



Joint Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp AP

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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Updates on Coral Amendment 10

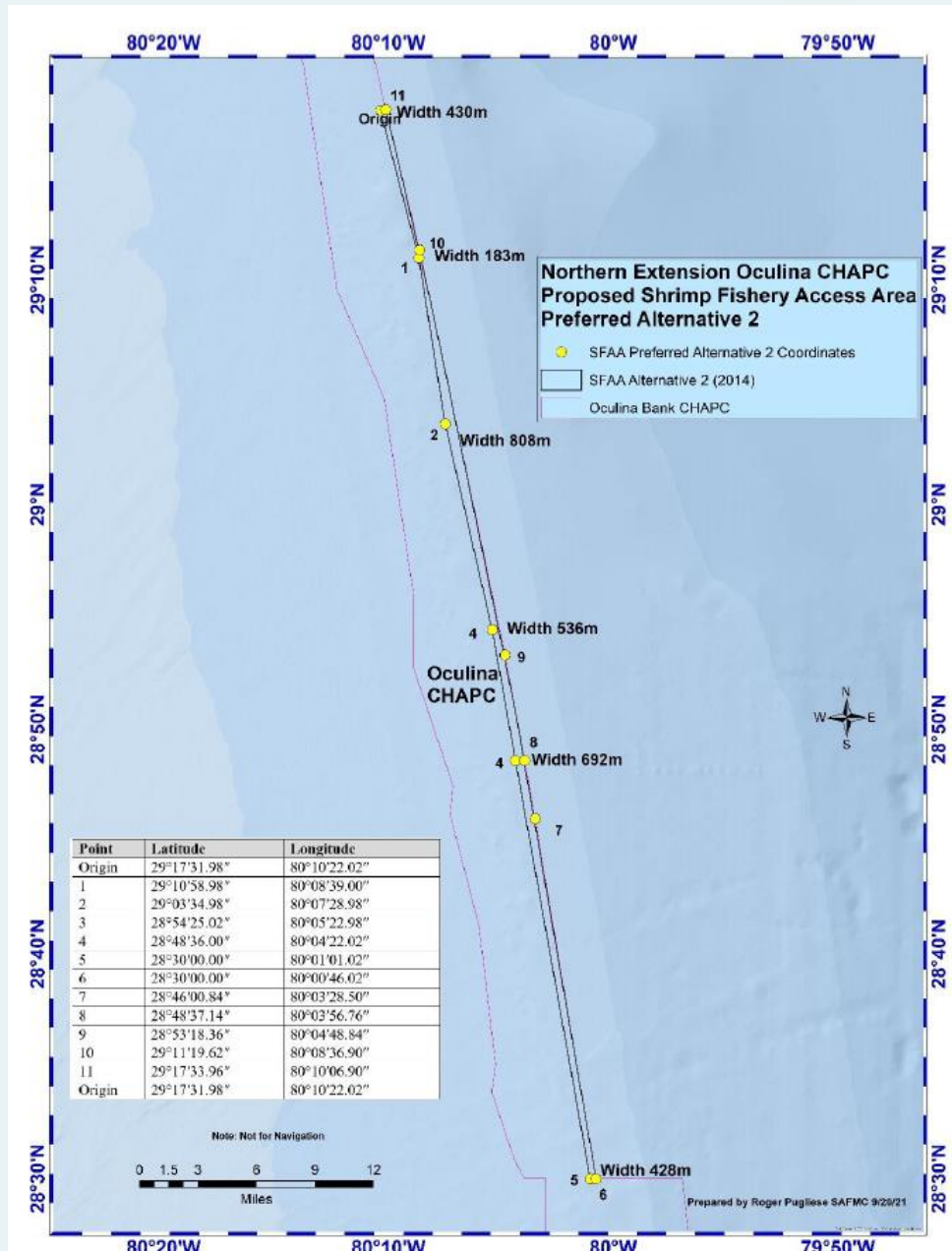
April 2024



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.

