Deepwater Shrimp AP Meeting May 9, 2013

Motions, Actions and Alternatives

Motion #1: Meeting Minutes

The minutes were emailed April 24, 2013 before the May 9, 2013 meeting and were not part of the Briefing Materials. Unfortunately, it was not discovered by anyone on the DWS AP that the minutes were incomplete until the night before the meeting.

A great deal of concern and disappointment was expressed by multiple members of the DWS AP. The DWS AP members felt the Joint Meeting was an example of how the process should work. The meeting resulted in good information exchanges, understandings and agreements. Everyone put forth a great deal of time, effort and money for this not to have been fully documented.

Joint AP Meeting minutes were not approved.

Action 1 – Expand Boundaries of the Oculina Bank CHAPC

MOTION #2: Proposed Northern Expansion – Alt 2a, 2b and DWS AP recommendation

Alternative 2a was the original Coral AP proposal to extend the CHAPC 75 miles north from the existing Oculina CHAPC northern satellite following the 60 – 100 meter depth contour lines.

Alternative 2b (originally 2e) was developed by Roger P. and John R. in response to the motion from the Joint AP Meeting in October 2012 for representatives of the Coral and DWS APs to work together to develop a 70-100 meter boundary that would also protect any potential coral outcroppings that extended beyond those bathymetric contours.

DWS AP developed a recommendation after the Joint Meeting in October 2012 in response to the same motion. The 100 meter eastern boundary of this recommendation varies slightly with alternatives 2a and 2b at the north and south ends however, it overlaps in the middle. This can be seen in an end-to-end close up view of the proposed boundaries with respect to a partial but representative collection of Shrimp Trawl Tracks, ***Attachment 1*****.**

During discussions with captains about these boundaries, it was noted that there were 2 productive rock shrimp fishing areas in the last 2 seasons and the south west corner of the proposed expansion was a part of one of these areas. A slight adjustment of 2 points was made to exclude this from the proposed closed area.

Eastern Boundary – southern half

- The DWS AP has recommended shifting the southern half of the eastern boundary slightly westward to remove historic rock shrimp fishing from the proposed expanded closed area. This is clearly identifiable by the concentration of VMS dots in figure 5 of the "Spatial Information on Habitat and Fishery Operations…" document as well as the Shrimp Trawl Track data, both illustrated together in ***attachment 2***.
- Regardless of where the eastern boundary defined by the 100 meter contour exists, historic rock shrimp fishing has occurred within the eastern boundary defined by

alternative 2b but still occurs well off-shore of the structured bottom that may contain Oculina coral. Shifting the boundary slightly westward would allow rock shrimp fishing to continue in this area and still protect the Oculina with a reasonable buffer zone.

- Impact to the fishery, as a result of this discrepancy, to the northern third of the eastern boundary is minimal compared to the fishery impact to the southern third of the eastern boundary. ***Attachments 1 and 2*** show significant rock shrimp activity in the area that would be closed by alternative 2b, particularly in the southern region.
- Modifying alternative 2b for both the north and south discrepancies entails replacing points 16-21 with DWS AP points 16-25 (provided to council staff).
- Modifying alternative 2b to accommodate the historic rock shrimp fishing along the southern third of the eastern boundary would require replacing points 20 and 21 with DWS AP points 22-25.

Western Boundary – southwest corner

- The DWS AP has recommended a minor adjustment to the southern corner of the western boundary to remove a historic rock shrimp fishing area from the proposed expansion. This area has had significant rock shrimp production in the last 2 years. This can also been seen in ***attachment 2***.
- Sliding point 2 south and point 3 north on the existing Alternative 2b western border changes the angle. This removes productive rock shrimp fishing area while protecting potential Oculina hard bottom in 70 meters. Modified coordinates for points 2 and 3 have been submitted to council staff.

MOTION #3: Proposed Western Expansion – Alternative 3

- The DWS AP recommends a modification to the southern half of the proposed western expansion boundary. See ***attachment 3***.
- This modification would remove an area of significant rock shrimp production that has reoccurred in the last 2 years. These shrimp trawl tracks are on the 70 meter contour.
- Lat/Long points for this recommendation are in the attachment and have been provided to council staff.

Action 2 – Implement Transit Provision Through the Oculina CHAPC

Alternatives 2a and 2b extend the existing Oculina CHAPC closed area 75 nm north for a total distance, north-to-south, of over 135 nm. This creates a safety and economic concern for vessels fishing off-shore of the closed area.

MOTION #4: Alternative 3

- The current motion resulted from extensive conversation with NOAA OLE regarding the call-in provision in the event of an emergency or mechanical failure. Otha felt it would be best to remove the provision for 2 reasons: first, what is in place currently is working and second, having the provision makes calling in a requirement and a 2nd violation in the event someone did not maintain speed and they did not call in. There was also

concern about being able to provide a 24x7 call-in service given the current funding restrictions.

- It was recommended that 5 knots be the minimum speed required while transiting rather than 6 knots. 5 knots is fast enough to differentiate transiting from trawling and would significantly reduce the potential need to call in because the minimum speed to transit could not be maintained.

MOTION #5: Action 3 – Expand Boundaries of the Stetson-Miami Terrace CHAPC

Attachment 4 illustrates alternatives 3 and 2 and how they relate to the actual shrimp trawl tracks of the royal red shrimp fishery. Alternative 3 was developed in response to public scoping input, alternative 2 was developed in response to the Joint APs meeting and a Shrimp Fishery Access Area was introduced at the last DWS AP meeting.

Alternative 3

- This alternative is the DWS AP preferred because it is the easiest to work with on the water and has the least impact on the historic royal red shrimp fishery. This alternative provides the vessels the ability to complete their historic trawls and have the necessary area to drift north while hauling in gear, releasing the catch on deck and turning around to head back south.

Alternative 2

- The east-west border at the southern end cuts across the shrimp trawl tracks at their northern-most end at about the same point the bottom becomes no longer trawlable. Most of the shrimp trawl tracks north of this boundary are drift lines from gear haul-in and vessel turn-around and are not from bottom trawling activity. However, this boundary does not allow for any drift or margin of error while hauling in gear or turning the vessel around. The Gulf Stream current can vary drastically from 3 to almost 6 knots in this area. It can take several miles of drift before a vessel can get turned around. The impact to the royal red shrimp fishery would be the loss of the highly productive trawlable bottom for some distance leading up to the boundary, depending on the speed of the Gulf Stream.

Alternative 2 with Shrimp Fishery Access Area

- This is the second preferred alternative of the DWS AP in the event alternative 3 is not a viable option. This would allow the royal red shrimp fisherman to work the productive bottom closer to the boundary and use the Shrimp Fishery Access Area to drift north while hauling in gear and turning the vessel around. This has considerably less impact on the royal red shrimp fishery than alternative 2 without the Shrimp Fishery Access Area.

