#### SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### **Fishery Ecosystem Plan Public Hearing**

Key Largo Grande Key Largo, FL

May 7, 2008

# **Council Member - Tony Iarocci**

#### **Summary Minutes**

Mr. Kelly: I do have one additional item I would like to address with regard to ecosystem-based management. Unfortunately, because I was busy in the snapper grouper meeting, I wasn't able to attend that portion of it, but there has been some concern raised by the council and a number of environmental groups with regard to the impact and degradation of deepwater corals, a thousand to 1,800 feet deep, that could be severely impacted by an increased number of recreational, charter/headboat, and commercial fishermen that are exploring the daytime sword fishery.

I made it a point to contact a number of the top-notch charter/headboat sword fishermen throughout the community. For example, Captain Erik Peebles, who runs the Miami Swordfish Series, two of the biggest swordfish tournaments in the south Florida area. I talked with a well-known captain, Captain Bouncer Smith. Both Captain Scott and Richard Stansik from the Catch-22 at Bud and Mary's Marina in Islamorada and Captain Jimbo Thomas from the Thomas Flyer in Miami.

The overwhelming consensus of opinion, and I was surprised at this myself, is that breakaway sinkers or weighting devices are no longer the norm. It's something that early on was tried in the night fishery, because they're basically fishing to depths less than 300 feet, but they found them very impractical in deepwater fishing.

Most of the daylight sword fishing is taking place in a thousand to 2,500 feet of water and when you consider the cost of lead at twenty-five cents an ounce, we're looking at \$4.00 a pound and your average ten to fifteen-pound lead to go deep would cost you forty to sixty bucks. Now, if you're going to be breaking those off on a regular basis, and by fishing them in a breakaway fashion, you're soon going to find out that your weights and sinkers are going to cost a lot more than your fuel bill.

Anyway, the realization is this, that as more and more people explored the fishery and developed their techniques, they've found that breakaway weights were not a viable option. In fact, at those depths, they're a plus for them, because the weight actually helps set the hook, because these fish are rapidly accelerating their way towards the surface, in most cases, and anglers even on high-

speed conventional reels are unable to wind fast enough to do as we did in the old days and you get a bend in the rod before you would set the hook.

You're going to find virtually no one that's experienced in daytime sword fishing using any breakaway sinkers whatsoever. They definitely are not using lead, because of the cost, and most of them are using what is called the coat-hanger rig and I don't know if you want a description of it now. I've included it in the report and so we don't need to do that and at this point, they're not doing that.

I can tell you this, that the coat-hanger rigs are not lead. Most of them are made out of a poured concrete mix. If they were to break away on the bottom, they would degrade into simple gravel and sand.

Other folks that still prefer the breakaway system, a large number of them are actually using tube socks, like you would use in sport, and they tie them securely at the top and then they fill them with sand, to the desired weight, with a light tie on the bottom. It achieves the same purpose. It gets it to the depths required and then during the ensuring fight, generally speaking, the one tied end will rupture, dispersing nothing but sand in the water column and on the bottom. Do you want any additional clarification on that, Mr. Iarocci?

Mr. Iarocci: No thank you, Bill. I appreciate it, because it was an issue that was brought up and that's why I contacted you about it and I remember -- I've talked to a lot of different people and I remember when this was explored back in Venezuela, when they used to go up and gather the river rocks and put them in a bag and when we talked about the socks and different stuff like that -- That big heavy weight that people were using and the poured weights -- Some of those weights were pretty heavy and they were worried about so many more people doing it and so many of those weights hitting the bottom every day from the week to the month and you would be impacting. Once again, I have to thank the charter industry to look at ways to minimize their impact on the deepwater corals.

Mr. Kelly: I might add that the procedure in using these deep-drop rigs is the leader length is approximately a hundred to 150 feet long and it's from a three-way swivel. The weight portion is suspended on a fifty to a hundred-foot piece of monofilament and it's secured in a non-breakaway fashion.

Once the rig is dropped down and bottom contact is made, it is then retrieved fifty to a hundred feet off the bottom, so as not to snag it, because then they would lose their entire rig and that is not the objective. I've provided you with a written copy and if you would like me to forward any electronically to the council, I'll be happy to do so.

Mr. Iarocci: It would really help, any of that stuff you want to forward with your comments, especially from both charterboat associations. That would be great and I'm looking forward to seeing you in Orlando. Thank you.

Mr. Irwin: I'm Bruce Irwin, President of the Marathon Chapter of OFF. I wanted to make comments on three things here and one is the ecosystem management. I just wanted to say -- I

don't even know if this is really pertaining to it, but I want to talk about the jewfish and the balance of the -- My understanding of ecosystem management is everything is supposed to be in balance.

Regulations put on by the state for the no taking of jewfish, or goliath grouper, have put a burden on other species, because it's out of balance. I think that needs to be looked at heavily when they're making these laws about ecosystem management.

Mr. Rau: My name is Howard Rau and I'm a golden crab fisherman and I'm also a member of the Golden Crab AP. I'll be commenting on the FEP, the Fishery Ecosystem Plan. I'm going to give the recommendations from the Golden Crab AP. These will be the new recommendations and I'll hand them to Tony.

The Golden Crab AP recommendations concerning the proposed HAPC regulations, Recommendation Number 1 is to develop a combined effort among APs and management to redraw boundary lines or create allowable fishing areas and to require VMS electronic logbooks on golden crab vessels, equipped and provided by NMFS, at no cost to fishermen.

Explore the use of some type of pinger on each trap, which was in the first, initiate a minimum one-year break-in period for industry and law enforcement to understand where vessels are, where gear is, and how well the system works while monitoring golden crab vessels. Before law enforcement actions commence, the VMS system must demonstrate its ability to accomplish the intended purpose without the possibility of misinterpreted readings.

Explore cooperative research with scientists to integrate logbook VMS and other data and there's also a letter, but that will be in the -- I know we're pressed for time and so I'm not going to read that. Recommendation Number 2 to start off with the southern zone and preserve -- We want to preserve the traditional golden crab fishing grounds and this is the Pourtales Terrace and basically, what we want to do is we've given our positions and we've kind of shaped -- At the southwestern edge of the proposed Pourtales C-HAPC, create a wedge-shaped allowable golden crab fishing area, located south of a line connecting the latitude and longitude, points shown in degrees, minutes and seconds on the chart provided.

The next will be the middle zone. We want to preserve traditional golden crab fishing grounds from approximately 25 degrees, 21 minutes latitude to 25 degrees, 49 minutes. This is where it starts. This is the southern part of the HAPC and if you can see this particular area here on the chart, this is the Nielson Grounds. This is a traditional fishing area, which has been fished for at least twenty-five years. If there has been any damage done, it's done. This area needs to be left alone. This is where the guys have fished forever. That's where it all started.

On the other side, we've come and we've run a line up this side. We tried to keep the line straight, to make it easy for enforcement. We've come up, allowing a lot of area in here for us to fish, and this is the main gist of the coral, of the dive sites anyway that have shown the coral.

As we get up further into the middle zone -- Now we're up to the -- This is the Nielson Grounds here, where I just showed you, and they you go over on the other side -- The yellow is where we

want to fish, we would like to fish. This is traditional, the traditional fishing area. The traditional fishing area goes up to here, to the 29. As you come up this way, there's a lot of coral in this area, on the east side of the HAPC. We pretty much --

Anyway, what I'm saying is this area -- To make it easy, this area from here can be worked out. We're pretty close in what we're trying to do, where we want to fish and where their coral is. I think we can do something there and I don't think there's going to be that much of a problem. I think there will be a problem, but I think it can be done.

