

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE
SHRIMP COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Jekyll Island, GA
March 4, 2025

The Committee approved the Shrimp Committee minutes from the June 2024 meeting and the agenda for this meeting.

Coral Amendment 11 and Shrimp Amendment 12

During the September 2024 Council meeting, staff were directed to initiate a joint amendment to modify both the Coral and Shrimp FMPs, and to explore additional alternatives that would achieve the Council’s objective of allowing the rock shrimp fishery to operate in an area that was previously open to harvest while meeting the goals and objectives of the FMPs.

Staff reviewed a decision document including the proposed alternatives. The Council determined that the proposed Alternative 4 did not meet the purpose and need of the amendment to open the historical shrimping area since it would not geographically match historical use of the area by the rock shrimp fishery. The Committees directed staff to move forward with analyzing Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 and bring an updated document for review at the June 2025 meeting.

The Committees reviewed the purpose and need and felt that it would be important to highlight the commercial importance of the historical area. The Purpose was modified accordingly.

Direction to Staff: Edit the Purpose and Need as follows:

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this amendment is to reinstate commercial access to this historically important fishing ground for the Rock Shrimp fishery by creating a Shrimp Fishery Access Area along the eastern edge of the Northern Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern boundary in an area where the rock shrimp fishery operated historically while minimizing impacts to deepwater coral.
- **Need for Action:** The need for this amendment is to allow the rock shrimp fishery to attain OY while minimizing negative impacts to deepwater coral in the Council’s jurisdiction.

The Committees approved the following motion:

MOTION 1: Move forward with Alternatives 1, 2, and 3.

- Alternative 1: No Action
- Alternative 2: Establish a SFAA with the area of 22 sq miles along the eastern edge of the northern OHAPC boundary
- Alternative 3: Establish a SFAA with the area of 32 sq miles along the eastern edge of the northern OHAPC boundary

APPROVED BY COMMITTEES

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require

clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

Timing and Tasks:

MOTION 2: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- Continue the development of Coral Amendment 11 Shrimp Amendment 12 and prepare a draft to consider approval for public hearings at the June 2025 meeting.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL