From:	SAFMC Administrator
To:	Council Members
Cc:	Tech Staff
Subject:	FW: Submitting public comment for SAFMC Meeting, Agenda Item #4 on Amendment 10
Date:	Tuesday, December 5, 2023 1:20:55 PM
Attachments:	CASLCNOAAcommentOculina .docx Oculina Bank NGO sign on Version FILED.docx Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County FINAL Petition Opposing Amendment 10.docx

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Good Afternoon,

Please see below and the attached. Thanks.

From: Shari Anker <sranker@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 12:53 PM
To: SAFMC Administrator <administrator@safmc.net>
Subject: Submitting public comment for SAFMC Meeting, Agenda Item #4 on Amendment 10

It is our understanding that SAFMC is re-evaluating Amendment 10 that would allow bottom trawling for rock shrimp within the immediate vicinity of the deep water Oculina Coral Reef Bank. The original proposal was denied by NOAA in 2022.

In 2022, the Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County was heavily involved in opposing any bottom trawling in or in immediate proximity to this unique-in-the-world - and threatened - coral off of Florida's east coast. There were scientifically valid reasons that this area had been designated as a Habitat Area of Particular Concern, and they remain. We wish to re-submit three attachments that we sent to NOAA and the NMFS. It is our opinion that the concerns expressed in these documents have not changed: trawling will damage the proximal living corals, as well as inhibit any slow growing coral pups in their effort to regain their habitat. We also have grave concerns for loss of Essential Fish Habitat. These concerns are shared by local, statewide, and national organizations, as well as individuals who signed our petition.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,
Shari Anker, President
Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County
www.conservationallianceslc.org

1. June 27, 2022 public comment letter sent to NOAA re: Amendment 10.

2. June 28, 2022 NGO Sign-on letter sent to NOAA and NMFS.

3. Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County Petition opposing Amendment 10 to NOAA and NMFS.