



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Coral Fishery Management Plan Overview

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Coral FMP Goals and Objectives

- Optimize the benefits generated from the coral resource while conserving the coral and coral reefs
- Minimize adverse human impacts on coral, coral reefs and live hard bottom habitat
- Designate Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (C-HAPCs) to protect coral and live bottom habitat
- Increase public awareness of the importance and sensitivity of coral and coral reefs
- Provide a coordinated management regime for the conservation of coral and coral reefs.





Coral Fishery Management Plan - 1984

- Adopt and implement a fishery management plan for coral and coral reefs within the geographical area of authority of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils with the following goals:
 - to optimize benefits while conserving the management unit.
 - to generate sufficient data to assess the feasibility of harvest of coral,
 - to minimize adverse human impacts,
 - to provide special management to particular habitat areas,
 - to increase public awareness of the resource,
 - to provide a coordinated management regime.
- This fishery plan covers over 400 species of coral distributed throughout the management area including species ranging from shallow water, muddy sediment sea whips to deepwater precious corals, and from hard bottom solitary species to outer bank reef corals.
- The most significant unique stocks are the Flower Garden Banks on the Texas/Louisiana outer continental shelf and the Florida reef tract. Much of the coral occurs in hard bottom communities where it contributes habitat and food to many other species, with established recreational or commercial value, e.g., snapper, grouper, shrimp.
- In certain areas, particularly southern Florida, corals also help support important businesses such as diving and charter-boats.

Coral Amendment 1 - 1991

- Inclusion of Octocorals in the management unit as controlled species
- Restatement of optimum yield for the fishery to include octocorals
- Inclusion of a definition of overfishing
- Inclusion of a permit system to take octocorals
- Provide reporting requirements for those taking coral under the federal permit
- Inclusion of an FMP section on vessel safety considerations
- Revision of the FMP section on habitat of the stocks





Coral Amendment 2 - 1994

- Defines live rock and adds it to the Coral FMP management unit.
 - Live rock is defined as living marine organisms or an assemblage thereof attached to a hard substrate (including dead coral or rock). For example, such living marine organisms associated With hard bottoms, banks, reefs, and live rock may include, but are not limited to: Sea Anemones (Phylum CNIDARIA: Class Anthozoa: Order Actinalia); Sponges (Phylum PORIFERA); Tube Worms (Phylum ANNELIJDA) :Fan worms, Feather duster worms, and Christmas tree worms: Bryozoans (Phylum BRYOZOA): Sea Squirts (Phylum CHORDATA): Marine Algae, Mermaids fan and cups (*Udotea spp.*), Corraline algae, Green Feather, Green Grape Algae (*Caulerpa spp.*), and Watercress (*Halimeda. spp.*) .
 - Allowable octocorals means erect. non-encrusting species of the subclass Octocorallia. Except the prohibited sea fans *Gorgonia flabellum* and *G. ventalina*. including only the substrate covered by and Within one inch of the holdfast.
- Prohibit all wild live rock harvest north of Dade County Florida. and prohibit chipping throughout the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic Council immediately.
- Cap wild harvest at 485.000 pounds annually until January 1, 1996 when all wild harvest will end.
- Allow and facilitate aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone .
- Require, in addition to any applicable state license or permit. a federal permit required for the harvest and possession of wild live rock in the Exclusive Economic Zone during the phase out period. Permits shall be limited to persons who have commercially landed and. Where required, reported wild live rock landings prior to the control date of February 3, 1994.
- Require a permit for the possession or harvest from aquaculture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone. Such a permit will be required in order to harvest or possess live rock from an aquaculture site. Harvest from the area may only be done by the permittee or his written designee and an administrative fee will be authorized for the permit.
- Require a federal permit for harvest and possession of prohibited corals and prohibited live rock from the Exclusive Economic Zone for scientific, educational, and restoration purposes.
- Optimum yield (OY) for wild live rock is to be 485,000 pounds annually for the South Atlantic region where harvest is allowed during 1994 and 1995, after which it is to be zero except for that which may be allowed by permit.