Action 4 – Expand Boundaries of the Cape Lookout CHAPC

No known impact to the rock shrimp or red shrimp fisheries.

VMS Analysis

In general, as expected, the VMS data matches the shrimp trawl track data perfectly. Eliminating data by speed is probably fairly accurate in that trawling speed generally occurs within a specific speed range, therefore, all VMS dots less or greater are most likely not trawling. The remaining VMS dot concentrations seem to depict fishing activity fairly accurately at a high level. The DWS AP had the following observations:.

Year Distributions

- Oct. 2003 – 2007 data represents 4 years.
- 2007 – 2011 data represents 4 years.
- 2011 – Mar. 2013 data represents 2 years.

This is important when evaluating the % fishing in the various alternatives. The data set for the last 2 years compared to the two 4-year data sets prior show an increased concentration of fishing effort in the proposed areas about to be closed.

VMS Dot Value

It is important not to undervalue VMS dots. There are numerous factors that impact the value of a VMS dot that change from year to year. These are some of the major impact factors:

- Weather Conditions – affects amount of fishing time, ocean patterns, etc.
- Environmental Factors – ocean temp impacts shrimp location and concentrations
- White Shrimp Season – availability impacts value of other shrimp fisheries
- Market Price – determines economic feasibility, impacted by supply and imports
- Fuel Price – huge factor for economic feasibility
- Fleet Size – directly correlated to shrimp volume
- Shrimp Availability – drives supply and demand, economic feasibility

Economic Value

The economic value of the quality food being harvested goes far beyond the dock price.

- Infrastructure impact into the community affects the:
    - Suppliers: fuel, rigging, grocery, nets, packaging, transportation, etc.
    - Local Employment: captains, crew, dock workers, processors, transporters, retailers, restaurant staff, etc.
    - Repair: mechanical, refrigeration, welders, divers, electronics, electrical, etc.
- Tourism – the increasing demand for local products has elevated the importance of local seafood as a component of tourism
- The rock and royal red shrimp vessels provide the only access to these unique and highly sought after products on the east coast
- Today rock shrimp dock price is 2.75 - 3.00 per pound, 5 years ago .90
- Rock shrimp finished product is 13.00 wholesale
- Today red shrimp are 3.00 (Lg) and 1.45 (Sm) per pound, 2 years ago 2.25 and .80
- Red shrimp finished product is 15.00(LG) and 9.50(SM) wholesale

At a time when almost 92% of seafood consumed in the US is imported it is important to fully evaluate any regulations being considered that will have any impact on our fisheries.

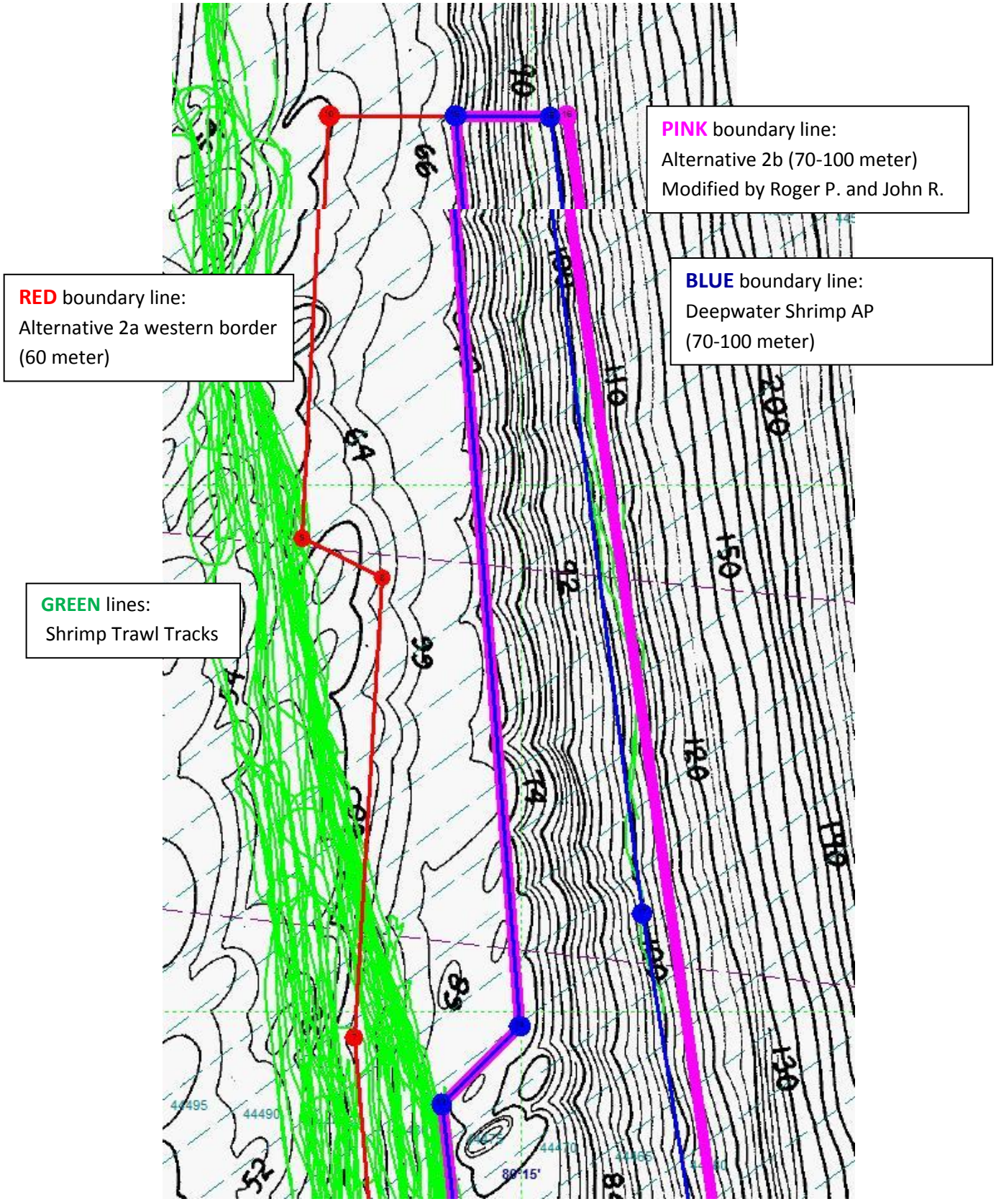
ATTACHMENT 1

Attachment 1 (page 1 of 8)

