

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT—HABITAT AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN (EFH-HAPC) AND CORAL HABITAT AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN (C-HAPC)**

FMP Name	EFH-HAPC Description/Coordinates	Protection Measures
Shrimp	All coastal inlets, all state-designated habitats of particular importance to shrimp, state-identified overwintering areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Prohibition on trawling for rock shrimp the <i>Oculina</i> Bank</li> <li>* Mandatory use of bycatch reduction devices in the penaeid shrimp fishery</li> <li>* Mandatory use of Vessel Monitoring System in the rock shrimp fishery</li> <li>* Concurrent closure of the EEZ to penaeid shrimping if environmental conditions in state waters are such that the over wintering spawning stock is severely depleted</li> <li>* SAFMC policies on beach dredging and filling and large-scale coastal engineering; energy exploration, development and transportation; protection and enhancement of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat; alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows; ocean dredged material disposal sites and underwater berm creation.</li> </ul>
<i>Sargassum</i>	All areas within the EEZ that contain <i>Sargassum</i> population (Rejected by NMFS – Council to readdress. This pelagic habitat is protected through the Fishery Management Plan for Pelagic <i>Sargassum</i> Habitat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Prohibition on all harvest of <i>Sargassum</i> in the EEZ south of the SC-NC border</li> <li>* Prohibition on all harvest of <i>Sargassum</i> in the EEZ within 100 miles of shore off North Carolina</li> <li>* Harvest allowed only between November and June</li> <li>* Total allowable catch (TAC) = 5,000 lbs landed wet weight</li> <li>* Official observer must be present on each <i>Sargassum</i> harvesting trip</li> <li>* SAFMC policies on beach dredging and filling and large-scale coastal engineering; energy exploration, development and transportation; protection and enhancement of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat; alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows; ocean dredged material disposal sites and underwater berm creation.</li> </ul>

SAFMC EFH-HAPC and C-HAPC

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Red drum	all coastal inlets, all state-designated nursery habitats of particular importance to red drum; documented sites of spawning aggregations in NC, SC, GA and FL described in the Habitat Plan; other spawning areas identified in the future; and habitats identified for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Closed to possession or harvest in or from the EEZ</li> <li>* SAFMC policies on beach dredging and filling and large-scale coastal engineering; energy exploration, development and transportation; protection and enhancement of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat; alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows; ocean dredged material disposal sites and underwater berm creation.</li> </ul>
Snapper Grouper Complex	medium to high profile offshore hard bottoms where spawning normally occurs; localities of known or likely periodic spawning aggregations; nearshore hard bottom areas; The Point, The Ten Fathom Ledge, and Big Rock (North Carolina); The Charleston Bump (South Carolina); mangrove habitat; seagrass habitat; oyster/shell habitat; all coastal inlets; all state-designated nursery habitats of particular importance to snapper grouper; pelagic and benthic <i>Sargassum</i> ; Hoyt Hills for wreckfish; the <i>Oculina</i> Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern; all hermatypic coral habitats and reefs; manganese outcroppings on the Blake Plateau; and Council-designated Artificial Reef Special Management Zones (SMZs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Prohibition on the use of the following gears to protect habitat: bottom longlines in the EEZ inside of 50 fathoms or anywhere south of St. Lucie Inlet, FL; fish traps, bottom tending (roller-rig) trawls on live bottom habitat, and entanglement gear</li> <li>* Prohibition on the harvest or possession of all snapper grouper species in the <i>Oculina</i> Experimental Closed Area</li> <li>* Prohibition on the use of explosive charges, including powerheads, in the EEZ off South Carolina</li> <li>* SAFMC policies on beach dredging and filling and large-scale coastal engineering; energy exploration, development and transportation; protection and enhancement of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat; alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows; ocean dredged material disposal sites and underwater berm creation</li> <li>* Prohibition or restriction of highly efficient and potentially damaging fishing gears that are not compatible with the intent of the SMZ permittee for the artificial reef or fish attraction device.</li> <li>* Prohibition on take, damage and possession in the EEZ of prohibited corals (except under a federal permit for scientific, educational, or restoration purposes), wild live rock, aquacultured live rock without the required federal permit, octocorals north of Cape Canaveral (FL) or sea fans.</li> </ul>

