexico	21	4	10	35
Pacific	76	TBD	20+	96+
North Pacific	210	21	6	237
Western Pacific	7	12	1	20
Total	495	79+	82+	663+

*Ecosystem Protection Areas are designed to protect habitat, biodiversity or special ecosystems, or vulnerable species. Year-round Fishery Management areas are designed to address spatially driven fishery management challenges. Seasonal Fishery Management/Other include areas that seasonally address spatially driven fishery management challenges, or other area-based conservation measures that may not fit in the other 2 categories.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE CCC ABM SUBCOMMITTEE

- Recommend methodology for conservation area criteria, and complete regional spreadsheets.
- Complete regional maps and conservation area calculations.
- Finalize written report for Spring CCC meeting.
- Continue to coordinate with NOAA Fisheries on development of Atlas database.
- Support the CCC on the development of any position statements on this issue.
- If time permits, draft journal article on use of area-based management in US fishery conservation and management.