

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE
SHRIMP COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Kitty Hawk, NC
December 8, 2025

The Committees approved the agenda, the Habitat and Ecosystem Minutes from March 2025, and the Joint Habitat and Ecosystem and Shrimp Committee minutes from the September 2025 meeting.

Coral Amendment 11 and Shrimp Amendment 12

Staff reviewed the final draft amendment, including the final draft rationale, noting that the economic (chapter 3.3) and social environment (chapter 3.4) sections had not been updated since the submission of Coral Amendment 10. This information included data from 2015-2019. Updates to these sections were delayed due to the recent government shutdown. NOAA General Counsel recommended delaying final approval of the amendment until these sections have been updated. The Committees made the following motions and gave the following direction to staff:

MOTION 1: APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO THE NEED STATEMENT.

Purpose for Action

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 boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern 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 optimize yield in the rock shrimp fishery by expanding access to fishing grounds while minimizing negative impacts to deepwater coral in the Council's jurisdiction.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEES

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF: Hold a webinar meeting at the end of January to approve this amendment for submission.

Date: January 23, 10 am to 12:00 noon

The Committee agreed to a briefing book one week prior to the meeting instead of two weeks.

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:

Update the economic and social environment sections (chapters 3.3 and 3.4) of the draft amendment and organize an ad-hoc webinar Council meeting to review updates and approve for submission to be held on January 23, 2026 at 10:00 am.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL