



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# Coral Amendment 10 Update

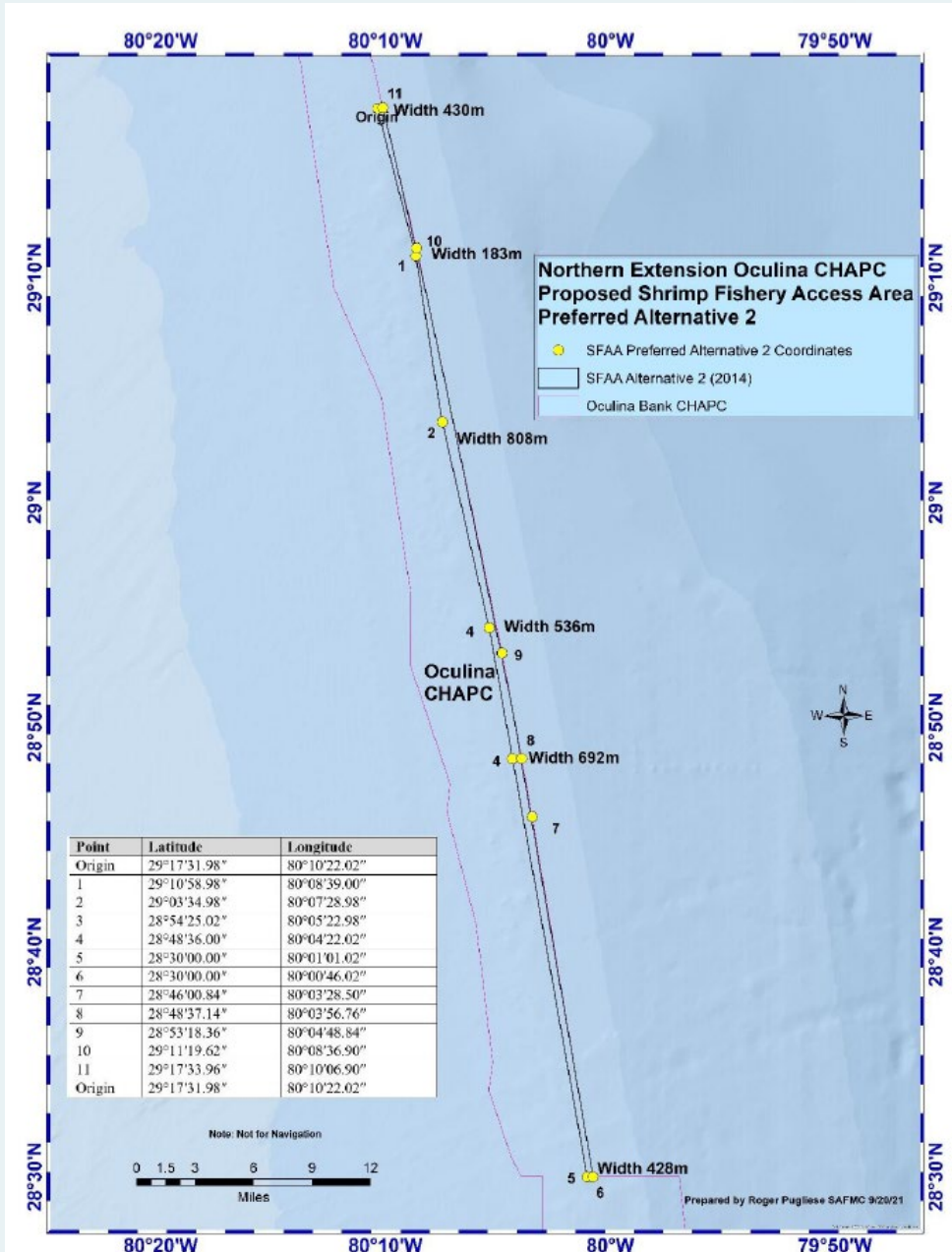
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# Background

**Coral Amendment 8 (2013)** expanded the Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern (OHAPC) closed area along its eastern boundary, in an area that was previously accessible to the rock shrimp fishery.

**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.



Coral Amendment 10 (2021) Figure S-3

# Amendment 10 Milestones

- **November 2021:** Council approved Coral 10 for Secretarial review and implementation.
- **December 2021:** The amendment was submitted to the Department of Commerce
- **July 28, 2022:** The Council received a letter of disapproval stating that the amendment did not include adequate analysis to guarantee that the FMP would minimize the adverse effects of fishing on EFH and minimize bycatch.

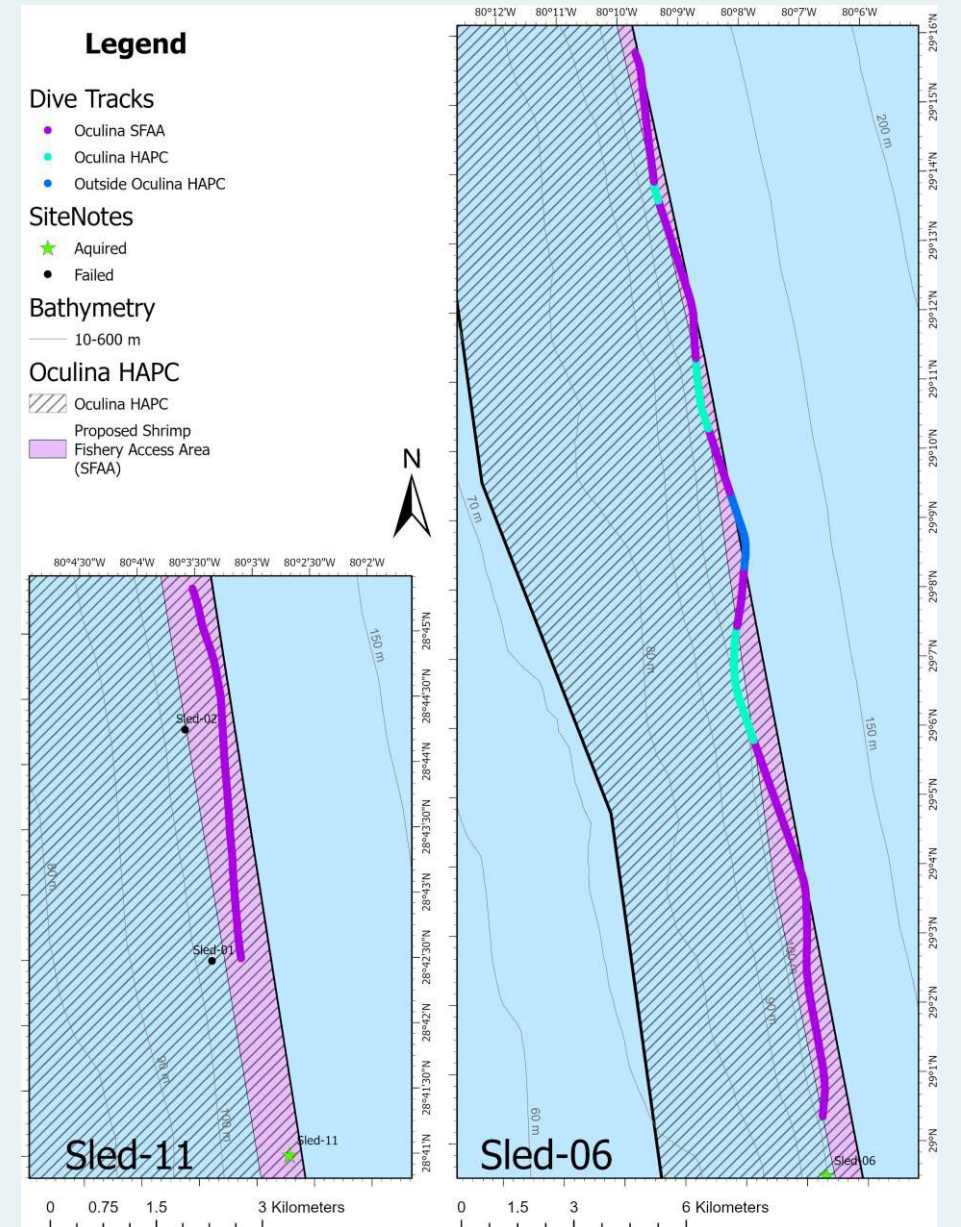


# Oculina SFAA Mapping

**September 2022:** The Council received a presentation by Andrew David (SEFSC) - Visual Survey of the proposed Shrimp Fishery Access Area (SFAA) within the Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern (OHAPC)

## Study Conclusions:

- No live or standing dead colonies was observed on the low and no relief areas between *Oculina* mounds,
- No live, standing dead or *Oculina* rubble was observed in or immediately adjacent to the SFAA in the May-June 2022 SEFSC visual survey.
- We cannot state definitively that no live *Oculina* colonies exist within the SFAA.