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Spiny lobster	Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay, Card Sound, and coral/hard bottom habitat from Jupiter Inlet, Florida through the Dry Tortugas, Florida.	<p>* SAFMC policies on beach dredging and filling and large-scale coastal engineering; energy exploration, development and transportation; protection and enhancement of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat; alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows; ocean dredged material disposal sites and underwater berm creation</p> <p>* Prohibition on take, damage and possession in the EEZ of prohibited corals (except under a federal permit for scientific, educational, or restoration purposes), wild live rock, aquacultured live rock without the required federal permit, octocorals north of Cape Canaveral (FL) or sea fans.</p> <p>* Prohibition on the use of the following gears to protect habitat: bottom longlines in the EEZ inside of 50 fathoms or anywhere south of St. Lucie Inlet, FL; fish traps, bottom tending (roller-rig) trawls on live bottom habitat, and entanglement gear</p>
Coastal Migratory Pelagics	sandy shoals of Capes Lookout, Cape Fear, and Cape Hatteras from shore to the ends of the respective shoals, but shoreward of the Gulf stream; The Point, The Ten-Fathom Ledge, and Big Rock (North Carolina); The Charleston Bump and Hurl Rocks (South Carolina); The Point off Jupiter Inlet (Florida); <i>Phragmatopoma</i> (worm reefs) reefs off the central east coast of Florida; nearshore hard bottom south of Cape Canaveral; The Hump off Islamorada, Florida; The Marathon Hump off Marathon, Florida; The “Wall” off of the Florida Keys; Pelagic <i>Sargassum</i> ; and Atlantic coast estuaries with high numbers of Spanish mackerel (Bogue Sound and New River, NC) and Cobia (Broad River, SC)	<p>* Prohibition on the use of gill nets in the coastal migratory pelagics fishery</p> <p>* SAFMC policies on beach dredging and filling and large-scale coastal engineering; energy exploration, development and transportation; protection and enhancement of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat; alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows; ocean dredged material disposal sites and underwater berm creation</p> <p>* Prohibition on the use of the following gears to protect habitat: bottom longlines in the EEZ inside of 50 fathoms or anywhere south of St. Lucie Inlet, FL; fish traps, bottom tending (roller-rig) trawls on live bottom habitat, and entanglement gear.</p> <p>* Prohibition on take, damage and possession in the EEZ of prohibited corals (except under a federal permit for scientific, educational, or restoration purposes), wild live rock, aquacultured live rock without the required federal permit, octocorals north of Cape Canaveral (FL) or sea fans.</p>

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Coral, Coral Reef and live/ hardbottom habitat	The Ten-Fathom Ledge, Big Rock, and The Point; Hurl Rocks and The Charleston Bump; Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary; The <i>Phragmatopoma</i> (worm reefs) reefs off the central east coast of Florida; nearshore (0-4 meters; 0-12 feet) hard bottom off the east coast of Florida from Cape Canaveral to Broward County); offshore (5-30 meter; 15-90 feet) hard bottom off the east coast of Florida from Palm Beach County to Fowey Rocks; Biscayne Bay, Florida; Biscayne National Park, Florida; and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. <i>Oculina</i> Banks off the east coast of Florida from Ft. Pierce to Cape Canaveral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Prohibition on take, damage and possession in the EEZ of prohibited corals (except under a federal permit for scientific, educational, or restoration purposes), wild live rock, aquacultured live rock without the required federal permit, octocorals north of Cape Canaveral (FL) or sea fans.</li> <li>* A toxic chemical may not be used or possessed in a coral area in the EEZ</li> <li>* A power assisted tool may not be used to take prohibited coral, allowable octocoral or live rock</li> <li>* In the <i>Oculina</i> Bank HAPC: prohibition on bottom longline, bottom trawl, dredge, pot or trap; prohibition on anchoring, use of an anchor and chain or grapple and chain by any fishing vessel; prohibition on fishing or possession of rock shrimp from the area; prohibition on the possession of <i>Oculina</i> coral; prohibition on fishing for or retention of snapper grouper species in the Experimental Closed Area (located within the HAPC).</li> <li>* Framework procedure to modify or establish Coral HAPCs</li> <li>* SAFMC policies on beach dredging and filling and large-scale coastal engineering; energy exploration, development and transportation; protection and enhancement of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat; alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows; ocean dredged material disposal sites and underwater berm creation</li> </ul>

