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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

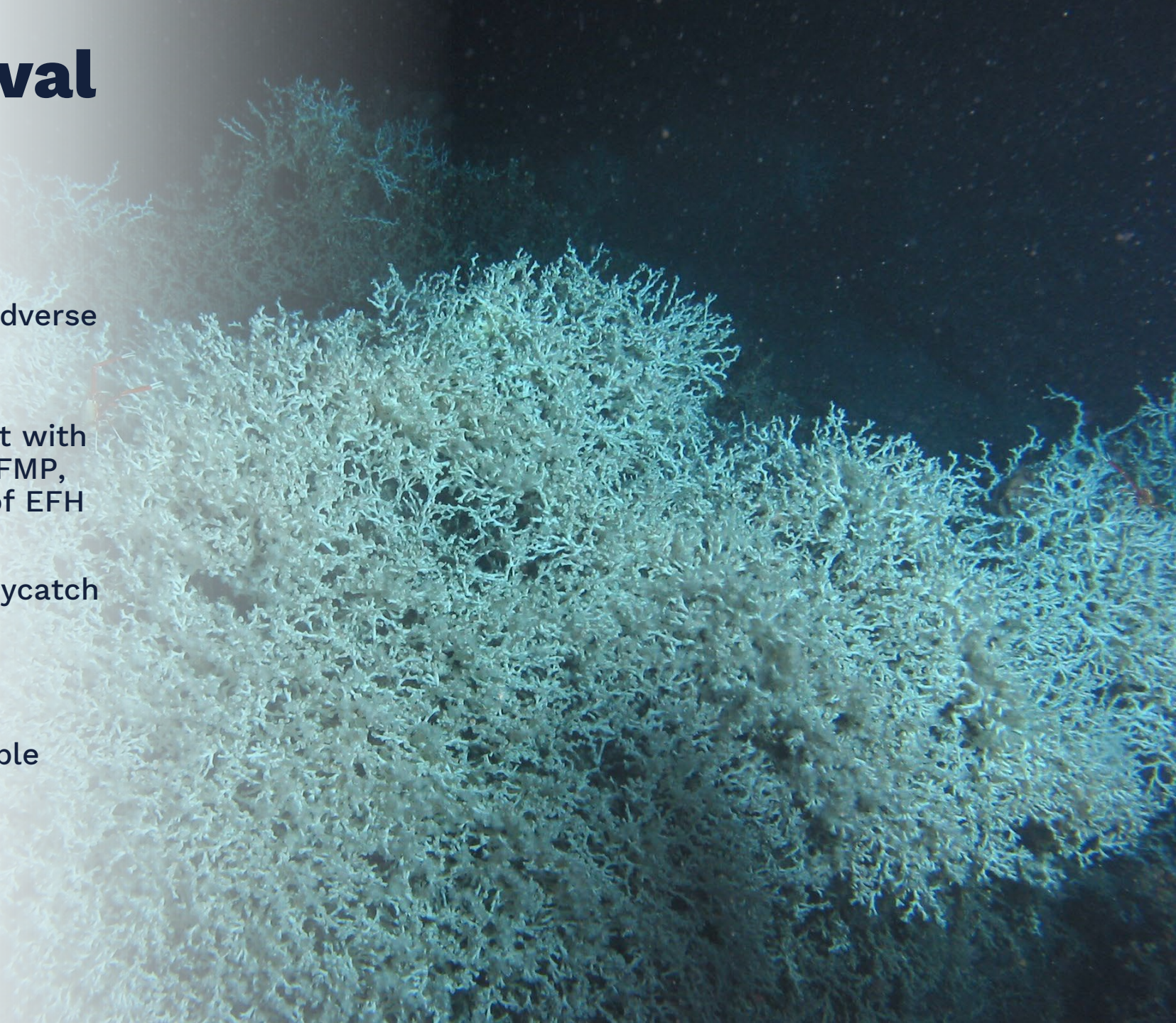
Coral Amendment 10 Update



Items in Disapproval

Letter needed for Resubmission

- How the proposed action minimizes adverse effects of fishing on EFH
- How the proposed action is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Coral FMP, specifically regarding the protection of EFH
- How the proposed action minimizes bycatch and the mortality of such bycatch
- Consider input received including:
 - best scientific information available
 - minimizing impacts to EFH
 - inconsistencies with goals and objectives with the Coral FMP
 - America the Beautiful initiative





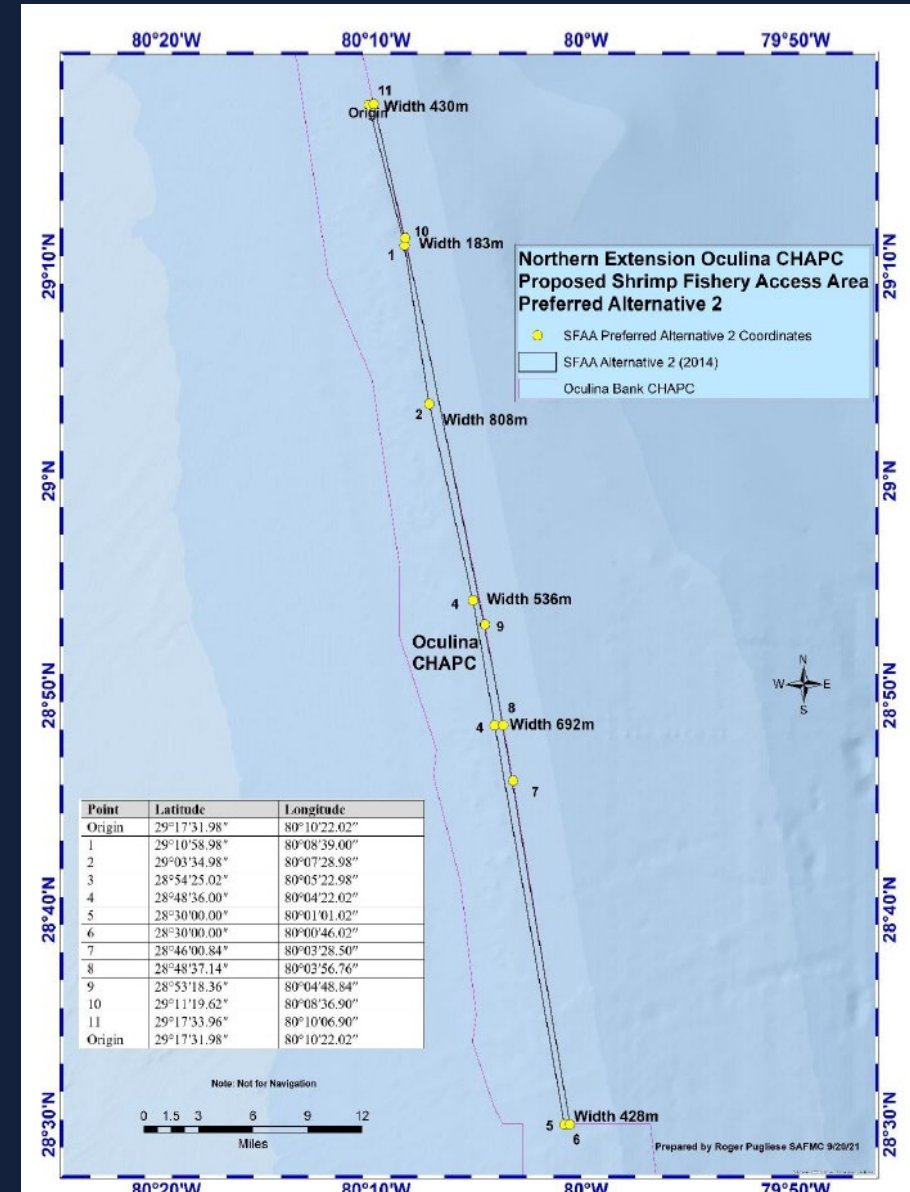
CORAL 10 Resubmission

- The Interdisciplinary Plan Team (IPT) reconvened in March 2024 and discussed how to address the items in the disapproval letter
- Areas for updated analysis and additional language have been identified
- Council rationale is needed on how the proposed action is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Coral FMP, specifically regarding the protection of EFH