Oculina CHAPC Proposed Northern Expansion

Close-up Look of Alternatives in Reference to Shrimp Trawl Tracks

North to South

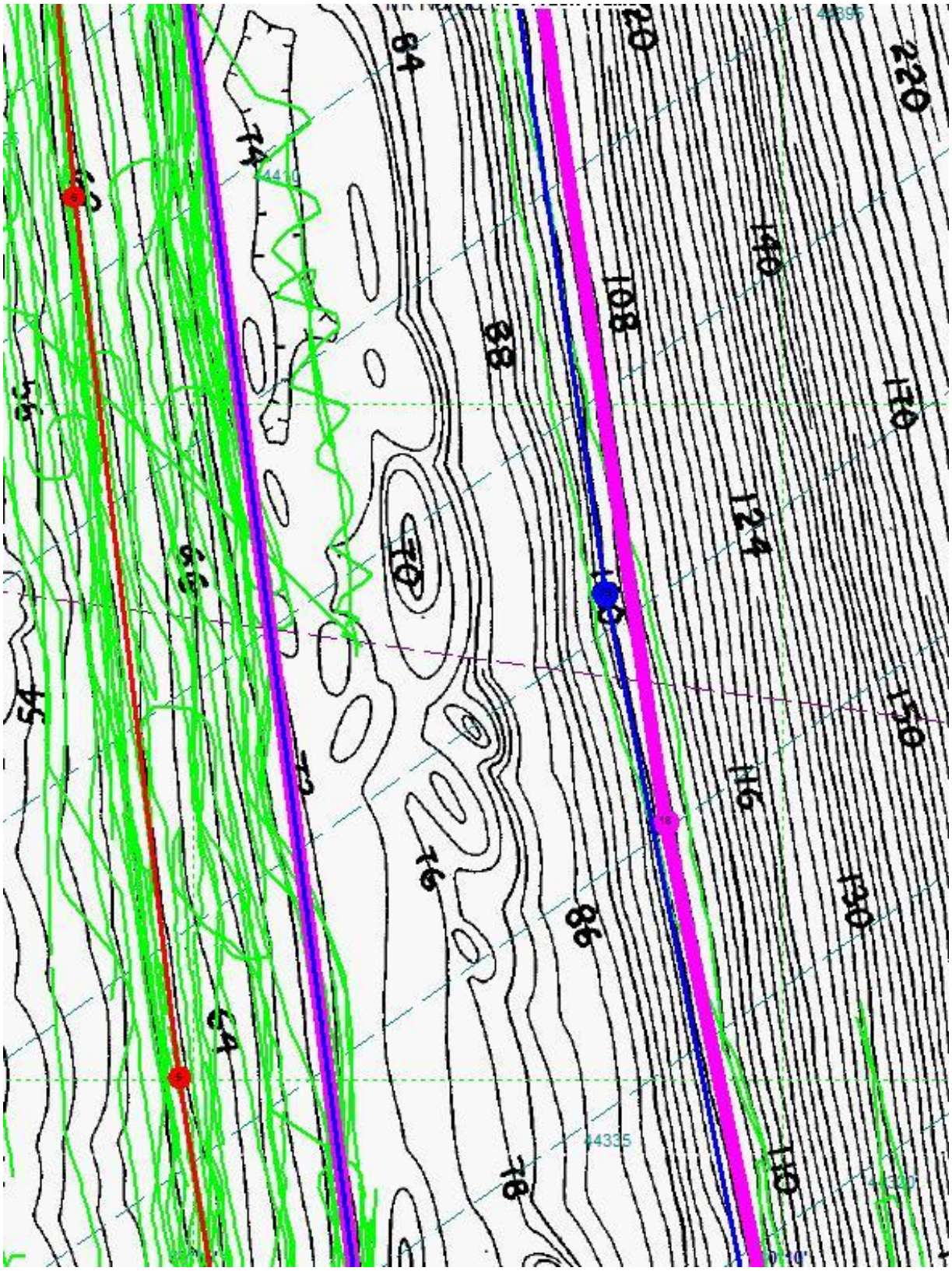


Attachment 1 (page 2 of 8)

Oculina CHAPC Proposed Northern Expansion

Close-up Look of Alternatives in Reference to Shrimp Trawl Tracks

North to South (continued)

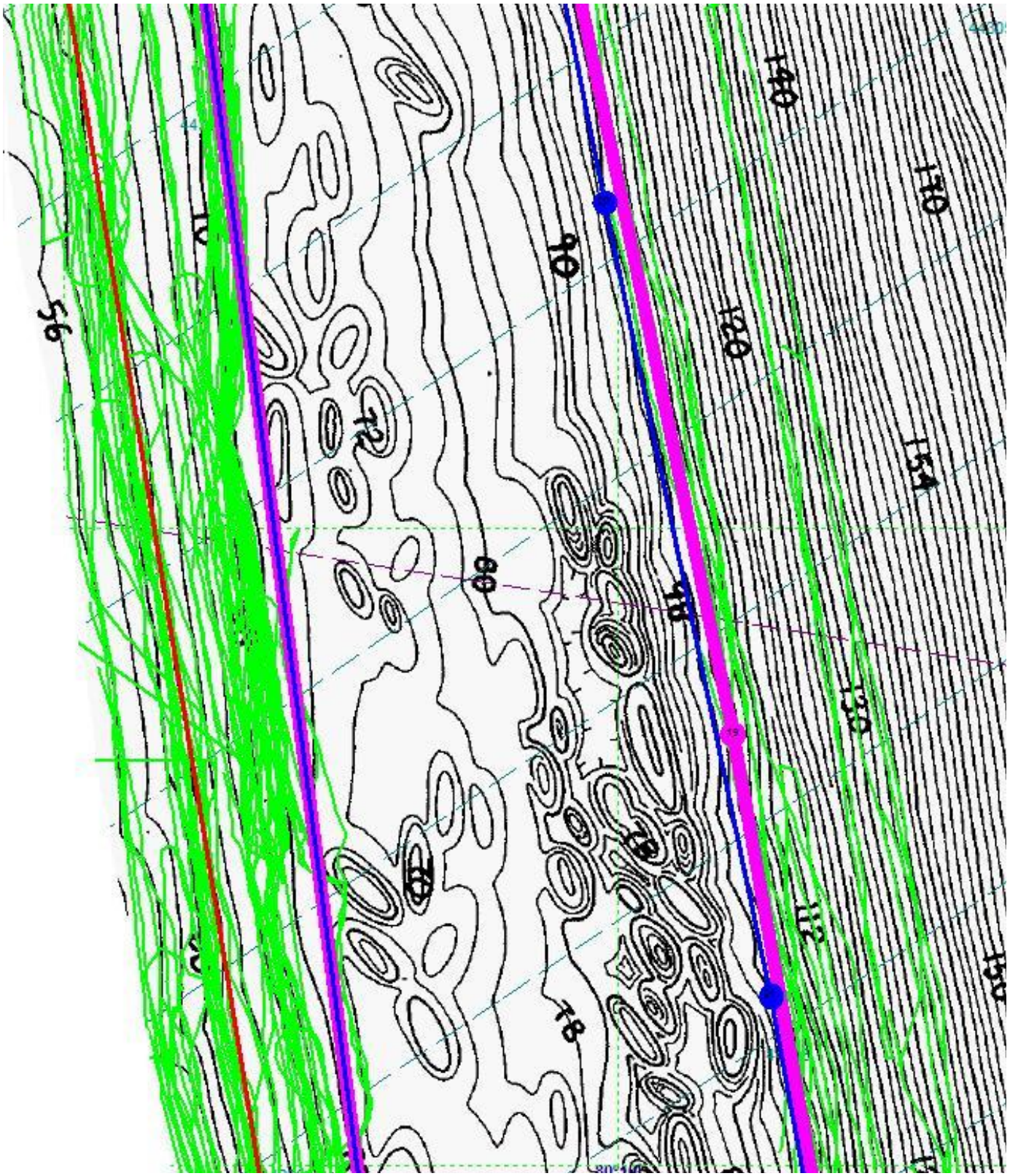


Attachment 1 (page 3 of 8)