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Dolphin Wahoo	The Point, The Ten-Fathom Ledge, and Big Rock (North Carolina); The Charleston Bump Complex and Georgetown Hole (South Carolina); The Point off Jupiter Inlet (Florida); The Hump off Islamorada, Florida; The Marathon Hump off Marathon, Florida; The “Wall” off of the Florida Keys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Protection of dynamic benthic habitats associated with pelagic habitat. Prohibition on the use of the following gears to protect habitat: bottom longlines in the EEZ inside of 50 fathoms or anywhere south of St. Lucie Inlet, FL; fish traps, bottom tending (roller-rig) trawls on live bottom habitat, and entanglement gear.</li> <li>* Prohibition on take, damage and possession of prohibited corals, wild live rock, aquacultured live rock without the required federal permit, octocorals north of Cape Canaveral (FL) or sea fans.</li> <li>* Prohibition on all harvest of <i>Sargassum</i> in the EEZ south of the SC-NC border</li> <li>* Prohibition on all harvest of <i>Sargassum</i> in the EEZ within 100 miles of shore off North Carolina</li> <li>* SAFMC policies on beach dredging and filling and large-scale coastal engineering; energy exploration, development and transportation; protection and enhancement of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat; alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows; ocean dredged material disposal sites and underwater berm creation</li> </ul>

SAFMC EFH-HAPC and C-HAPC

C-HAPC Name	Description/Coordinates	Protection Measures
<i>Oculina</i> Bank HAPC	North boundary: 28 <sup>0</sup> 30' N. Lat; South boundary: 27 <sup>0</sup> 30' N. Lat.; East boundary: 100- fathom contour; West boundary: 80 <sup>0</sup> 00' W. Long.)	* Prohibition on take, damage and possession in the EEZ of prohibited corals (except under a federal permit for scientific, educational, or restoration purposes), wild live rock, aquacultured live rock without the required federal permit, octocorals north of Cape Canaveral (FL) or sea fans.
Satellite <i>Oculina</i> Bank HAPC #1	North boundary: 28 <sup>0</sup> 30' N. Lat.; South boundary: 28 <sup>0</sup> 29' N. Lat.; East boundary: 80 <sup>0</sup> 00' W. Long.; West boundary: 80 <sup>0</sup> 03' W. Long.)	* A toxic chemical may not be used or possessed in a coral area in the EEZ * A power assisted tool may not be used to take prohibited coral, allowable octocoral or live rock
Satellite <i>Oculina</i> Bank HAPC #2	North boundary: 28 <sup>0</sup> 17' N. Lat.; South boundary: 28 <sup>0</sup> 16' N. Lat.; East boundary: 80 <sup>0</sup> 00' W. Long.; West boundary: 80 <sup>0</sup> 03' W. Long.)	* In the <i>Oculina</i> Bank HAPC: prohibition on bottom longline, bottom trawl, dredge, pot or trap; prohibition on anchoring, use of an anchor and chain or grapple and chain by any fishing vessel; prohibition on fishing or possession of rock shrimp from the area; prohibition on the possession of <i>Oculina</i> coral; prohibition on fishing for or retention of snapper grouper species in the Experimental Closed Area (located within the HAPC). * Framework procedure to modify or establish Coral HAPCs * SAFMC policies on beach dredging and filling and large-scale coastal engineering; energy exploration, development and transportation; protection and enhancement of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat; alterations to riverine, estuarine and nearshore flows; ocean dredged material disposal sites and underwater berm creation