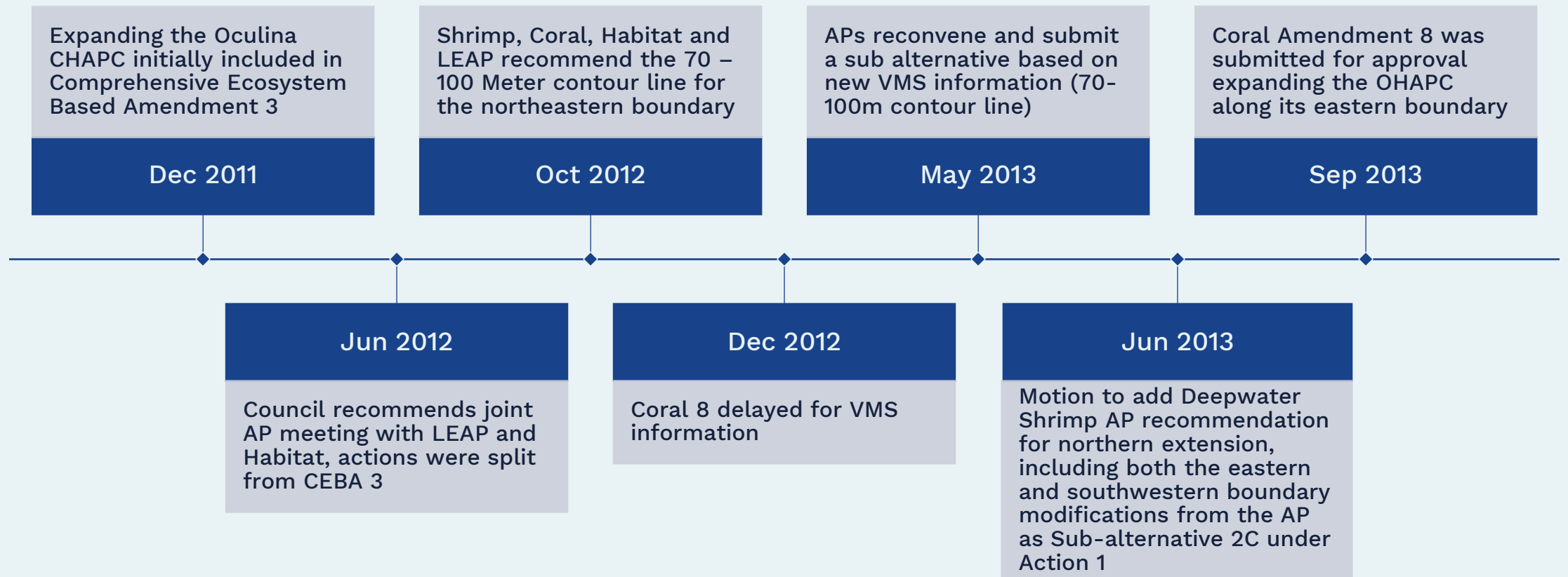
Coral FMP – Goals and Objectives

- 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.