Oculina CHAPC Proposed Northern Expansion

Close-up Look of Alternatives in Reference to Shrimp Trawl Tracks

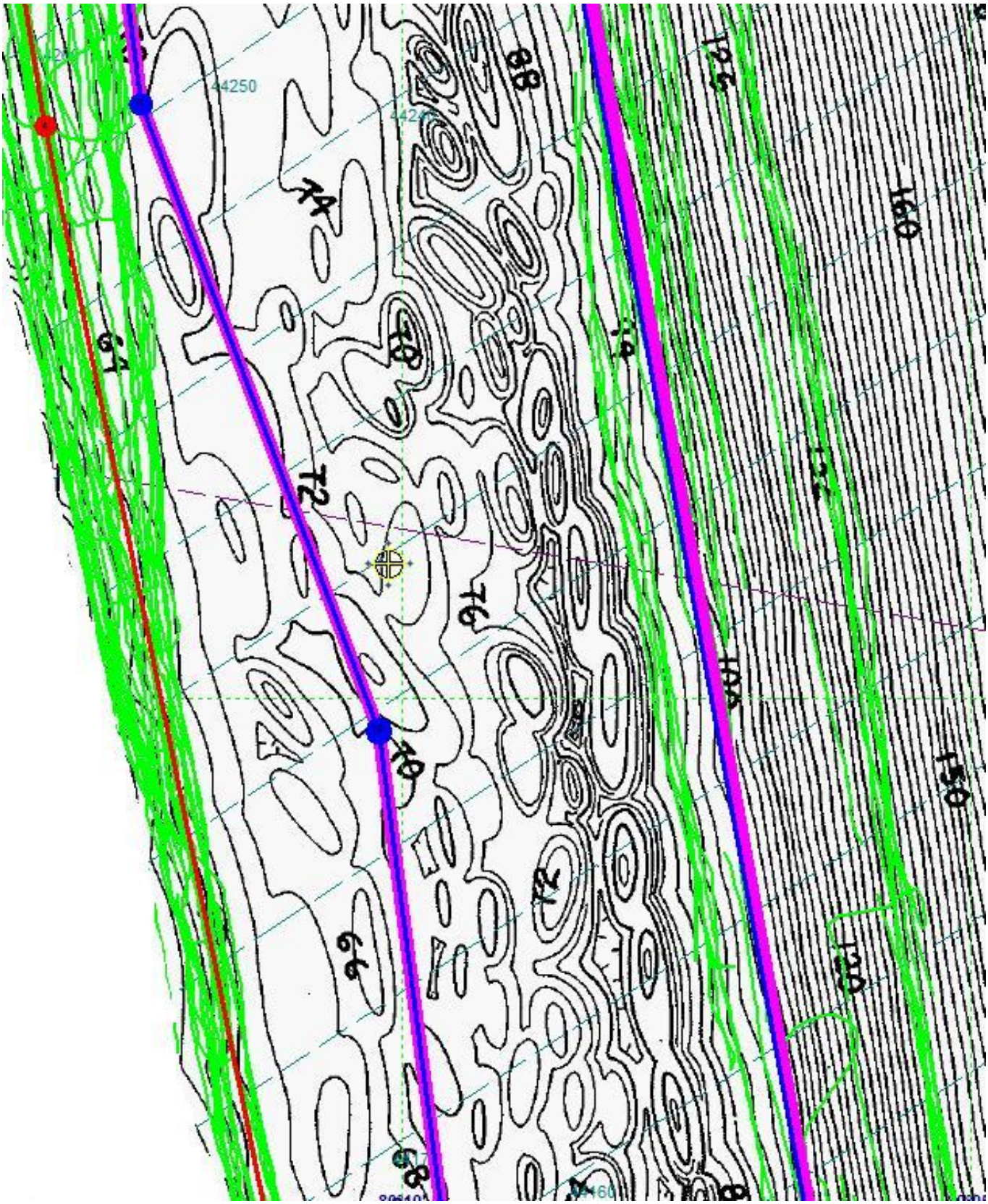
North to South (continued)



Oculina CHAPC Proposed Northern Expansion

Close-up Look of Alternatives in Reference to Shrimp Trawl Tracks

North to South (continued)

