

**Joint Coral/Habitat Protection Committee Report
June 10th, 2015
Roy Williams - Chair**

Review Joint Coral SSC/AP Meeting Report

The Committee reviewed the report from the Coral SSC/AP May 2015 meeting. The Coral SSC/AP recommended that 47 known coral areas be considered as new HAPCs with regulations that are concurrent with those of Pulley Ridge. There were several areas identified by the Coral SSC/AP as needing boundary revision to accommodate for shrimping effort. Staff reviewed all proposed HAPCs in the Gulf and reviewed current HAPCs with no regulations. There was considerable discussion about including more fisheries (reef fish, shrimp, lobster, and any bottom longliners) in the discussion about the boundaries once these revised boundaries were identified. This process of stakeholder involvement should happen before a document is initiated. Additionally, the features with corals in the proposed areas should be outlined for future reference. It was also requested that the revised boundaries and report be presented to the Shrimp AP at its next meeting.

The Committee recommends, and I so move: to instruct staff to convene a meeting of the appropriate coral scientists along with other fishery stakeholders to review potential coral HAPCs.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.