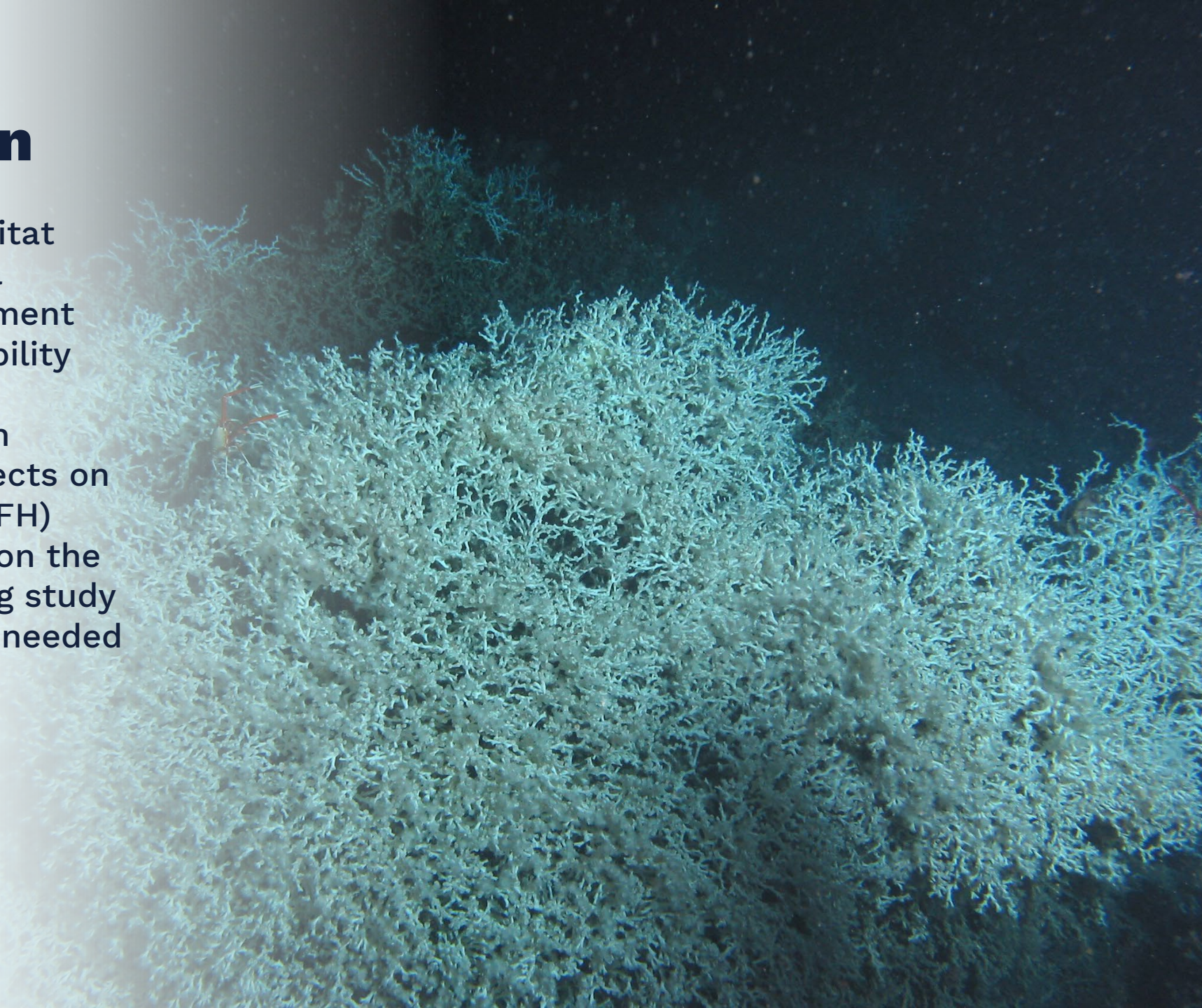


# December 2023 Council Discussion

During the December 2023 Habitat Committee, the Council made a motion to resubmit the amendment

- Include a Bycatch Probability Assessment (BPA)
- Include more information regarding minimizing effects on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Incorporate information on the September 2022 mapping study
- Include any new data as needed

**MOTION 1: RESUBMIT CORAL  
AMENDMENT 10 AFTER  
MODIFICATIONS.  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**





# **CORAL 10**

## **Resubmission plans**

- The Interdisciplinary Plan Team (IPT) reconvened in March 2024 and discussed how to address the concerns brought up by the Department of Commerce in the disapproval letter
- Areas for updated analysis and language enhancement have been identified
- The IPT will meet at least once more to finalize the amendment
- The Council will consider resubmission at the September 2024 Council meeting