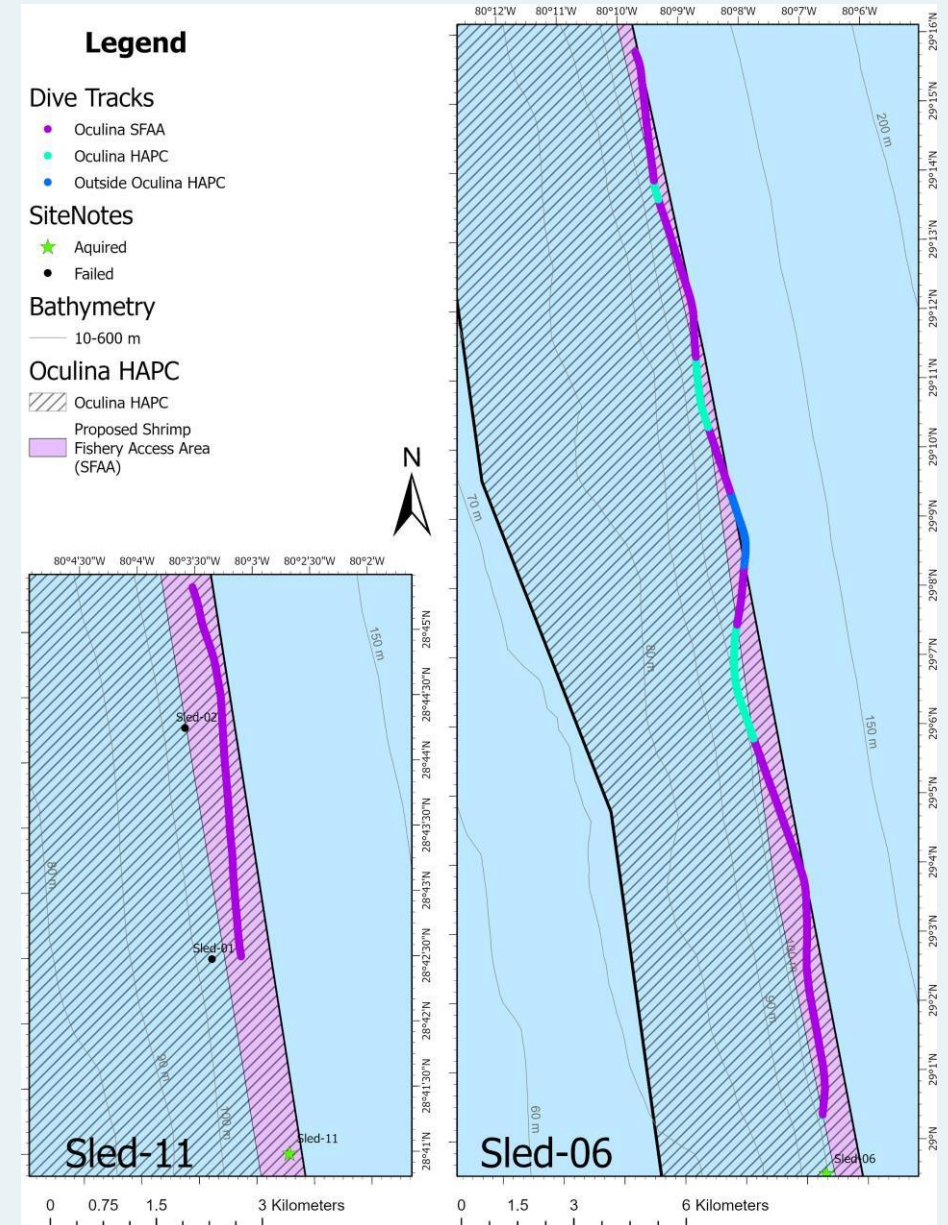


Oculina SFAA Mapping

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.



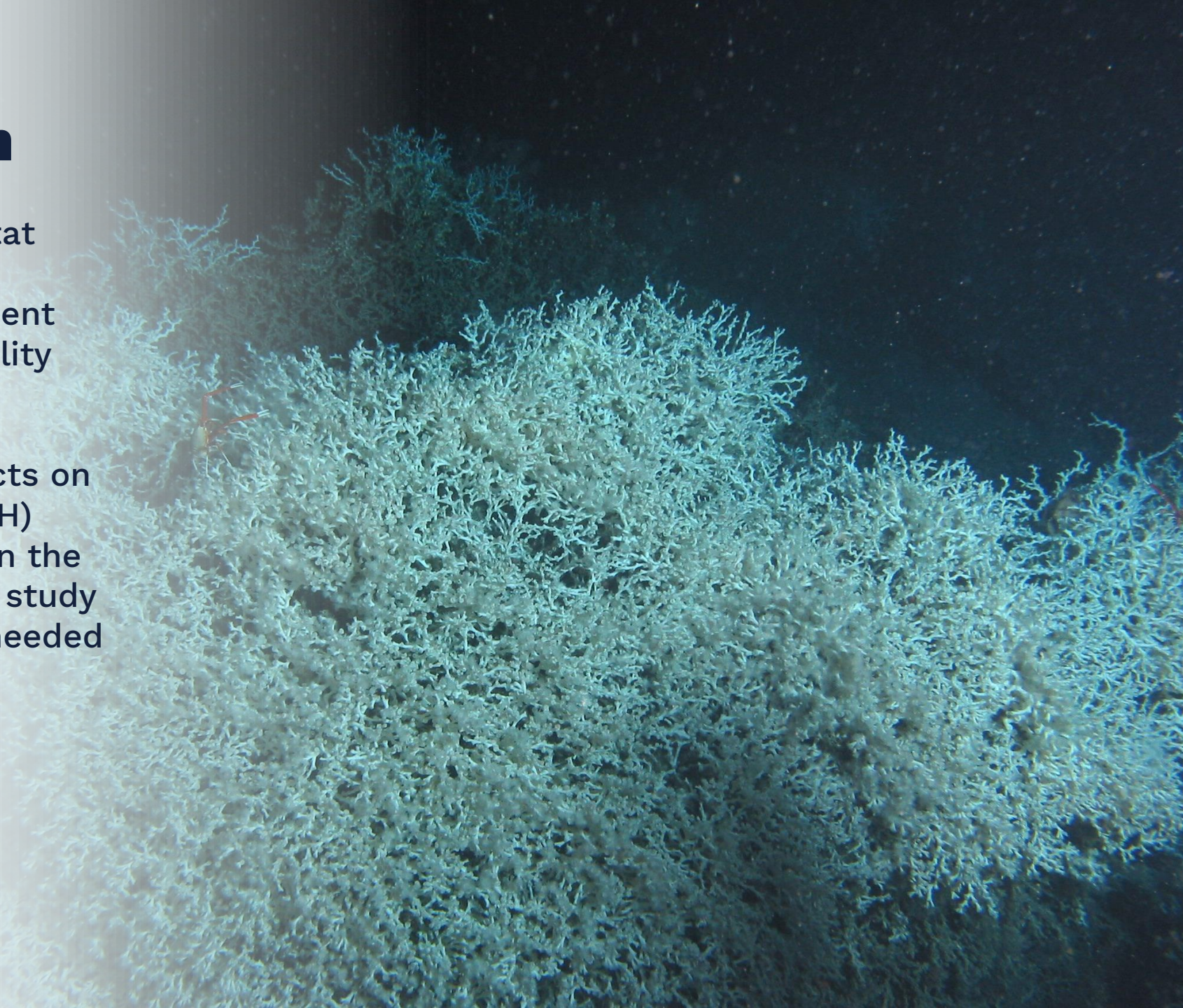
December 2023 Council Discussion

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



AP Discussion and Recommendations

Would the area be used regularly if reopened?

Why is this area important to the rock shrimp fishery?

What would be the benefit of opening the area?

Are there additional recommendations the APs would like to make to the Council?