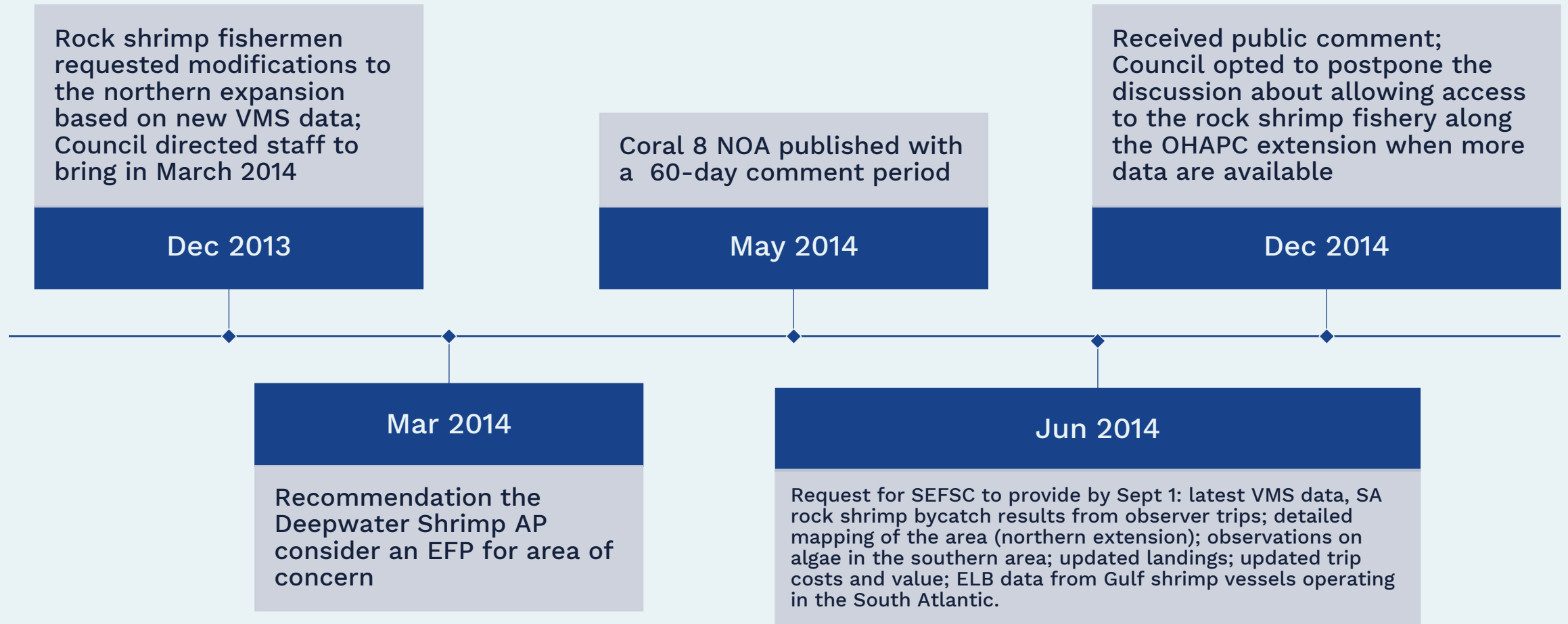




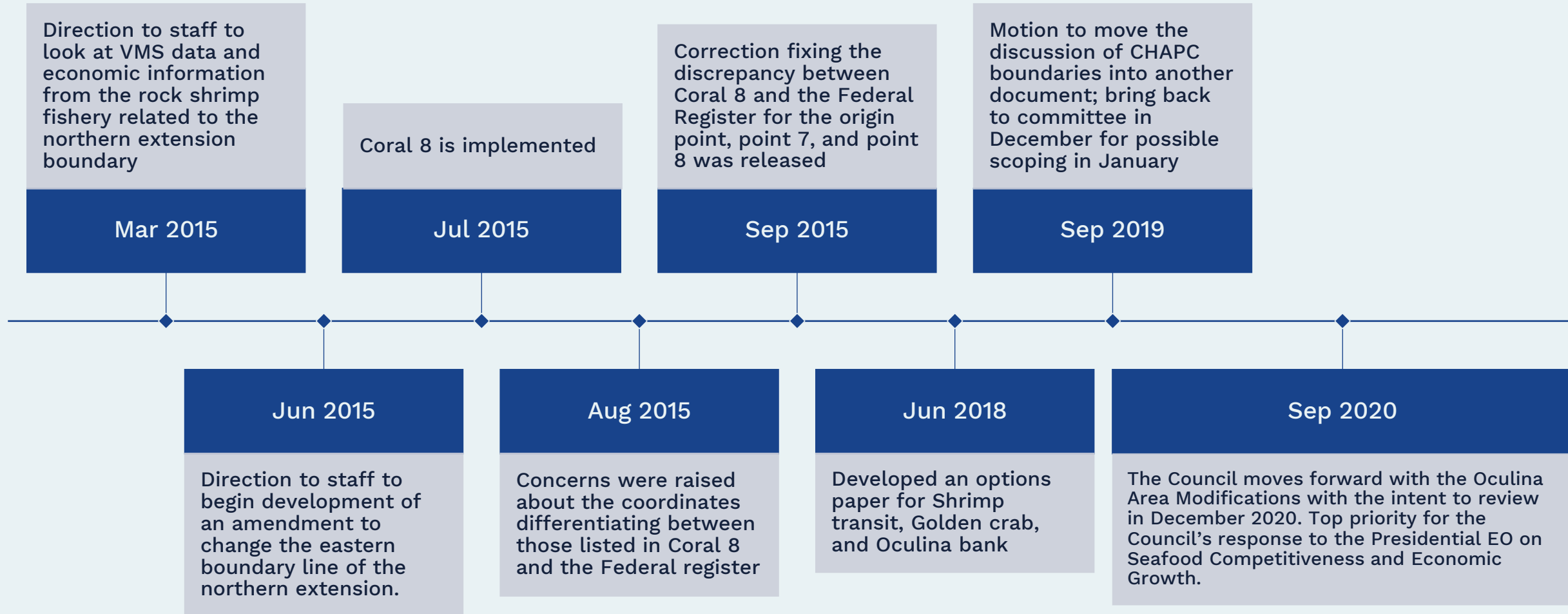
Oculina CHAPC expansion history – Coral 8



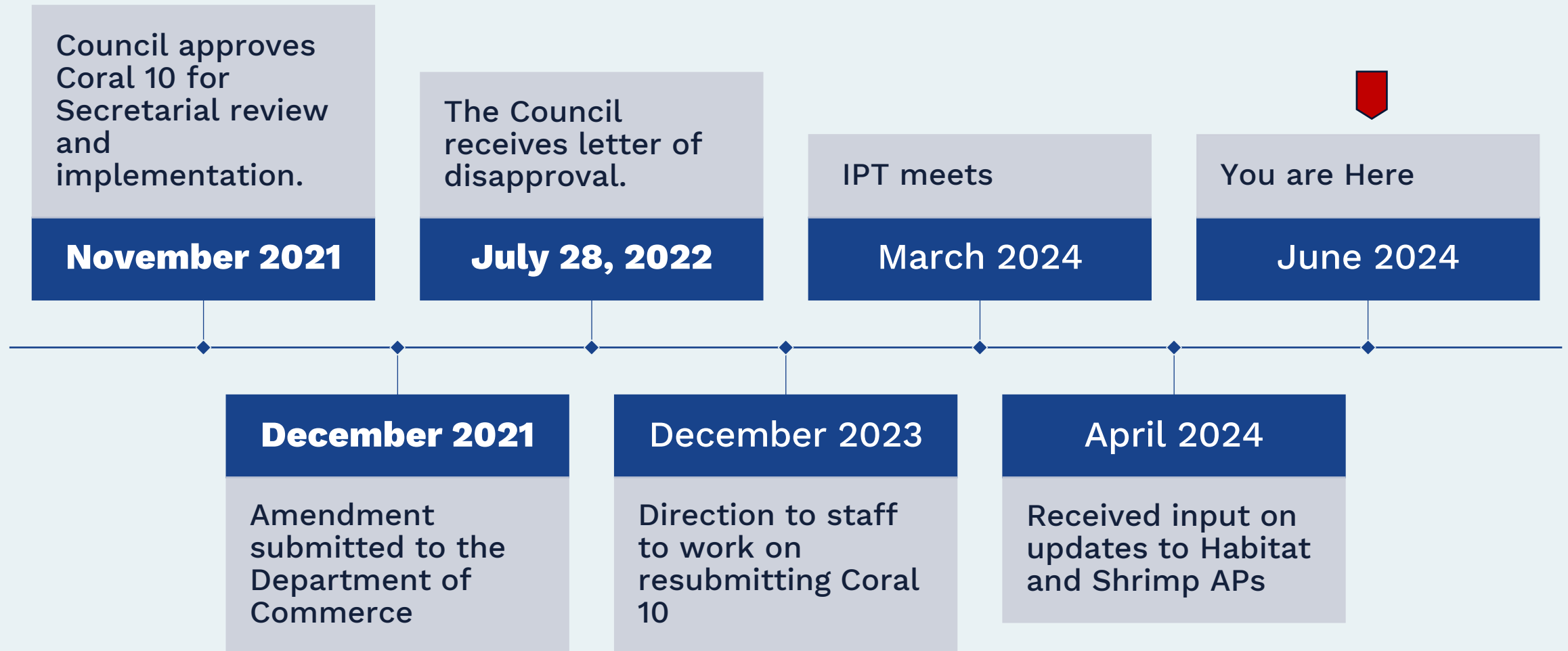
Oculina CHAPC expansion history – Coral 8



Oculina CHAPC expansion history – Coral 8/10



Oculina CHAPC history – Coral 10



Coral Amendment 10 (2021) proposed to establish a shrimp fishery access area (SFAA) along the eastern boundary of the northern extension of the OHAPC where trawling for rock shrimp is currently prohibited.

Shrimp, Habitat, and Coral Advisory Panels



All applicable APs received an update on what was going on. The HEAP and shrimp APs provided comments during the meeting



The Coral AP received an update on the resubmission via email



Habitat AP –

Expressed concern about the lack of data on sediment resuspension, whether coral is present in the area, habitat restructuring and habitat quality

Expressed a preference to waiting to open up the area until more research is conducted



Shrimp AP –

Regular use of the area would be variable due to the nature of the fishery but, if open, the area would be very important in years when the rock shrimp are present.

Shrimpers noted that they did not interact with coral when the area was previously open.

Due to sea conditions and currents, only experienced fishermen tend to trawl within the area and are experienced in avoiding the coral and trawling responsibly.

Trawls tend to be roughly 3 football fields away from the coral pinnacles.

Coral 10 Purpose & Need

Purpose: The purpose of Coral Amendment 10 is to consider establishing a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern where the fishermen who have a valid limited access Commercial Vessel Permit for Rock Shrimp (South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone) would be able to fish for and possess rock shrimp.

Need: The need for Coral Amendment 10 is to help achieve optimum yield in the South Atlantic rock shrimp portion of the shrimp fishery and increase economic and social benefits to rock shrimp fishermen by increasing access to historic rock shrimp fishing grounds, while maintaining protection of the *Oculina* deep water coral ecosystems.

Proposed 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.



The background of the slide is an underwater photograph of a coral reef. In the foreground, there are various types of coral, including branching corals and large, rounded brain corals. The water is clear, and the lighting is natural, coming from above, creating a blue-green hue. The overall scene is a vibrant and detailed representation of a healthy marine ecosystem.

CORAL 10 Resubmission

- The IPT will meet at least once more to finalize the amendment
- Need to wait for the Permit system to be updated to gather all data needed for the update
- This may cause delays in the consideration for resubmission