

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**JOINT HABITAT, GOLDEN CRAB, SHRIMP COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL**  
**6/14/2018**

**Coral and Shrimp and Golden Crab Advisory Panel Meeting Reports**

Council staff presented the advisory panel reports and Committee discussed the two reports. The Golden Crab and Shrimp advisory panel report included discussion of the options paper for Coral Amendment 10, Golden Crab Amendment 10, and Shrimp Amendment 11, regulations recommended for removal, and deep-sea research. The Coral AP report included discussion of the options paper for Coral Amendment 10, Golden Crab Amendment 10, and Shrimp Amendment 11, coral disease off southern Florida, Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, deep-sea research, and regulations recommended for removal.

**Amendment Coral 10/Shrimp Amendment 11/Golden Crab Amendment 10 – Access areas/Transit provisions/GC VMS**

Council staff presented a draft options paper for Coral Amendment 10, Golden Crab Amendment 10, and Shrimp Amendment 11. After background was provided, Howard Rau, a commercial golden crab fisherman, gave a description of how the fishery operates. The committee discussed the actions and alternatives and provided the following comments:

- Add sub-alternatives for 1,600 to 1,900 ft and 1,600 to 2,400 ft under the alternative for depths (**Alternative 3**) of the action to consider adjusting the golden crab access areas in the Stetson Miami Coral Habitat Area of Particular Concern (**Action 1**),
- Consider the ecosystem importance of the nursery habitat function of sand habitat adjacent to coral habitats, and
- Provide background on previous Council's rationale for creating access areas or closed areas.

The Committee approved the following motion:

**MOTION #1. APPROVE JOINT CORAL AMENDMENT 10, GOLDEN CRAB AMENDMENT 10, AND SHRIMP AMENDMENT 11 FOR SCOPING.**  
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Other Business**

The Okeanos Explorer is conducting research in the South Atlantic region from June 13 through July 2, 2018. The ship offers live stream to remotely operated vehicles when operating.

<https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/livestreams/welcome.html>

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**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 Task(s)**

MOTION: ACCEPT THE TIMING AND TASK

The committee requested the following changes to action and alternatives in Coral Amendment 10, Golden Crab Amendment 10, and Shrimp Amendment 11:

- Add sub-alternatives for 1,600 to 1,900 ft and 1,600 to 2,400 ft under the alternative for depths (**Alternative 3**) of the action to consider adjusting the golden crab access areas in the Stetson Miami Coral Habitat Area of Particular Concern (**Action 1**),
- Add information on the ecosystem importance of the nursery habitat function of sand habitat adjacent to coral habitats, and
- Provide background on previous Council's rationale for creating access areas or closed areas.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL