



NOAA
FISHERIES

FWC Lionfish Exempted Fishing Permit Application Amendment

Southeast Regional Office
September 2019

Purpose

Testing effectiveness and performance of modified trap designs for capturing lionfish to find the best modification to maximize lionfish catch while minimizing bycatch of other species and impacts to habitat.

Design

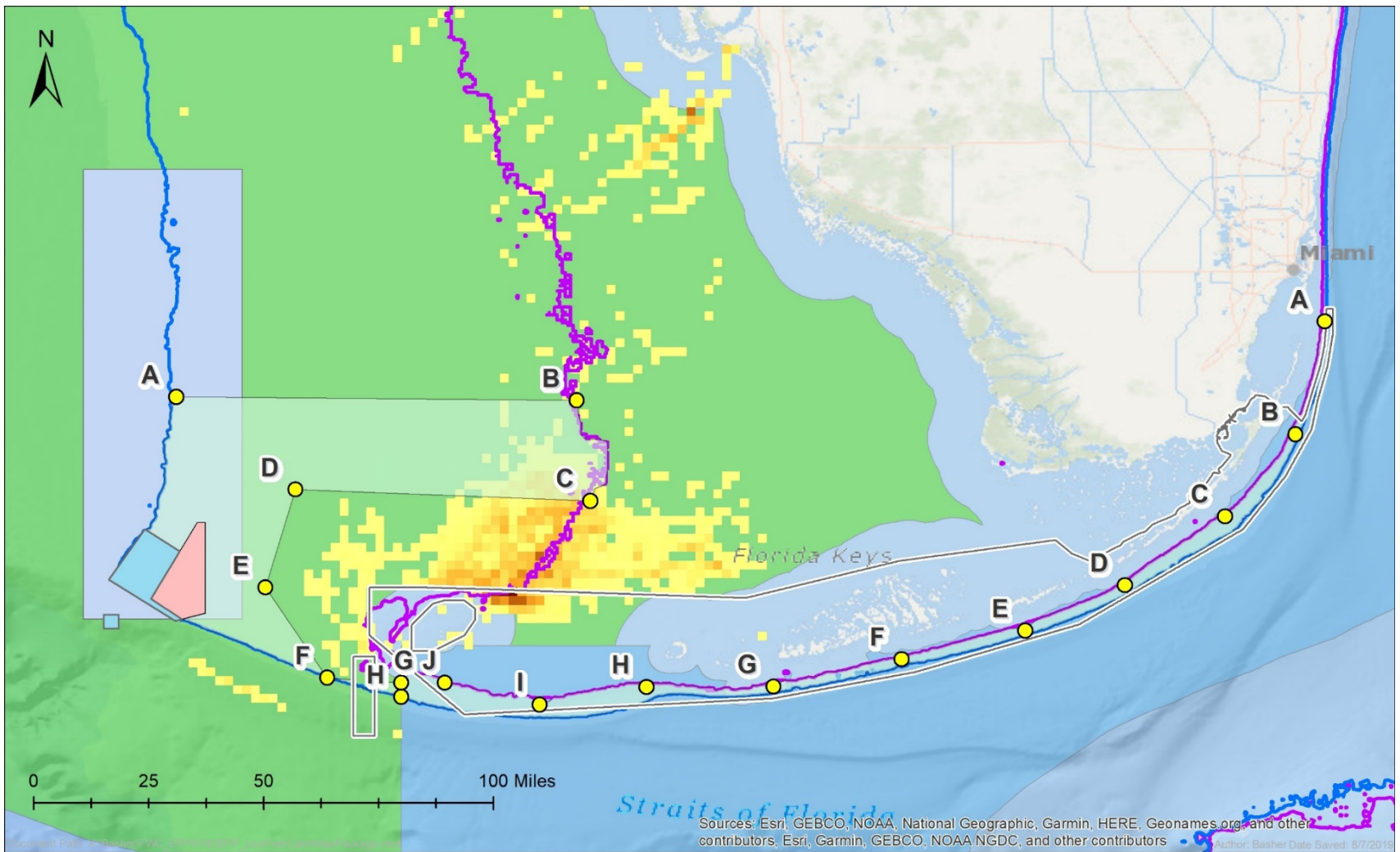
Standard and modified wire spiny lobster traps will be fished in a trawl – max 32 traps/trawl with no more than 2 vertical lines and buoys.

Traps will have various funnel and escape gap dimensions and locations. Some traps will be outfitted with lionfish optical recognition technology.

Changes from original application

	Original	Amended
Area	Alligator Reef to Looe Key Reef	SA: all Monroe Co., Gulf (see map)
Depth	100-300 ft	100-300 ft
Max traps in water at any time	100 traps	300 traps (200 SA, 100 Gulf)
Max trips	40/year	160/year
Soak time	21 days	28 days
Vessels	2	8
Endorsement, stamp, or certification	Required	Not required
Sale of other species	Allowed	Not allowed





Legends

- Pulley Ridge HAPC
- Pulley Ridge South
- Coral 9 (Proposed)
- Florida Keys NMS Boundary

- FMC Jurisdiction**
- Gulf of Mexico
 - South Atlantic
- Depth Contours**
- 90 meters (295 ft)
 - 30 meters (98 ft)

- Shrimping Efforts**
- Total Count upto 2017**
- High : 8976
 - Low : 1

- Proposed EFP Area

Conditions of the current EFP

- No traps in waters less than 30 meters deep, to avoid ESA - listed corals.
- No traps around known HAPCs.
- Bycatch species must be returned to the water as soon as possible.
- Line between traps fished in a trawl should be limited to the minimum length necessary.
- Traps must be weighted with a minimum amount of weight necessary to avoid trap movement after deployment.
- Lines must have weights to prevent excess additional line from floating at the surface.
- All traps must have a degradable panel to minimize adverse impacts from ghost fishing if trap is lost.
- Surface buoys for research trawls are to be marked with "LF" to identify experimental lionfish traps.