



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office  
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APR 7 2009

Mr. Robert Mahood  
Executive Director  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201  
North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Bob:

To enhance the collaboration of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the United States, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of the Interior—in collaboration with federal, state, territorial/tribal agencies; the MPA Federal Advisory Committee; and the public—have been working to establish a national system of MPAs. This national system is a key requirement of Executive Order 13158, and is described in the *Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America* ([www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov)).

The national system will provide regional coordination to help address local and regional MPA priorities through federal ocean management initiatives, raise awareness of MPAs and the ocean resources they conserve, and support targeted regional science and stewardship initiatives.

As you know, there are three entry criteria for the national system (plus a fourth for cultural heritage MPAs). Sites that meet all criteria are eligible for the national system. The site must:

1. Meet the definition of an MPA as defined in the Framework.
2. Have a management plan (can be site-specific or part of a broader programmatic management plan; must have goals and objectives and call for monitoring or evaluation of those goals and objectives).
3. Contribute to at least one priority conservation objective as listed in the Framework.
4. Cultural heritage MPAs must also conform to criteria for the National Register for Historic Places.

I would like to invite the South Atlantic Council to participate in this initiative by working with NMFS to nominate eligible sites to become part of the national system. To facilitate your response, NMFS will provide the list developed by the National Marine Protected Areas Center and the policy regarding interactions between NMFS and the Councils for this process.



In order to have an orderly process, NMFS will be completing this process a few regions at a time. I will contact you in the future to discuss next steps.

Sincerely,



Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: F/SER2-McGovern  
F - Rauch

# Program Summary Sheet -

# National Marine Fisheries Service Sites

## South Atlantic FMC

Site Name	Management Agency	Level of Protection	Permanence	Constancy	Protection Focus	Primary Conservation Focus	Fishing Restriction	Management Plan Type	GIS Data	Vessel Traffic	Anchoring
Charleston Bump Closed Area	National Marine Fisheries Service	Uniform Multiple Use	Permanent	Seasonal	Focal Resource	Sustainable Production	Commercial Fishing Restricted	Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Experimental Oculina Research Reserve	National Marine Fisheries Service	Uniform Multiple Use	Permanent	Year-round	Ecosystem	Natural Heritage	Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted	Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat Management Plan	Yes		
East Florida Coast Closed Area	National Marine Fisheries Service	Uniform Multiple Use	Permanent	Year-round	Focal Resource	Sustainable Production	Commercial Fishing Restricted	Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fynet Closure	National Marine Fisheries Service	Uniform Multiple Use	Conditional	Year-round	Focal Resource	Sustainable Production	Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted	Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mid-Atlantic Coastal Waters Area	National Marine Fisheries Service	Uniform Multiple Use	Permanent	Seasonal	Focal Resource	Natural Heritage	Commercial Fishing Restricted	Non-MPA Programmatic Species Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern Inshore State Lobster Waters Area	National Marine Fisheries Service	Uniform Multiple Use	Permanent	Year-round	Focal Resource	Natural Heritage	Commercial Fishing Restricted	Non-MPA Programmatic Species Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern	National Marine Fisheries Service	Uniform Multiple Use	Permanent	Year-round	Ecosystem	Sustainable Production	Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted	Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Prohibited