Coral Amendment 3 - 1996

- Establish a live rock aquaculture permit system for the south Atlantic exclusive economic zone.
- Prohibit octocoral harvest north of cape Canaveral, Florida
- Prohibit anchoring of fishing vessels in the Oculina bank habitat area of particular concern.

Coral Amendment 5 – 1999, Comprehensive Sustainable Fisheries Act Amendment

- Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). The Council concluded that No Action is necessary at this time.
- Optimum Yield (OY). The Council concluded that No Action is necessary at this time except the minor adjustment to the wording shown in bold ("and under live rock aquaculture permits") to incorporate Amendment 2 actions.
- Overfishing Level to meet Magnuson-Stevens Mandate. The Council concluded that No Action is necessary at this time.
- Rebuilding Timeframe. The Council concluded that No Action is necessary at this time.
- Overfishing Evaluation to meet the Current Definition. South Atlantic Corals are listed as unknown in the NMFS September 1997 Report to Congress on Status of Fisheries of the United States. The Council concluded no additional action is required at this time.
- Add a provision to all framework procedures in all Council FMPs that allows the addition of biomass levels and age structured analyses as they become available.





Coral Amendment 4 – 2000, Comprehensive EFH Amendment

- Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region.
- Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats.
- Expand the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) to an area bounded to the west by 80°W. longitude, to the north by 28°30' N. latitude, to the south by 27°30' N. latitude, and to the east by the 100 fathom (600 feet) depth contour.
- Establish the following two Satellite Oculina HAPCs: (1) Satellite Oculina HAPC #1 is bounded on the north by 28°30'N. Latitude, on the south by 28°29'N. Latitude, on the east by 80°W. Longitude, and on the west by 80°3'W. Longitude, and (2) Satellite Oculina HAPC #2 is bounded on the north by 28°1' N. Latitude, on the south by 28°16'N. Latitude, on the east by 80°W. Longitude, and on the west by 80°3'W. Longitude.
- No Action to Prohibit All Fishing Within the Experimental Closed Area

Coral Amendment 6 – 2010, Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1

- Amend the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Coral, Coral Reefs, Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region (Coral FMP) to establish Deepwater Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (CHAPCs) and prohibit the use of bottom damaging fishing gear.
- Create a Shrimp Fishery Access Areal (SFAA) within the proposed Stetson Reefs, Savannah and East Florida Lithoherms, and Miami Terrace (Stetson- Miami Terrace) CHAPC boundaries.
- Create an allowable Golden Crab Fishing Areas within the proposed Stetson Reefs, Savannah and East Florida Lithoherms, and Miami Terrace (Stetson- Miami Terrace) CHAPC and Pourtales Terrace CHAPC boundaries





Coral Amendment 7 – 2012, Comprehensive Ecosystem – Based Amendment 2

- Modify management of octocorals in the South Atlantic
- Extend the South Atlantic Council’s management unit for octocorals into the Gulf of Mexico Council’s area of jurisdiction
- Modify the ACL for octocorals in the South Atlantic
- Modify management of SMZs off South Carolina
- Modify sea turtle release gear requirements for the snapper grouper fishery
- Amend the following FMPs to designate EFH and EFH- HAPCs: Snapper Grouper FMP; Coral FMP; Sargassum FMP

Coral Amendment 9 – 2014, Comprehensive Dealer Reporting Amendment

- Established a single federal dealer permit to purchase federally managed species
- Required dealer reporting forms to be submitted Weekly. Forms from trips landing between
- Sunday and Saturday must be submitted to the SRD by 11:59 P.M. local time on the following Tuesday.
- During a catastrophe, paper can be used

Coral Amendment 8 - 2015

- Expand boundaries of the Oculina Bank HAPC
- Implement a transit provision through the Oculina Bank HAPC
- Expand the boundaries of the Stetson-Miami Terrace CHAPC
- Expand the boundaries of the Cape Lookout Lophelia Banks (Cape Lookout) CHAPC

