

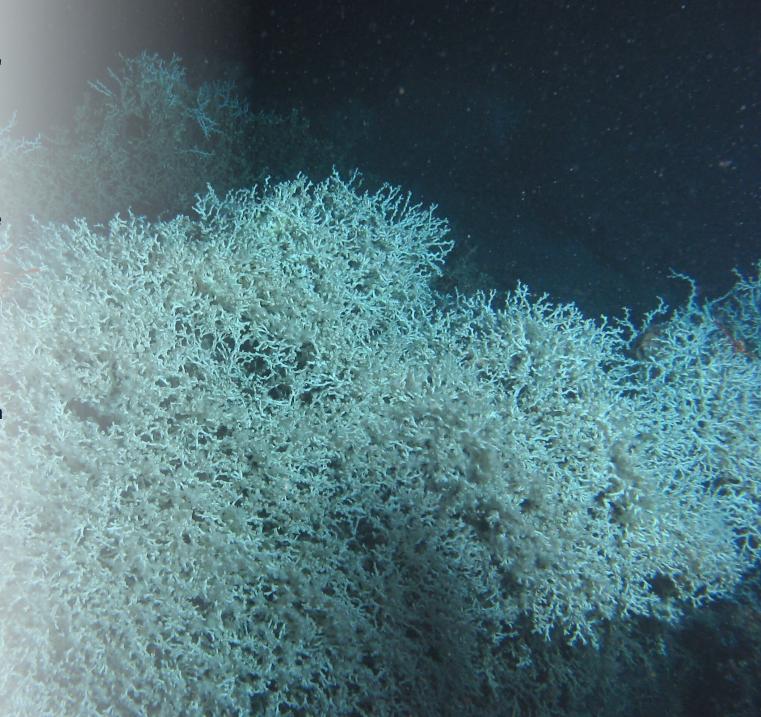


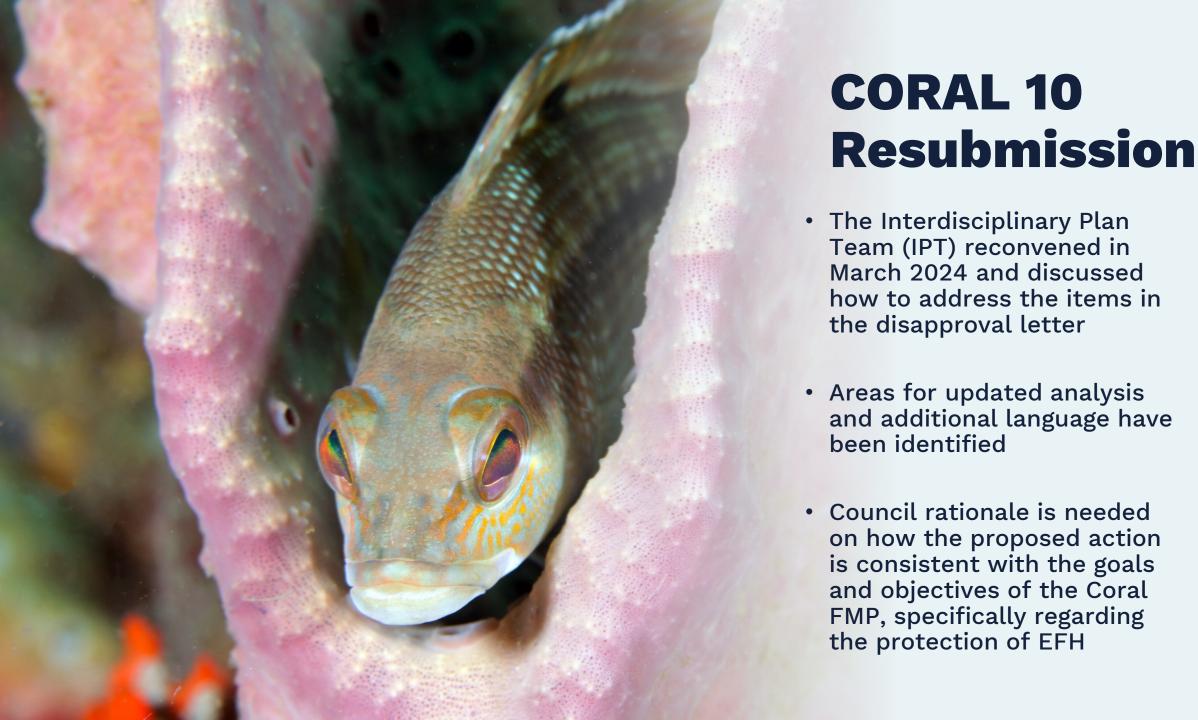
THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Kathleen Howington Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net 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





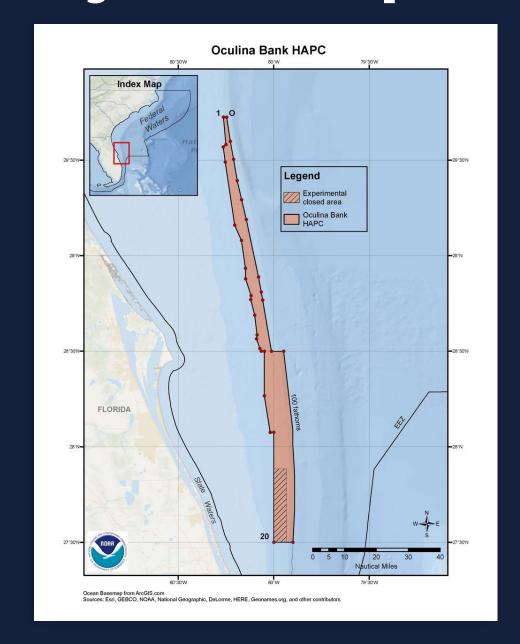
Coral FMP - Goals and Objectives

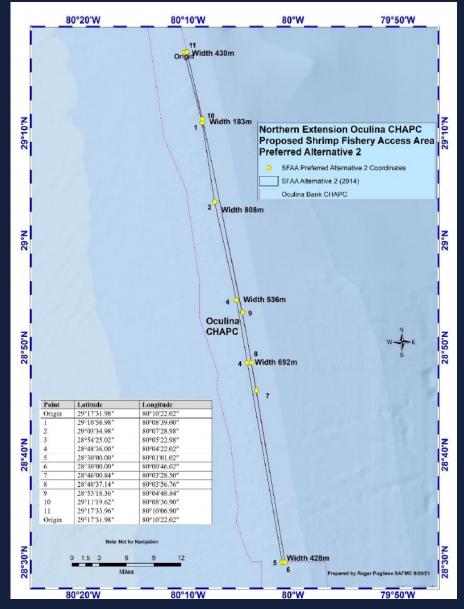
- Optimize the benefits generated from the coral resource while conserving the coral and coral reefs
- Minimize adverse human impacts on coral, coral reefs and live hard bottom habitat
- Designate Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (C-HAPCs) to protect coral and live bottom habitat
- Increase 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.



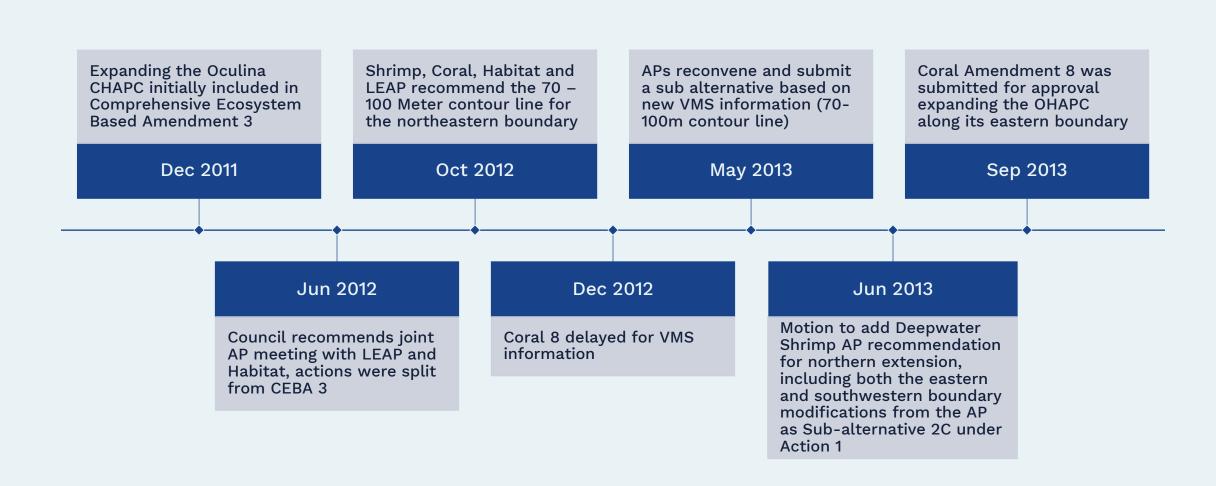
History of Development of Coral 8 and 10







Oculina CHAPC expansion history – Coral 8



Oculina CHAPC expansion history – Coral 8

Rock shrimp fishermen Received public comment; requested modifications to Council opted to postpone the the northern expansion discussion about allowing access based on new VMS data: to the rock shrimp fishery along Council directed staff to the OHAPC extension when more Coral 8 NOA published with a 60-day comment period data are available bring in March 2014 Dec 2013 May 2014 Dec 2014 Mar 2014 Jun 2014 Recommendation the Request for SEFSC to provide by Sept 1: latest VMS data, SA

Recommendation the Deepwater Shrimp AP consider an EFP for area of

concern

Request for SEFSC to provide by Sept 1: latest VMS data, SA rock shrimp bycatch results from observer trips; detailed mapping of the area (northern extension); observations on algae in the southern area; updated landings; updated trip costs and value; ELB data from Gulf shrimp vessels operating in the South Atlantic.

Oculina CHAPC expansion history – Coral 8/10

Direction to staff to look at VMS data and economic information from the rock shrimp fishery related to the northern extension boundary

Mar 2015

Coral 8 is implemented

Jul 2015

Correction fixing the discrepancy between Coral 8 and the Federal Register for the origin point, point 7, and point 8 was released

Sep 2015

Motion to move the discussion of CHAPC boundaries into another document; bring back to committee in December for possible scoping in January

Sep 2019

Jun 2015

Direction to staff to begin development of an amendment to change the eastern boundary line of the northern extension. Aug 2015

Concerns were raised about the coordinates differentiating between those listed in Coral 8 and the Federal register Jun 2018

Developed an options paper for Shrimp transit, Golden crab, and Oculina bank **Sep 2020**

The Council moves forward with the Oculina Area Modifications with the intent to review in December 2020. Top priority for the Council's response to the Presidential EO on Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth.

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.