Now, when we get up a little further, it becomes a little more difficult and due to the fact that we had an AP meeting in the Keys -- Not really an AP meeting, but it was golden crab and the APs and some of the guys that weren't at the Jekyll Island meeting and we got to talking and there's other guys that want to get into this fishery and you have to look at this fishery in a different way, because if you look at it now, we fish -- We pretty much have our own areas and it works out very well.

There's not a lot of competition and so that's like Randy Manchester, he would fish here and I would fish here and Bill fishes here and Nuno fishes this area, to the north, 28 to 29. What I'm saying is if you cut us down too much, we're going to be fishing on top of one another and it becomes a real safety issue involved, because this fishery is not like lobster. You're in the Gulf Stream and it can be up to five knots and it can be hairy. Lines get tight really fast and you cross somebody and it's trouble. It's real trouble and it can happen like that.

Also, you would be taking away the crabs. I think there would be overfishing if too many people got involved in this. After 29, we've opened it up to try to get some of the new guys that want to get in and go fishing and we've opened up a spot from 31 to 29. We've opened up an area on the east side and on the west side of the HAPC, of the proposed HAPC.

Now, I guess that would pretty much take -- This is a coral area here and so that would pretty much develop that for Recommendation 2, which we will continue Recommendation 2, which will require VMS and electronic vessels on crab vessels and also, explore cooperative research with scientists. That's the same as in Recommendation 1. Then we move on to Recommendation 3.

Mr. Iarocci: Howard, instead of calling them recommendations, let's call them alternatives for consideration by the council, because these are going to be new alternatives. We've had the old ones already that you guys recommended earlier and all I can say is just by meeting with Gary the other day and looking at this paperwork, I have to compliment you and Bill on a fantastic job.

I know the amount of time that's been put into this and on the water and trying to fish and take the time to drive to the Keys and the numerous phone calls and everything you guys have done and the Chip and Nuno and the time you guys have put into this and what you guys have done.

I have to applaud your efforts in seeing that this is such a sustainable fishery and these proposals -- Once these are presented, what you're doing right now, we'll make sure that these charts, because of the timeframe and the people and everything we've got going today, that these charts

will be handed over to staff and this full presentation and we'll get a copy of these charts with these alternatives for consideration for the council.

Everything that was done in the past in the presentations there, we need to make sure, for the record, that these are the new alternatives presented by the golden crab fishermen. The other ones are not being considered right now and these are the ones that you're putting in their place, so that we don't have to worry -- Those can be stricken from the record and these are the new ones and these are the ones we'll be dealing with. I just wanted to get that perfectly clear.

Mr. Rau: This would be Alternative 3 then. Alternative 3, this is basically the same from the southern end of the HAPC to 28 degrees, in the middle zone to 28 degrees, and then in the northern zone to 29 degrees, but then we have moved out a little bit, moved up further. From 28 to 29, we've made a change.

What we've done is we've added this area on the east side, which we don't know too much about and we need to -- It looks like there should be some golden crab there. We try to get a little bit of each, both sides, because you never know what the crab is going to do. I'm going back to the 1980s and I can remember crabs were in shallow water in the 1980s. You could catch golden crabs in 900 or 800 feet and recently, the -- Recently, I would go five years, four years, I guess, you'll find the crabs -- You can't catch them in there.

You never know what will happen and so that's kind of why we looked for an area deep and shallow and then we moved up further to the north and we put an area here, from 31 to 31, 23, for an allowable golden crab area.

Like I was telling you, this is a shallow area and then also we've gone out here to a deeper area, from 31, 23 to 32, 38. Again, Recommendation 3 will have the VMS and also -- It will require VMS or electronic logbook and also explore cooperative research with scientists to integrate the logbook.

Then the final alternative will be Alternative Number 4, which will be open access to the golden crab fishermen, with also the last two, require a VMS or electronic logbook and also to explore cooperative research with scientists to integrate this logbook.

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you, Howard. Once again, I think with those four alternatives that you've got the spectrum covered. In our meeting in the Keys, when we had talked about the percentage of the areas for consideration, was that ever put down like Alternative 1 is such a percentage of the HAPC or anything?

Mr. Rau: No, I never got to that. It was a little hard, trying to get fishing in and doing this.

Mr. Iarocci: I was just curious about that, but I think once this is presented to the council -- We've got between now and the Orlando meeting to get this fine-tuned and get it on the charts and get it to Roger, and I will be talking to Roger and Gregg and some staff about it and we'll be communicating with that, but once again, I have to compliment the job you guys have done on this and all the hard work and taking the time off the water to do this and I'll do everything I can

to make sure your case is presented to the full council.

Like I said, I've been involved in this fishery since Richard and his dad and when you guys forth to the council. I've been around this game for a long time and I know how it's done and I know who does it and I know how you guys fish. All we have to do is educate the other people to that fact and I don't think we'll have a problem. Once again, you have to stay focused and stay involved in this and do what you're doing and in between going fishing. Thank you.

The next speaker is Captain Bill Whipple. Bill, if you support everything that he said on the record, it's pretty much the same alternatives and if everybody wants to make it short and sweet, just say you support what the alternatives are from the AP and the full golden crab fishermen.

Mr. Whipple: My name is Bill Whipple and I'm addressing the FEP and the Comprehensive Ecosystem Amendment. My purpose in these comments is to amplify somewhat on what Howard said in his presentation of the alternatives that were just submitted. When we were first approached by the council to deal with what might be interaction between the upcoming coral habitat and the locations of our fisheries, we were asked to pinpoint where our trawls were, which we all dutifully did and went through the process of an initial request for areas to preserve what was quickly termed "the traditional golden crab fishery area".

Then as time went on, we had a number of wait-a-minutes, because what seemed to be happening with those initial submissions was a status quo and this is where we are today. Well, if I had thought about it in submitting my own, I would have put in the positions where I was in the springtime and the summer and what have you, but I simply put in where I was at that particular point in time.

Also, we made no consideration whatsoever for the fact that there are eleven permits and there are only five of us active at this particular time and these people have every right, whoever they might be, if they've got a valid permit, to come join us. This looked like a recipe for trouble in a number of ways.

Howard mentioned some of it. Certainly if other people decide to go fishing with the additional permits, there's going to be some overcrowding and it's absolutely inevitable. That provides a reduction in ones own capability to produce effectively. Randy and I in the southern part of the middle zone have separated, primarily because we found that the two of us going hard in the same area, we were robbing from each other and each of us was suffering.

If you can imagine that by doubling the efforts of everybody, there's got to be somewhere to go. In addition to that, there's the question of safety. If you get into crowded situations, some serious problems could result from that.

Finally, some consideration, which is difficult to explain quickly, needs to be given for the VMS situation, where we need to have adequate room supplied so that when lining up and when drifting after we've completed a haul or actually even during the haul. We are offset sometimes as much as almost a mile.

We've got to find some way to get enough space or some way to read out the VMS readings so there are not going to be errors in that situation. That's why one of our requests was to have a grace period at the beginning of the implementation, because it seems to all of us in the fishery that there's going to be some very difficult times sorting out the signals, as to when you're doing what you shouldn't be doing as opposed to something legitimate, but not right on the marks of where your trawls might have been indicating.

In addition to that, in a much broader scope, this fishery has had a very difficult time being really fully born. There have been people working at it for twenty years. The mortality rate of entrants is well over 90 percent, probably more like 96 or 97. Experts from Alaska have come down to show us how to do it and gone home for the poorer for doing it, but it's a good, clean fishery.

