



Oculina Evaluation Team Report

SAFMC Meeting
September 2015

Background

- The Council requested in 2004 that the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area be evaluated in 2007 and 2014.
- The report includes recent research, enforcement, and outreach and education efforts, recommendations for management, and comments on a Shrimp AP request to modify the boundaries.
- Specific requests to Evaluation Team included:
 - Evaluate the regulations, size, and configuration of the OECA;
 - Track progress to meet the objectives listed in the Evaluation Plan for the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area (2005); and
 - Comment on a 2012 recommendation by the Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel to reconfigure the OHAPC and OECA.



Recommendations

The team recommended:

- Continued efforts for outreach and education, enforcement, and research and monitoring and are included in the document,
- No changes to the current configuration, size, or regulations of the Oculina Experimental Closed Area, and
- The area requested by the Shrimp AP should remain closed (response is Appendix E).



Next Review

- Before the next review, the team membership should be updated.
- The editor should consider format changes.
- When should the next review occur?
- Should the review focus on the same topics as this review:
 - Evaluate the configuration, regulation, and size and
 - Track progress toward meeting the goals listed in the Evaluation Plan for the Oculina Experimental Closed Area?
- Motion to Approve the Report.