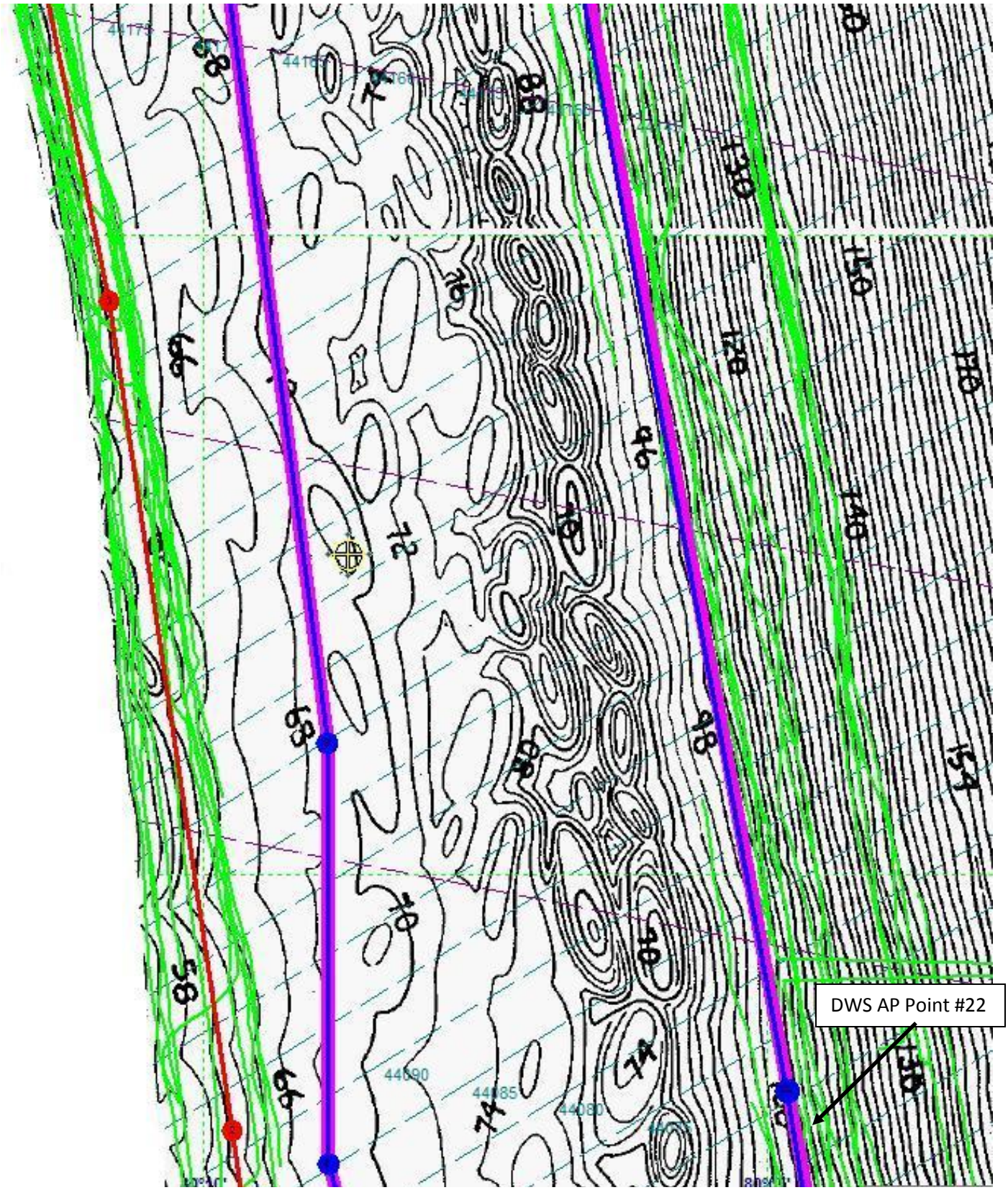


Attachment 1 (page 5 of 8)

Oculina CHAPC Proposed Northern Expansion

Close-up Look of Alternatives in Reference to Shrimp Trawl Tracks

North to South (continued)

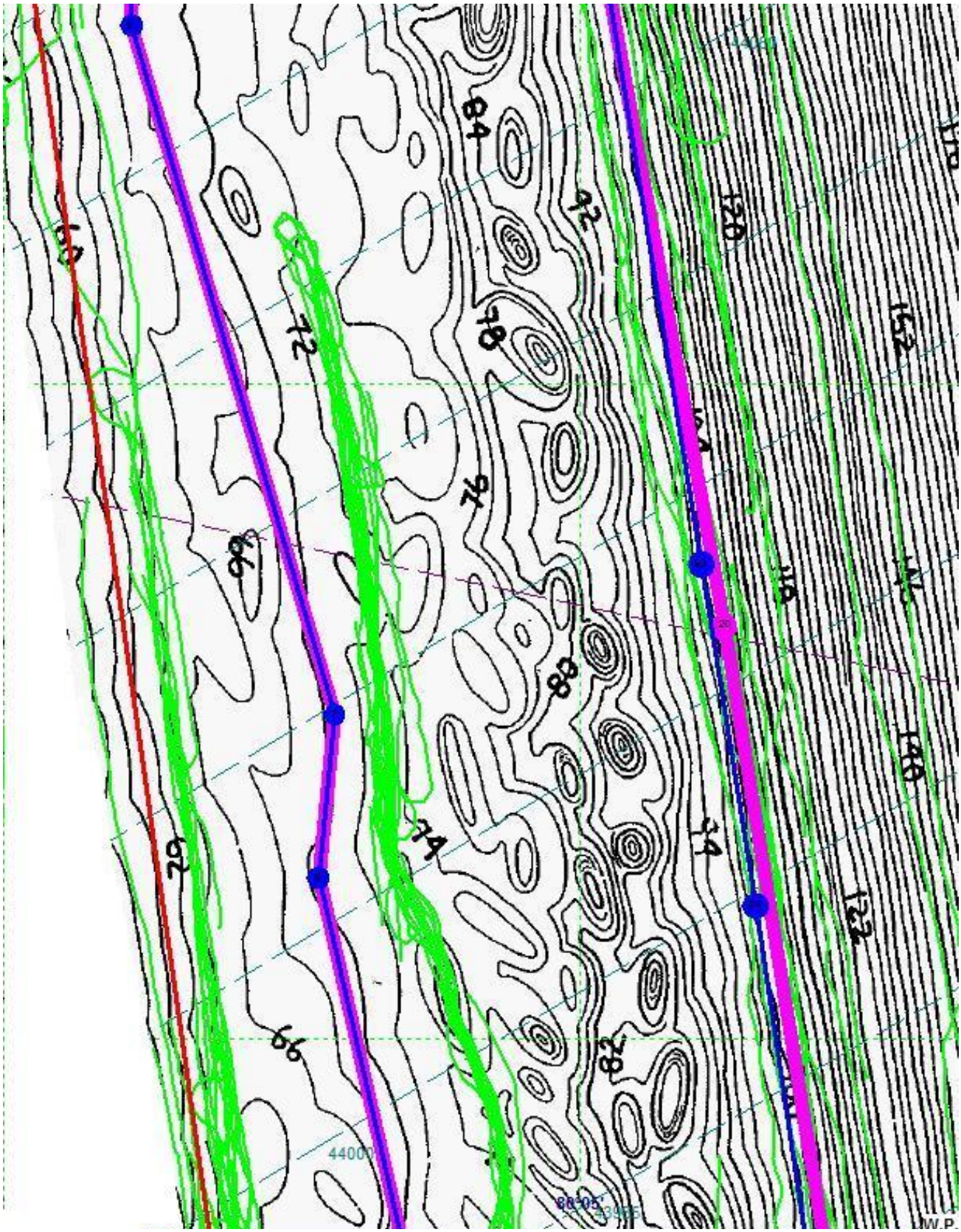


Attachment 1 (page 6 of 8)

Oculina CHAPC Proposed Northern Expansion

Close-up Look of Alternatives in Reference to Shrimp Trawl Tracks

North to South (continued)

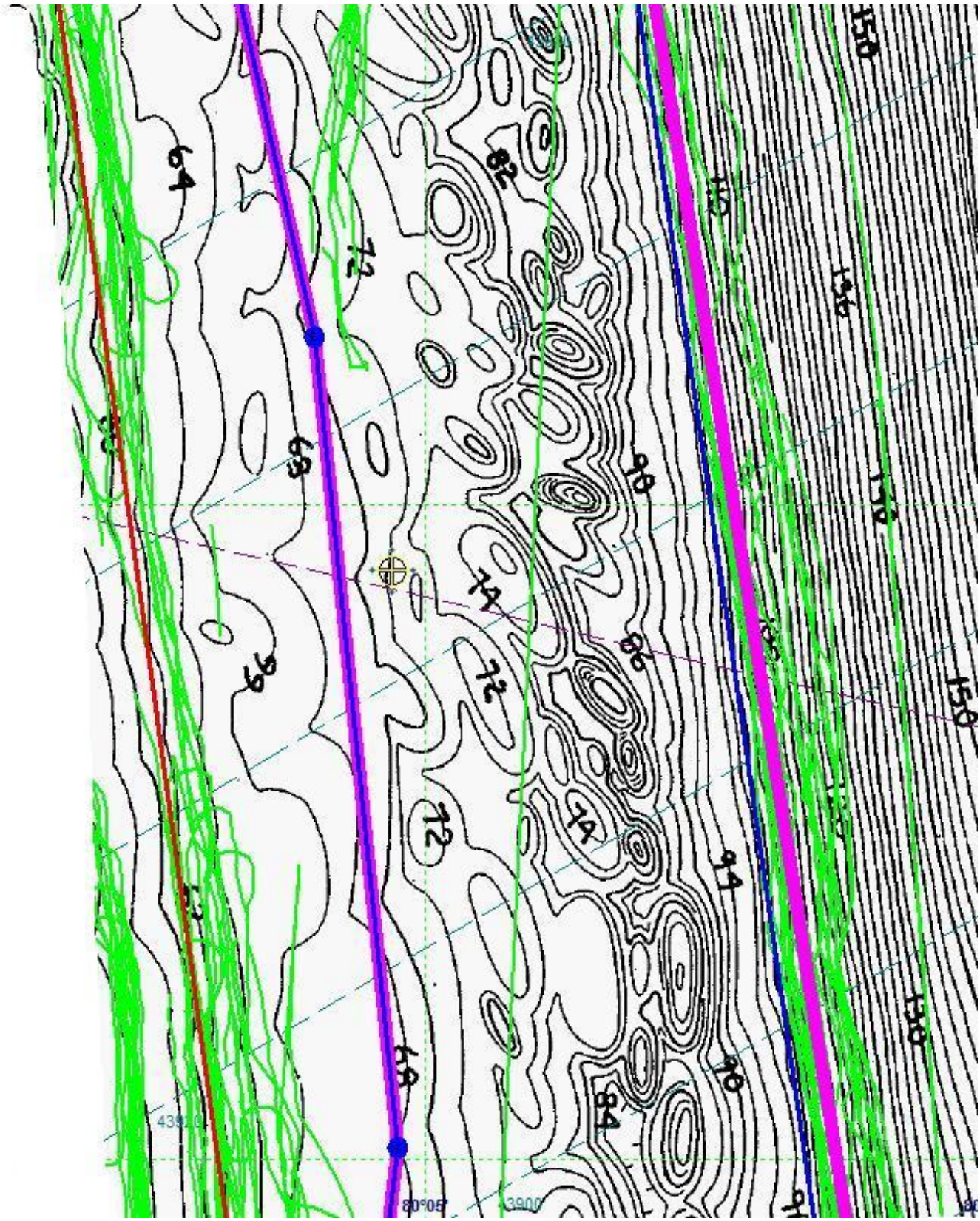


Attachment 1 (page 7 of 8)

Oculina CHAPC Proposed Northern Expansion

Close-up Look of Alternatives in Reference to Shrimp Trawl Tracks

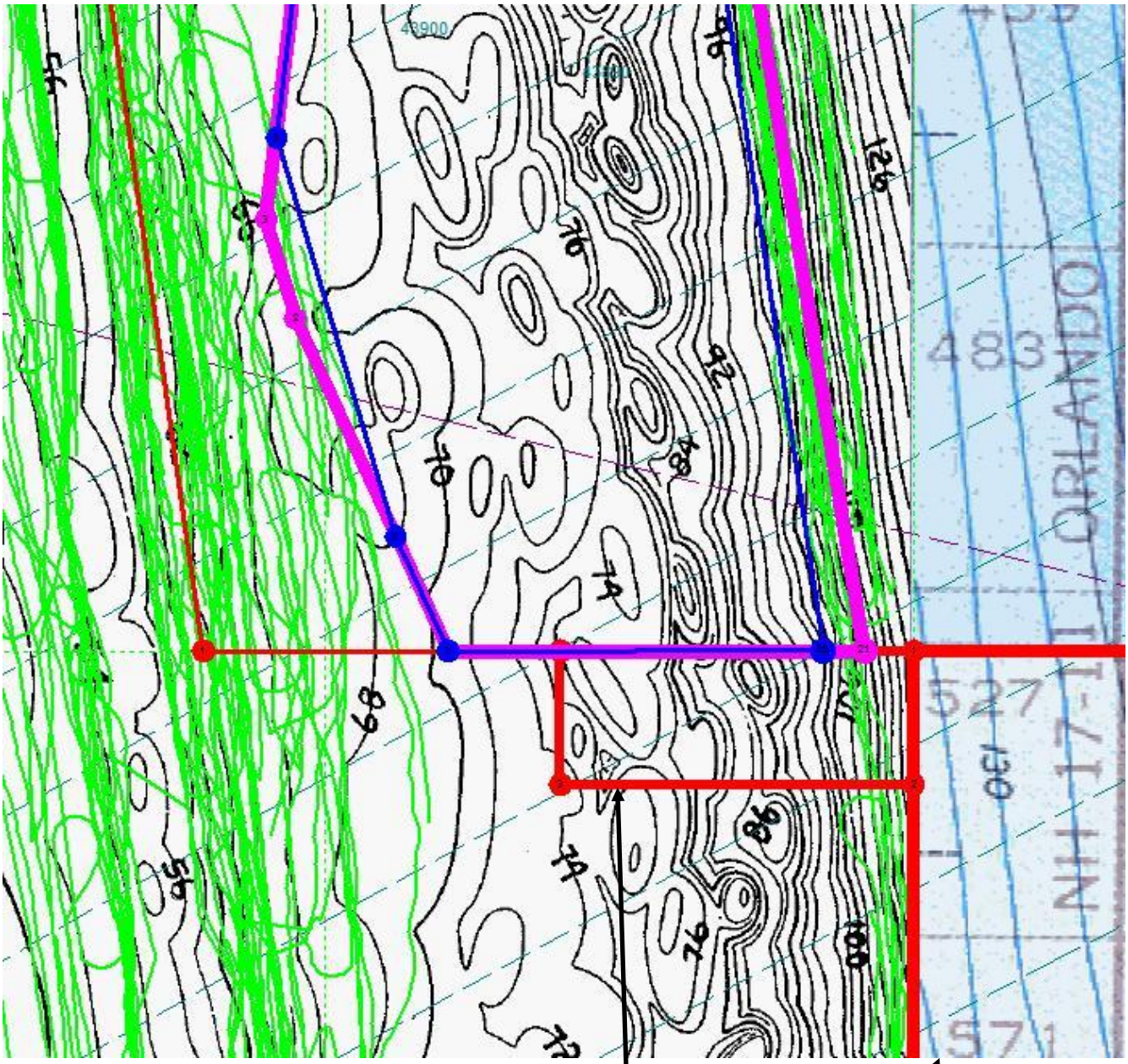
North to South (continued)