It's an excellent product and it has very minimal environmental impact. The crab, as it's been circulated recently is especially -- People have found that they generally prefer it to Dungeness or Peekytoe or kings.

We feel the need and really the responsibility to provide a good product, which means we've got to be on the good crabs wherever they can be caught and Howard referred to the fact that they've moved around. 800 feet was a good spot a few years ago. In the Keys in the mid 1990s, they were everywhere and what happens to any of us in the fishery if we don't have alternatives with deep and shallow water?

I think it's important to point out that we are not asking for boundary shifts, unless that should happen to come up in the first alternative, but we're simply asking for this particular fishery, with this particular gear, to have the right to maintain and sustain a profitable and useful fishery.

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you, Bill. You're in total support of the four alternatives that Howard has presented, as written and presented?

Mr. Whipple: Yes, I am.

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you very much, sir. Randy Manchester.

Mr. Manchester: Randy Manchester, golden crab fishery. I would like to just support what Howard said about all the alternatives and add a little bit about the Nielson grounds down there, because that's where I fish, in the southern part of the middle zone, and it's been fished for twenty-five years.

That particular area, we don't have to move the traps. The traps basically stay on the same GPS line over and over and over, maybe a thousand feet here or there. That area is just -- It's like a little cone and it's a little strip. It's a little highway and those traps, from logbook to logbook, will always be within a thousand feet, at the most. It's been fished heavily for at least twenty-five years. I just wanted to reiterate that and I think it's a clean fishery and a good fishery and I want to see it stay that way. Thank you.

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you, Randy. Next is Chip Bethel.

Mr. Bethel: I'm Chip Bethel and I'm commenting on the Comprehensive Ecosystem Amendment, specifically with regard to the allowable golden crab fishing area. I've been a golden crab fisherman for the last nine years, aboard the Joyce Lynn II, and I can say that golden crab fishermen specifically, because of the extreme depth and the strong current in which we fish, we specifically target flat bottom.

We specifically avoid areas of high relief hard bottom, where the deepwater coral is expected to grow. I can say that the fishery as it exists today is not threatening the deepwater coral and I wholeheartedly support the amendments and recommendations as put forth by the Golden Crab Advisory Panel and that's it.

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you, Chip.

Mr. Piva: My name is John Piva and I'm going to present for my son-in-law, Nuno Alameda, at Alameda Fisheries. My son-in-law and my daughter left two years ago to come up to a new proposal for the future. It's life and it took them one year and they went out of business, almost completely out of business.

I'm in the business for twenty-eight years, in the seafood business, and I've never seen regulations like that and so I left my wife and the business in Rhode Island and came over and stay one year to square everything up and finally, we're pretty close to getting everything the right way and it looks like they're going to try to put him out of business again. Thank you.

Mr. Palma: My name is Robert Palma and I'm a golden crab fisherman and I too support the alternatives that Howard presented here today.

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you, Robert. The next speaker is Gary Graves.

Mr. Graves: Good afternoon. I'm Gary Graves, Keys Fisheries, Marathon. I'm vice chairman of the Golden Crab AP. I'm in support of all the alternatives that were put forth here today. The only other comment I would like to make is I would like to see us make sure that we leave some kind of room for expansion, especially in the north zone.

Even though this fishery has been around for twenty-five years, it's relatively new and there's a lot of crabs in a lot of other areas that could potentially be fished and I think that's not all on hard bottom and so I want to make sure that we leave some room for expansion. Thank you.

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you, Gary. If I remember correctly also, that subject was broached when we met at Keys Fisheries, about the northern zone. There was some data, going way back, I think even when Georgia did some research up off of the coast years ago, and I remember -- I've got a paper that I got through the council on that and also, I don't know, John, if you mentioned or somebody else had mentioned that somebody else had also caught it and we were trying to document how many years back. There is, or was, I should say, active fishing pressure done in that northern zone before. We have to make sure we've got that on the record also.

Mr. Graves: I think the State of Georgia did some research in the 1980s and I believe there's videotapes of it. I know there's documents and I know there was some fishermen that tried it back that far. It's there.

Mr. Iarocci: That's the last speaker card. Did everybody in this room fill out a speaker card or a sign-in card? I'm just giving everybody an opportunity to please make sure you fill out a card, so we get your information that you were here and if anybody else wants to speak, fill out a card and I'll give you the opportunity right now or if not, I'll close this session.

Howard, have you got another comment you would like to make? You do know three boats that have actively fished and caught crab up on the northern zone? Okay. We'll get that on the record at the Orlando meeting, but we've got it on the record right now. Anything else to put on the record? If not, I'll close this session right now and thank you all for taking the time today and once again, a bang-up job. You guys have put a lot of work -- When Gary showed me this, you guys went way above board on the job you did with this and thank you.

Mr. Mendez: First of all, thank you for your time and also, I want to thank you for being proactive in the comprehensive ecosystem management. I'm a marine biologist and my name is German Mendez and I am very concerned about the deepwater reefs.

Mr. Iarocci: Who are you associated with?

Mr. Mendez: Oceana. Basically, what it is is it's important to try to give the most possible protection to these reefs, because they are, in essence, the place where the source of food and the fish and the crabs and the shrimp -- It's where they are mostly created. If we protect those areas, then we can have the areas where the fishery can be developed and it will always be a resource that will be available.

That's why I see that this form of preserving the ecosystem and the bottom, it's good, because it's going to help more the fishing industry. We will have the resource for many years to come and also, it will provide the habitat that these animals need. The more we can protect it, it's better.

I know that we still have to do a lot more research, but the main thing is that we cannot go and break or kill the goose of the golden eggs without knowing what we're breaking, because it's going to be very difficult to put it back and that's why I'm hearing and I'm talking and I'm very happy that you're following this alignment.

Mr. Iarocci: Thank you for your comments. I appreciate it and look forward to working with you in the future, because that amendment -- There are some very sustainable commercial fishing being done, as you heard Bill Kelly talk about and the golden crab fishermen. We're working very closely and I would love to have you as a biologist and being concerned with the deepwater working with the fishermen and looking at the alternatives and helping structure this. I look forward to working with you in the future and thanks for coming.

Mr. Cramer: My name is Jeff Cramer and I'm state president of the Organized Fishermen on

Florida. I'm on the board of directors of the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association and I'm also a member of the Sanctuary Advisory Council. I'm going to speak on a couple of things.

I know Bruce brought up the goliath grouper under the Fisheries Ecosystem Plan. I'll do this on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan first. I know a lot of the people have spoken up about the goliath grouper and I agree with them. I've been a commercial fisherman my whole life and I can remember when I was young that there weren't that many goliath grouper out there. There just weren't and something needed to be done.

Now, on the other hand, I look at now, where I'm hearing from commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen and spear fishermen, everyone, that the goliath grouper are out of control and there are people -- I've heard there are people already culling these fish because of their impacts on the spear fishermen and the recreational guy that's got his coral heads that he dives and every one he goes to has a goliath grouper on it.

Basically, anything that attracts critters, they're around and when they're there, nothing else is there and I just wanted to say that I think something that would work would possibly be a tag system, where they could figure out how many of these goliath groupers could be culled out of the fishery every year and sell the tags kind of like a tarpon tag.

I think that it would take the pressure off some of the other grouper species if you included that into the grouper aggregate bag limit. Obviously I think there should be some kind of a size limit, a maximum size or a minimum size or a slot limit even. That would probably work and that's all I have to say right now on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Mr. Hill: Along with that, the ecosystem is partly to blame. I think we need to be taking a good hard look at everything, whether it's the grouper snapper or the ecosystem, taking and looking at what affects another. The point brought up concerning the jewfish and the amount of fish that that animal eats in a daily activity, as well as right now a lot of my fishermen fishing amberjack are dealing with sharks and we have closures on the sharks and they're getting eaten alive.

We're not seeing a lot of the fish that are there and so there's no way to record how much fish is being lost because of predators. Back in December, when we had the meeting concerning the lobster, we brought up the subject concerning the outfalls from Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

For the first time, we started seeing things in the newspaper and Governor Crist is addressing that issue and it looks like there may be something that is going to be done concerning the outfalls coming from the sewage that's going directly onto the reefs, which, again, affects the fish population. If it's not a nice place, the fish don't want to be here either. Those are important things.

Last Sunday's paper, the *Miami Herald*, there was a large article concerning the algae bloom. I'm bringing all of this up to say that I think we're focusing in on the wrong enemy. The enemy is not the recreational fishermen or the commercial fishermen. We are people that are

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consuming the product that is there and we and you guys have the power and the resources -- We know where the resources are and the power to make the change and do the research to correct the sewage and some of the algae bloom and to deal with even some of the predator issues. I think those are important things for us to consider.

Mr. Iarocci: Tom, also, while you're up, thank you for taking the time today. I know how busy you are at the Fisheries, but your fishermen, your snapper grouper fishermen -- I know a lot of the guys use circle hooks for the deepwater species, with the live baits for amberjack and grouper and tilefish and stuff like that, but your yellowtail fishermen, have you got any comments from them on this circle hook issue and j-hooks?

Mr. Hill: They're not too thrilled with the thought of a circle hook for yellowtail, because, again, that is a flat line fishing technique and the j-hook is a much more effective tool and so they're not real thrilled with the thoughts of a circle hook.

Transcribed By: Graham Transcription Service, Inc. May 27, 2008

# Golden Crab AP Recommendations Concerning Proposed C-HAPC Regulations

### Recommendation 1

- 1. Develop a combined effort among APs and Management to redraw boundary lines and/or create allowable fishing areas. See attachment A for clarification.
- 2. Require VMS or electronic logbook on golden crab vessels; equipment provided by NMFS at no cost to fishermen, however, monthly monitoring charges paid by fishermen. Explore use of some type of "pinger" on each end of the trap trawl line. Initiate a minimum one year "break-in" period for industry and law enforcement to understand where vessels are, where gear is and how well the system works while monitoring golden crab vessels. Before law enforcement actions commence the VMS system must demonstrate its ability to accomplish the intended purpose without the possibility of misinterpreted readings.
- 3. Explore cooperative research with scientists to integrate logbook, VMS and other data to refine fishing operations and habitat characteristics. Use this information to guide cooperative research.

# Golden Crab AP Recommendations Attachment A

We participants in the golden crab fishery would like to clarify and qualify our position with regard to the proposed C-HAPC.

The golden crab fishery is a good fishery that harvests a valuable fishery resource for seafood customers. The fishery was developed by the Council. It is the result of a joint effort of fishermen, scientists, biologists and management personnel working together along the guidelines set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. There is very little by-catch and virtually no by-catch mortality, thereby fulfilling exactly what the ninth national standard for fishery conservation calls for. There is no indication of overfishing or habitat destruction from the fishery.

For these reasons we feel that the Magnuson Act assures the golden crab fishery a continuing role in the United Stated fishing industry.

If the original C-HAPC designations are adopted the golden crab fishery would be adversely and severely impacted. Over 80% of traditional golden crab fishing grounds would be closed. At best, three of the five present fishermen would soon be out of business. The fourth would have his area of operation reduced by 50% and the fifth one would lose an important portion of his fishing area.

Additional consequences of such limitations on the golden crab fishery are grim. The following are illustrative of numerous other unwanted developments.

<u>First</u>, the fishery's progression toward achieving optimum yield would quickly stall and then be reversed.

Second, concentrating the effort of the remaining fishermen into smaller allowable areas would cripple their operations, further accelerate the downward spiral of the fishery and lead to overfishing of these remaining areas.

Third, whenever more than one fishing vessel works in the same constricted area, trap lines will eventually cross. Life- threatening conditions develop when fishermen attempt to untangle lines in the deep water and strong Gulf Stream currents existing wherever concentrations of golden crabs are found. The probabilities of serious or fatal accidents would be increased significantly.

For the sake of all concerned, such consequences of strict adherence to the original C-HAPC designations must be avoided.

Along with our interest in preserving the golden crab fishery we also have a sincere interest in protecting our deep water coal reefs. Since we strongly believe our fishery operations do not conflict with deep water coral reefs and our traditional fishing grounds do not contain coral or coral habitat (that is, high-relief rocky areas or coral mounds), we are convinced that simultaneously protecting deep water coral and the golden crab fishery is an achievable objective.

# Golden Crab AP Recommendations Concerning Proposed C-HAPC Regulations

#### Recommendation 2

- Southern zone: preserve traditional golden crab fishing grounds
   At the southwestern edge of the proposed Pourtales C-HAPC, create a
   wedge shaped "allowable golden crab fishing area" located south of a line
   connecting the latitude and longitude points shown in degrees, minutes
   and seconds on the chart provided.
- Middle zone: preserve traditional golden crab fishing grounds
   From approximately 25 degrees 21 minutes latitude to 25 degrees 49
   minutes, create an allowable golden crab fishing area both west and east of
   the central area of the proposed C-HAPC

At approximately 25 degrees 49 minutes latitude, terminate the western side of the golden crab fishing area, but continue the eastern corridor northward to 28 degrees latitude. At approximately 26 degrees 17 minutes latitude extend the allowable fishing area to the western boundary of the proposed C-HAPC, and continue north to 28 degrees.

Extend the eastern boundary of the allowable golden crab fishing area to the eastern boundary of the C-HAPC from approximately 25 degrees 21 minutes latitude to approximately 26 degrees 8 minutes and again from 26 degrees 51 minutes to 26 degrees 59 minutes. Otherwise it is bounded on the east side by proposed C-HAPC area. All points for the above boundaries are identified in degrees, minutes and seconds on the chart provided.

Northern zone where fishing is taking place: preserve traditional golden crab fishing grounds

From approximately 28 degrees to 29 degrees latitude, create an allowable golden crab fishing area with the western boundary the same as that of the C-HAPC, except that from approximately 28 degrees 14 minutes to 28 degrees 27 minutes move the boundary of the proposed fishing area eastward several miles.

Establish an eastern boundary from approximately 28 degrees to 29 degrees latitude at various points on a north to south line running between approximately 79 degrees 37 minutes and 79 degrees 42 minutes

longitude. All points for the above boundaries are identified in degrees, minutes and seconds on the chart provided.

 Northern zone where there is no traditional fishing: provide an allowable golden crab fishing area for existing permit holders not currently active in the fishery

From approximately 29 degrees latitude north to 29 degrees 30minutes latitude make the "allowable golden crab fishing area" extend the full breadth of the C-HAPC.

From approximately 29 degrees 30 minutes latitude northward to approximately 31 degrees close the central portion of the span to golden crab fishing, but retain the east and west portions of the proposed C-HAPC open to golden crab fishing. Make the western longitudinal line separating open and closed areas run from approximately 79 degrees 45 minutes at the southern end and, through two steps, move eastward to approximately 79 degrees 39 minutes at the northern end. Make the eastern longitudinal line run from approximately 79 degrees 19 minutes at the southern end and, through two steps, move westward to 79 degrees 30 minutes at the northern end. All points for the above boundaries are identified in degrees, minutes and seconds on the chart provided.

- 5. Require VMS or electronic logbook on golden crab vessels; equipment provided by NMFS at no cost to fishermen, however, monthly monitoring charges paid by fishermen. Explore use of some type of "pinger" on each end of the trap trawl line. Initiate a minimum one year "break-in" period for industry and law enforcement to understand where vessels are, where gear is and how well the system works while monitoring golden crab vessels. Before law enforcement actions commence the VMS system must demonstrate its ability to accomplish the intended purpose without the possibility of misinterpreted readings.
- Explore cooperative research with scientists to integrate logbook, VMS and other data to refine fishing operations and habitat characteristics. Use this information to guide cooperative research.

# Recommendation 2

Positions for an "allowable golden crab fishing area" within the C-HAPC

### 25° 21' to 26° West Side Middle Zone

LAT	LON
#1 25° 21' 07"N	79° 57′ 55″W
#2 25° 23′ 10″N	79° 57′ 55"W
#3 25° 32′ 28″N	79° 54′ 45"W
#4 25° 37′ 28″N	79° 54′ 45″W
#5 25° 37′ 28"N	79° 55′ 53″W
#6 25° 49′ 12″N	79° 55′ 53″W
#7 25° 49′ 12″N	80° 00′ 45"W

# 25° 21' to 26° East Side Middle Zone

#1 25° 21′ 07″N	79° 55′ 50″W
#2 25° 31′ 48″N	79° 50′ 15″W
#3 25° 41′ 15″N	79° 46′ 25″W
#4 26° 00' 00"N	79° 46′ 25"W

### 26° to 27° West Side Middle Zone

#1	26° 00′ 00″N	79° 46′ 25"W
#2	26° 03′ 36″N	79° 46′ 25"W
#3	26° 03′ 36″N	79° 48′ 50"W
#4	26° 17′ 24″N	79° 48′ 50"W
#5	26° 17′ 24″N	79° 52′ 52″W

### 26° to 27° East Side Middle Zone

#1	26° 08′ 10″N	79° 35′ 50″W
#2	26° 23′ 00″N	79° 37′ 00"W
#3	26° 51′ 10″N	79° 35′ 50″W
#4	26° 51′ 10″N	79° 33′ 50"W

### 27° to 28°

#1	26° 59′ 49″N	79° 35′ 10″W
#2	26° 59′ 49″N	79° 36′ 00"W
#3	27° 06′ 50″N	79° 37′ 00″W
#4	27° 14′ 38″N	79° 37′ 55″W
#5	27° 29′ 53″N	79° 37′ 01″W
#6	28° 00′ 00″N	79° 37′ 01″W

# 28° to 29° East Side Northern Zone

#1 28° 01′ 37″N	79° 37′ 37"W
#2 28° 18′ 40″N	79° 37′ 37″W
#3 28° 32′ 20″N	79° 38′ 17″W
#4 28° 40′ 41″N	79° 42′ 32″W
#5 28° 55′ 48″N	79° 42′ 32″W
#6 29° 00′ 00″N	79° 35′ 00″W

# 28° to 29° West Side Northern Zone

#1	28° 27′ 36″N	79° 51′ 04"W
#2	28° 27′ 36″N	79° 44′ 14″W
#3	28° 14′ 38″N	79° 42′ 14″W
#4	28° 14′ 38″N	79° 48′ 00"W

# 29° to 30°

79° 45′ 58″W
79° 45′ 58″W
79° 18′ 29"W
79° 18′ 29″W

# 30° to 31°

#1 29° 59′ 53″N	79° 18′ 29″W
#2 30° 20′ 24″N	79° 18′ 29"W
#3 30° 32′ 02″N	79° 30′ 00″W
#4 30° 58′ 12″N	79° 30′ 00"W
#5 30° 58′ 12″N	79° 39′ 50″W
#6 30° 50′ 31″N	79° 39′ 50″W
#7 30° 32′ 31″N	79° 45′ 58"W
#8 30° 00′ 00"N	79° 45′ 58"W

# Recommendation 2

Positions for an "allowable golden crab fishing area" within the C-HAPC

Portales Terrace

LAT

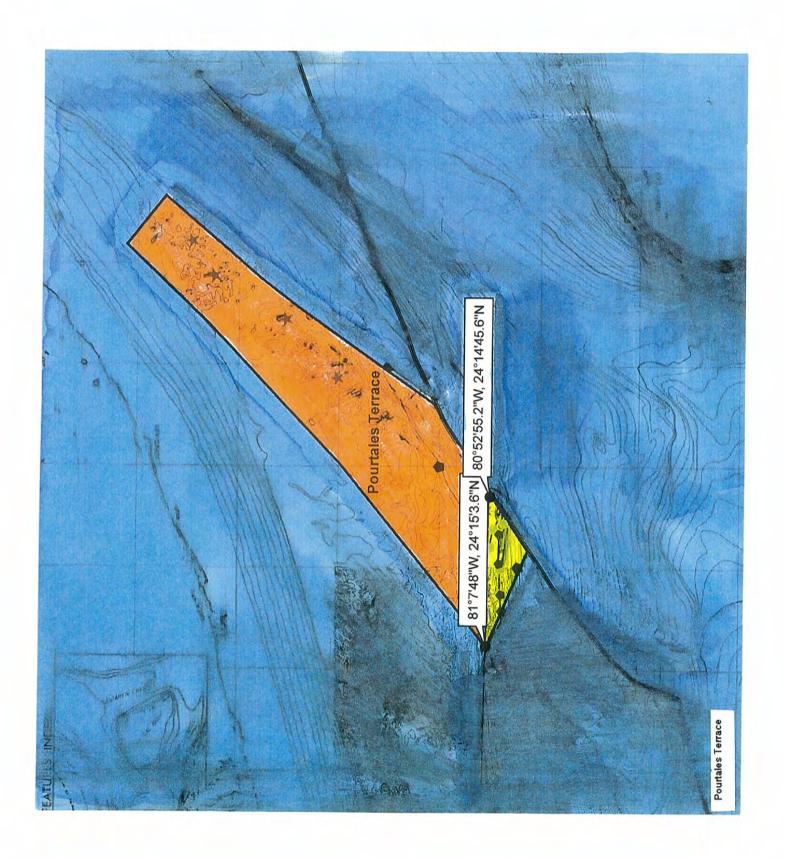
LON

#1 24° 14′ 46″N

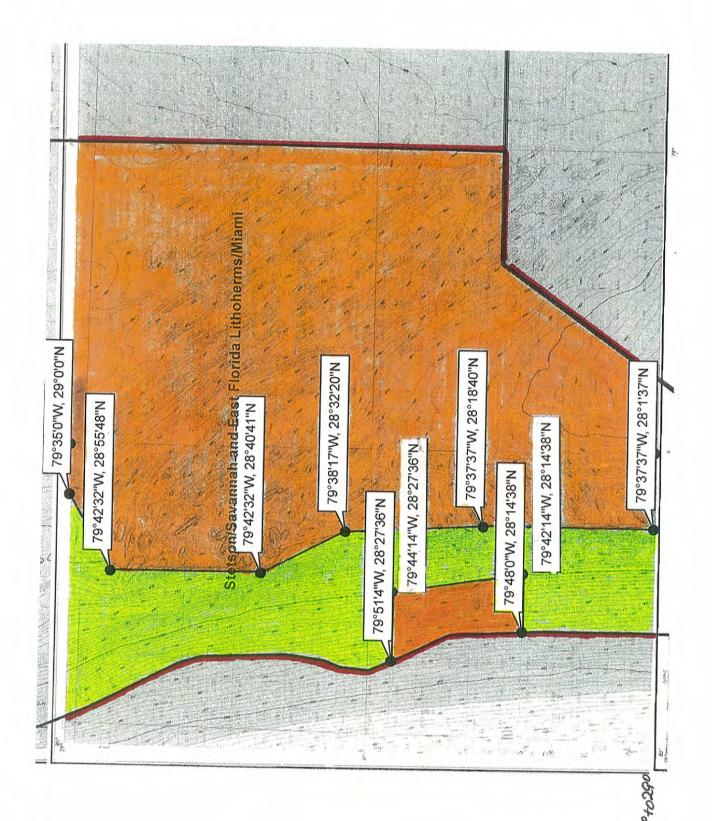
80° 52′ 55″W

#2 24° 15′ 04″N

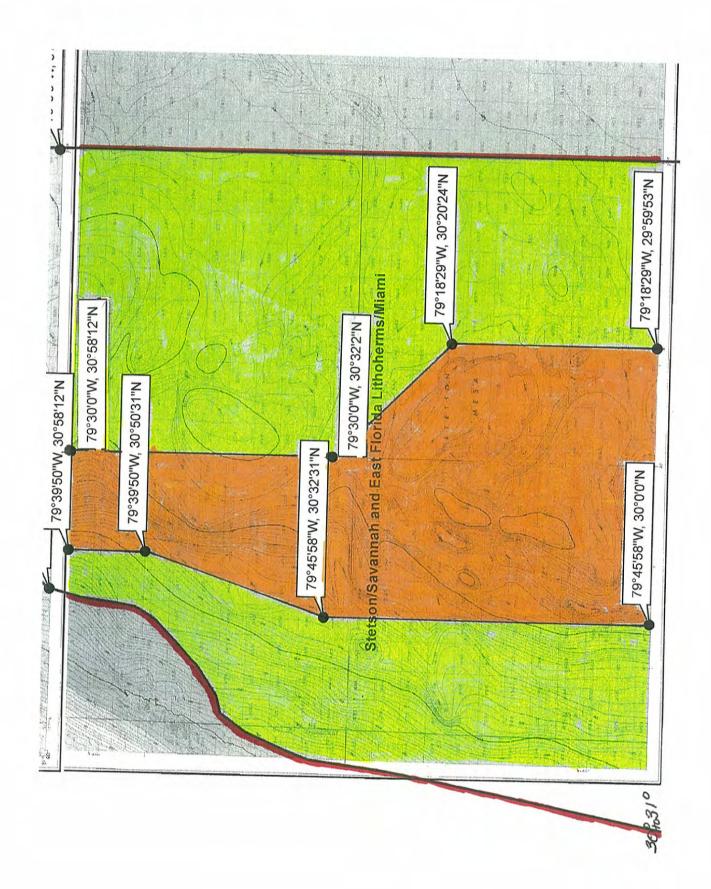
81° 07′ 48″W

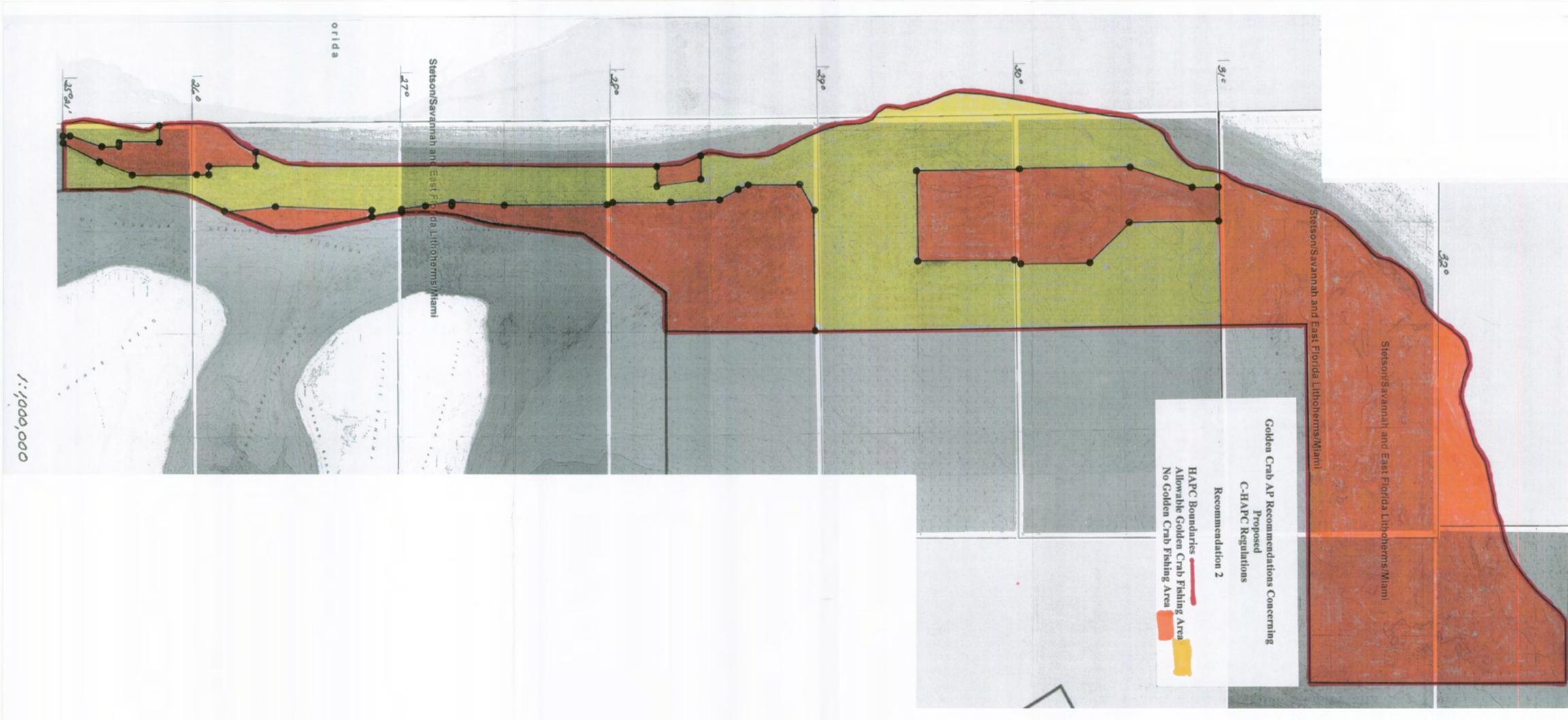


Florida









# Golden Crab AP Recommendations Concerning Proposed C-HAPC Regulations

#### Recommendation 3

Recommendation 3 is the same as recommendation 2 except that the following portions of the proposed C-HAPC from 28 degrees latitude northward are added to the "allowable golden crab fishing area".

- Make the entire portion of the proposed C-HAPC between 28 degrees and 29 degrees latitude and east of 79 degrees 30 minutes longitude "an allowable golden crab fishing area".
- Make the entire portion of the proposed C-HAPC between 31 degrees, 0 minutes, 0 seconds and 31 degrees 23 minutes, 28 seconds latitude "an allowable golden crab fishing area".
- 3. In the extreme northeastern portion of the proposed C-HAPC create a letter "C" shaped "allowable golden crab fishing area" with the western boundary formed by a diagonal running roughly northeast from approximately 31 degrees 23 minutes latitude and 78 degrees 10 minutes longitude to approximately 32 degrees 2 minutes latitude and 77 degrees 16 minutes longitude, and thence slightly more easterly to approximately 32 degrees 38 minutes latitude and 77 degrees 16 minutes longitude.

Make the eastern or "inner" portion of the letter "C" using the following approximate coordinates: beginning at 31 degrees 45 minutes latitude and 77 degrees 16 minutes longitude run west along the same latitude to 77 degrees 36 minutes longitude, thence northwestward to 32 degrees 1 minute latitude and 77 degrees 49 minutes longitude, thence northeastward to 32 degrees 17 minutes latitude and 77 degrees 30 minutes longitude, thence eastward along the same latitude to the eastern edge of the proposed C-HAPC.

4. Require VMS or electronic logbook on golden crab vessels; equipment provided by NMFS at no cost to fishermen, however, monthly monitoring charges paid by fishermen. Explore use of some type of "pinger" on each end of the trap trawl line. Initiate a minimum one year "break-in" period for industry and law enforcement to understand where vessels are, where gear is and how well the system works while monitoring golden crab vessels. Before law enforcement actions commence the VMS system must demonstrate its ability to accomplish the intended purpose without the possibility of misinterpreted readings.

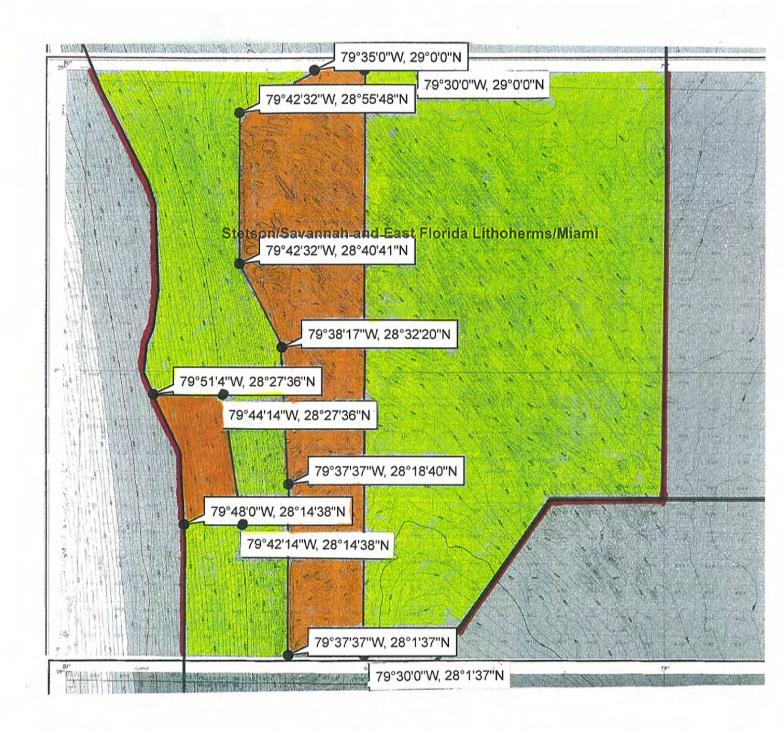
5. Explore cooperative research with scientists to integrate logbook, VMS and other data to refine fishing operations and habitat characteristics. Use this information to guide cooperative research.

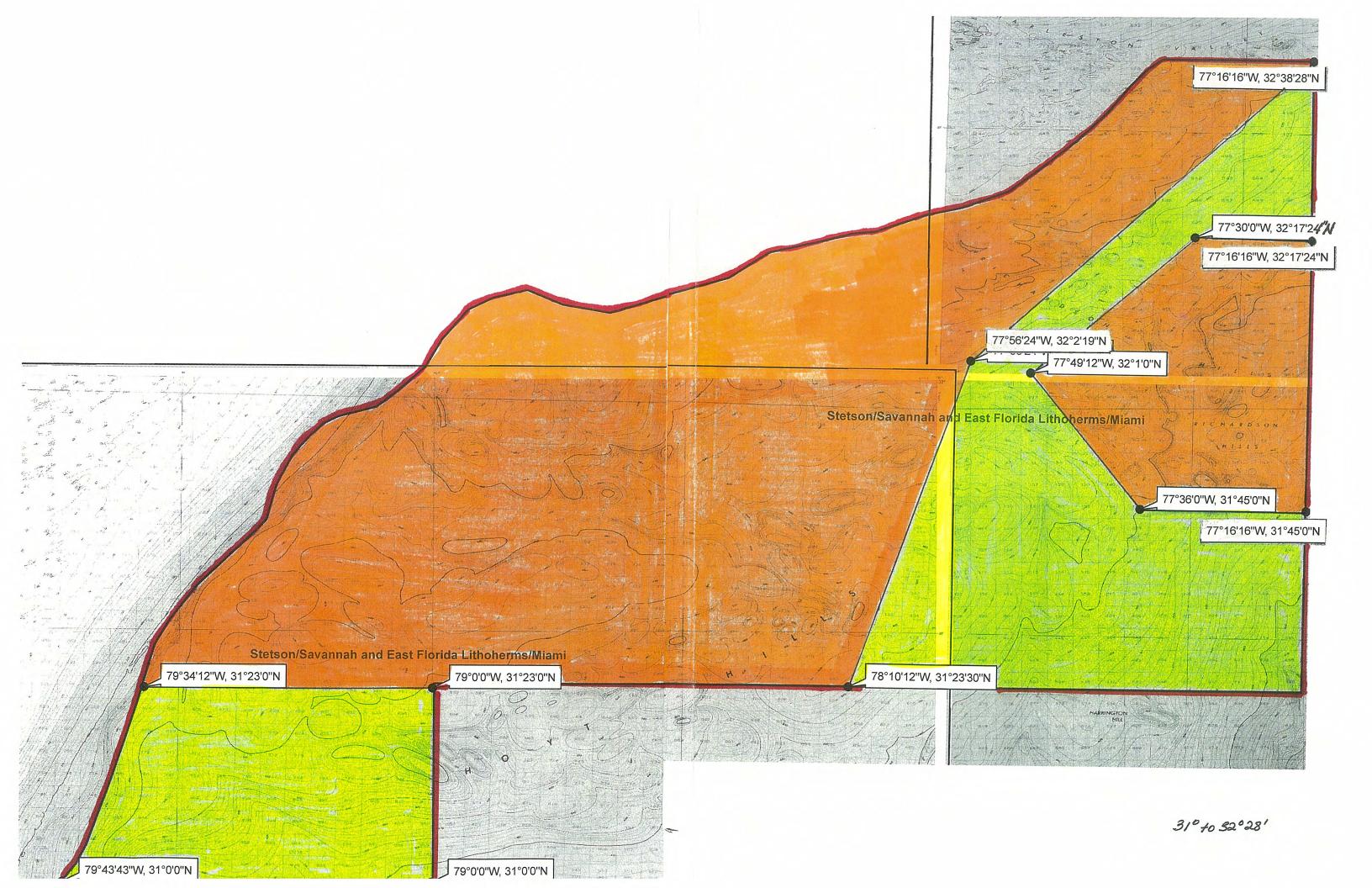
# Recommendation 3

Additional positions for an "allowable golden crab fishing area" within the C-HAPC

28° to 29°

		LAT	Γ		LON
	#1	28° 00'	00"N	79° 30	0' 00"W
	#2	29° 00′	00"N	79° 30	0′ 00″W
	31	° to 32°	38' North	nern Zone	
	#1	31° 23′	00"N	79° 34	' 12"W
	#2	31° 23′	00"N	79° 00	0' 00"W
	#3	31° 00′	00"N	79° 00	0' 00"W
	#4	31° 00′	00"N	79° 43	3′ 43″W
	#1	32° 17′	24"N	77° 16	s' 16"W
	#2	32° 17′	24"N	77° 30	0' 00"W
4	#3	32° 01′	00"N	77° 49	2 12"W
let	#4	31° 45′	00"N	77° 36	00"W
	#5	31° 45′	00"N	77° 16	5′ 16″W
	#1	32° 38′	28"N	77° 16	5' 16"W
v	#2	32° 02′	19"N	77° 56	5' 24"W
	#3	31° 23′	30"N	78° 10	)' 12"W