Oculina CHAPC Proposed Northern Expansion

Close-up Look of Alternatives in Reference to Shrimp Trawl Tracks

Southern Boundary Meets Satellite Expansion



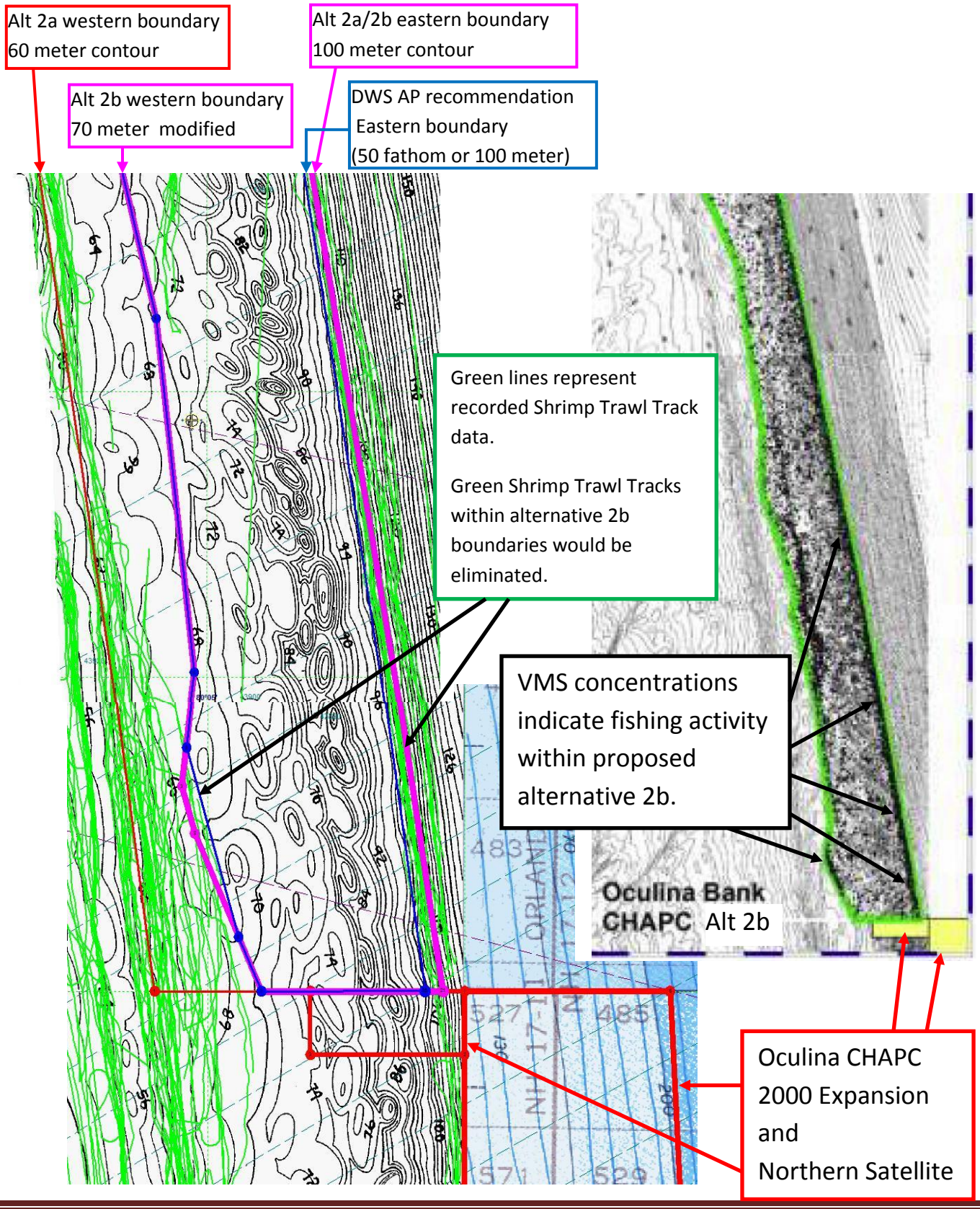
ATTACHMENT 2

Attachment 2

Oculina CHAPC Proposed Northern Expansion

Southern End

Shrimp Trawl Tracks to VMS Comparison



ATTACHMENT 3

Attachment 3 (page 1 of 2)

Proposed West Expansion - Oculina CHAPC

North Satellite Existing CHAPC

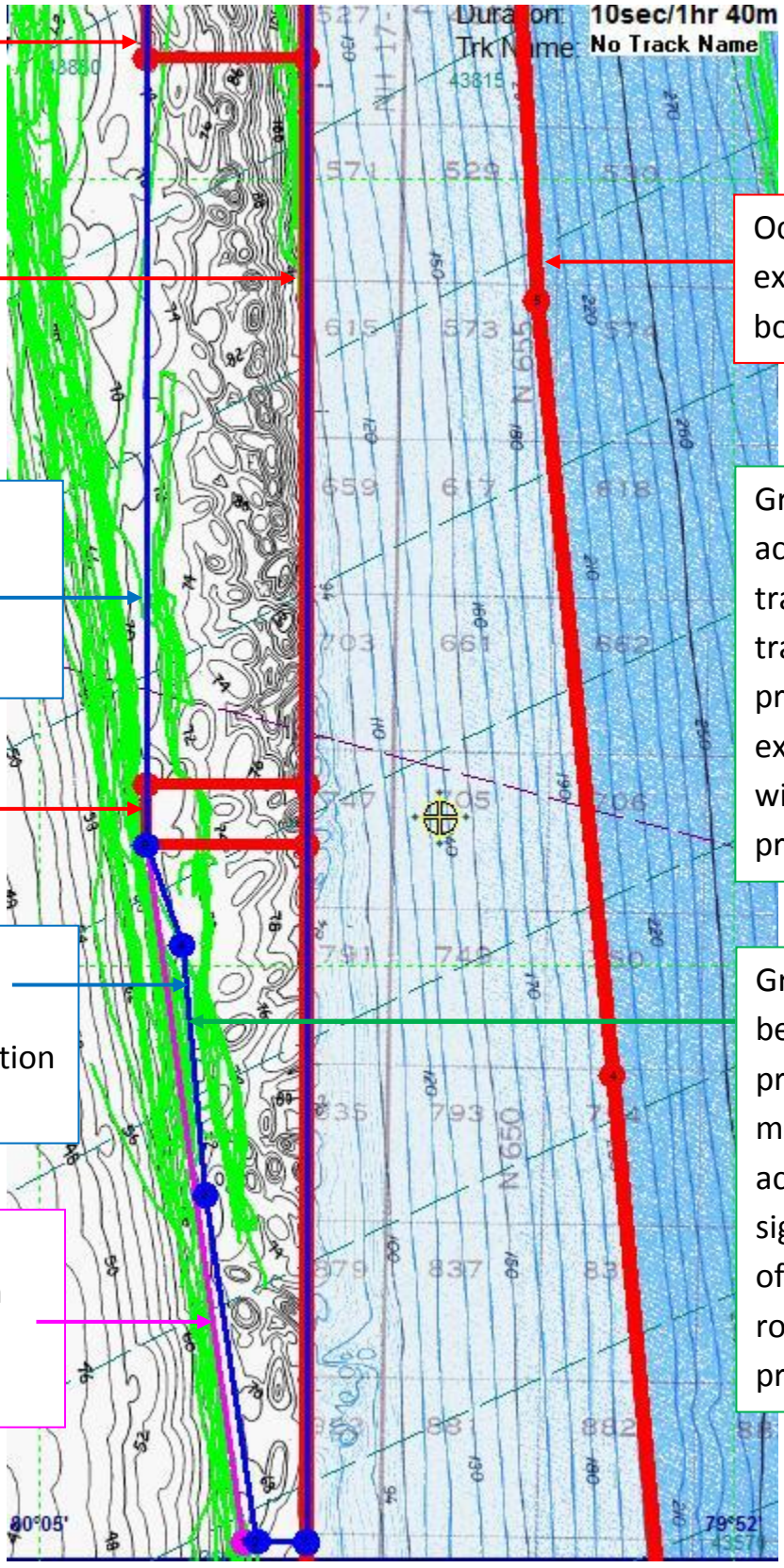
Oculina CHAPC existing west boundary

Proposed CHAPC western expansion boundary (no modification)

South Satellite Existing CHAPC

Proposed CHAPC western expansion boundary modification DWS AP 5-9-13

Proposed CHAPC western expansion boundary (no modification)



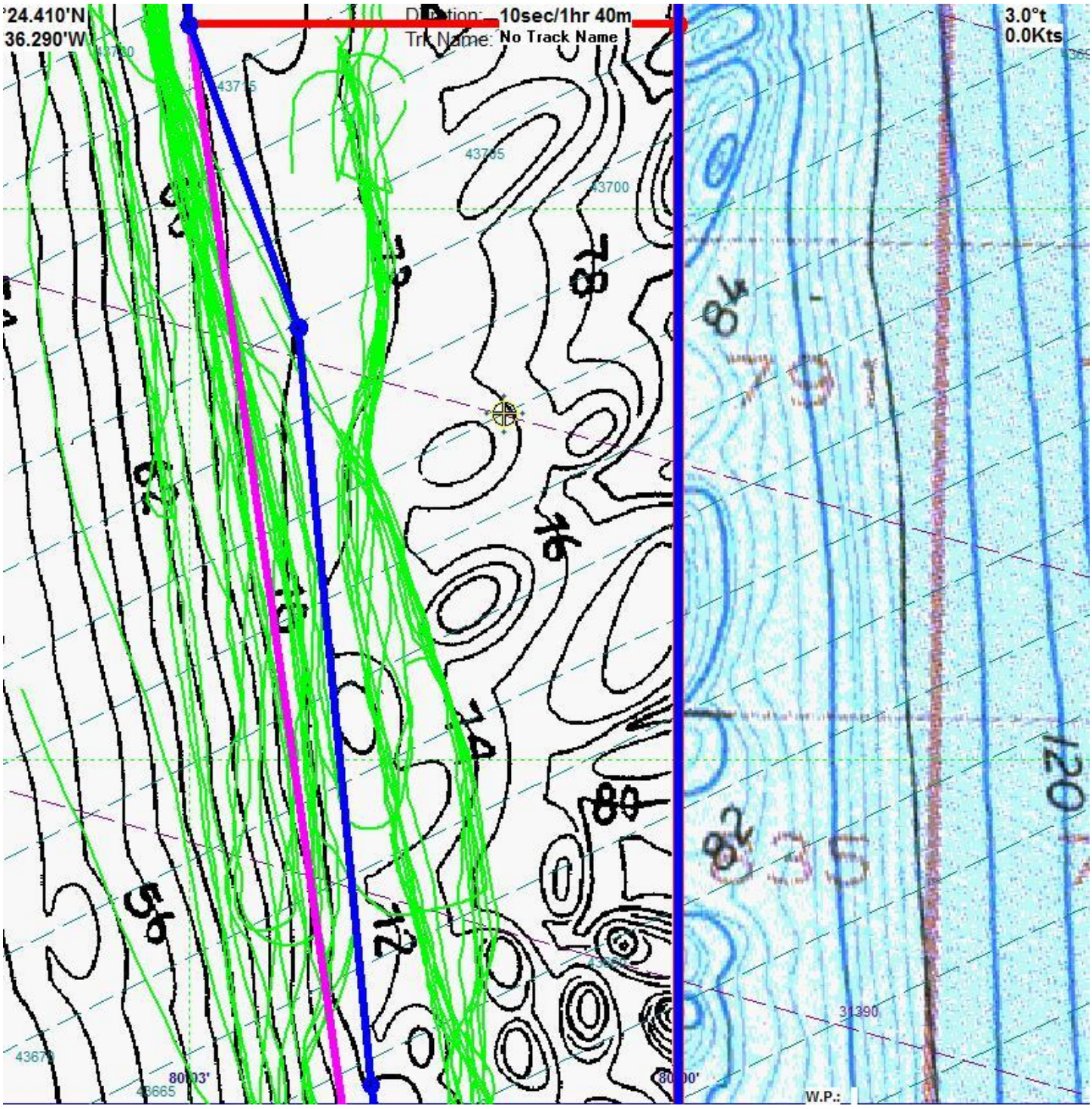
Oculina CHAPC existing east boundary

Green areas are actual shrimp trawl tracks. All tracks within proposed expansion areas will be prohibited.

Green tracks between initial proposed and modified boundary account for a significant portion of 2011 and 2012 rock shrimp production.

Attachment 3 (page 2 of 2)

This is a close up look at the tracks that would be excluded from the Oculina CHAPC western expansion with the modified coordinates. (Coordinates submitted to council staff) The blue line would replace the pink line moving the western boundary eastward to include the tracks on the 70 meter line. The tracks eastward on the 72 meter would remain in closed area.



ATTACHMENT 4

Attachment 4

Stetson-Miami Terrace CHAPC
Proposed Expansion Alternatives