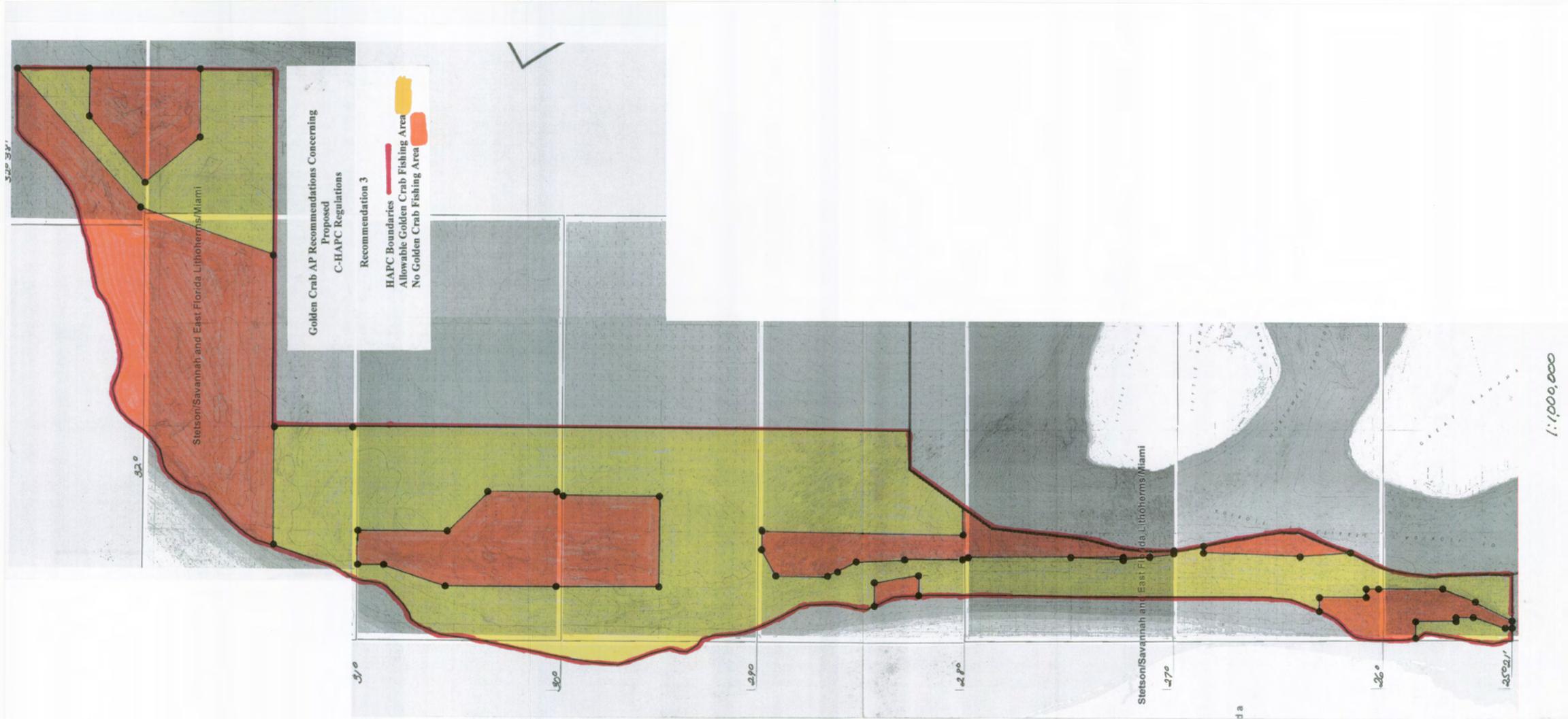




# Golden Crab AP Recommendations Concerning Proposed C-HAPC Regulations

#### Recommendation 4

- 1. Make the entire proposed C-HAPC "an allowable golden crab fishing area".
- 2. Require VMS or electronic logbook on golden crab vessels; equipment provided by NMFS at no cost to fishermen, however, monthly monitoring charges paid by fishermen. Explore use of some type of "pinger" on each end of the trap trawl line. Initiate a minimum one year "break-in" period for industry and law enforcement to understand where vessels are, where gear is and how well the system works while monitoring golden crab vessels. Before law enforcement actions commence the VMS system must demonstrate its ability to accomplish the intended purpose without the possibility of misinterpreted readings.
- Explore cooperative research with scientists to integrate logbook, VMS and other data to refine fishing operations and habitat characteristics. Use this information to guide cooperative research.





# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

Hoor

# PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)		
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	DATE OF MEETING May 7, 2008	
PAUDY MAUCHESTER	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)	
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE  BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	Ft . LAUN 33315	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?		
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	NO NO	



## SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

# **PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)		
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL  YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	May 7, 2008 TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)	
CIGIP BRTHRLL  MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)  467/ S. W 35 AUR FT. LAUDRANCE,	954 964 9181	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	NO	



#### SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201 NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

# **PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)		
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  OHN PAIVA Key Largo,	FL	May 7, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  Ahmeida Testeria	3	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 561-798-2214 Pel-401-641-5613
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)  8560 Plomer RD west Pahou Beach 33014  BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	YES	NO NO



Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)	
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)	DATE OF MEETING
Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
Gady Charps	301-7136727
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)	Lithon 33050
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)  HOYS FISH OF LAG	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	□ NO



Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)		
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	DATE OF MEETING May 7, 2008	
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  ROBECT POLICE  MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & 2	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 305 481 0235	
1280 Ovelses Huy WALASHON I 33050  BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	NO	



Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)		
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008	
Pruce Frwin	15 TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)	
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)	Hon [=1. 33050	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)  Marathon Chapter O.F.F.		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	□ NO	



Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)	
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
Jeff Cramer	305-393-4649
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)	
34 Secucia Ave	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
Conch Kon, Fl 33036	•
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	□ NO



Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)	
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
BILL KELLY	
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
1CBA/SACBA	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	□ NO



Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)	
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  SEXUAL REVIDEZ	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 786 285 8696
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)  4678 N. WI VENSITY DELLA	udewhill Plasson
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	□ №



Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)	
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  TALL ROSS	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)  954-873-6885
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, 8	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	NO NO
place A	Lelps ouger Industry
7.	



### SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201

NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)		
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)	May 7, 2008	
Key Largo, FL	•	
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  MACH PER MACH	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 954-383-3085	
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)		
2400 NO 19 AVE Wilton	VANORS IL JUSCES	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	/	
The nature Conservancy		
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	⊠ NO	



Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)	
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008
FOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Almeida Listbereis	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) (201401-641-5613 561-798-2214
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE  8560 Ploner Pol west Re	glier BEACH F.1.
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	NO NO



Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)	
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
DAVID NIELSEN	954-401-2527
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)	
2430 SW 50th terr Ft. Land. 1-La. 33317	,
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	
SelF	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	□ NO



Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  BILL KELLY	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP COLOR OF THE STATE OF THE	ODE)
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY	□ NO



FEP Comprehensive Amendment (DEEPWATER CORALS)	
LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)  Key Largo, FL	May 7, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
DARDEN RICE	127-560-2479
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)  BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)	e, R 33705
Deana	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)  YES	□ NO