

## South Atlantic Mapping Strategy Overview Draft June 2017

The South Atlantic Regional Mapping Strategy is a developing comprehensive strategy and integral part of the research section of Fishery Ecosystem Plan II. This effort builds on the Council's Habitat and Ecosystem Atlas (<http://safmc.net/habitat-and-ecosystems/safmc-habitat-and-ecosystem-atlas/>) and provides an evolving prioritization to facilitate regional collaborative acquisition of data on the physical and biological characteristics of the South Atlantic region. The Strategy is being developed as a living online functional tool highlighted in the Digital Dashboard ([http://ocean.floridamarine.org/safmc\\_dashboard/](http://ocean.floridamarine.org/safmc_dashboard/)) and accessible through the Services presented in the Atlas.

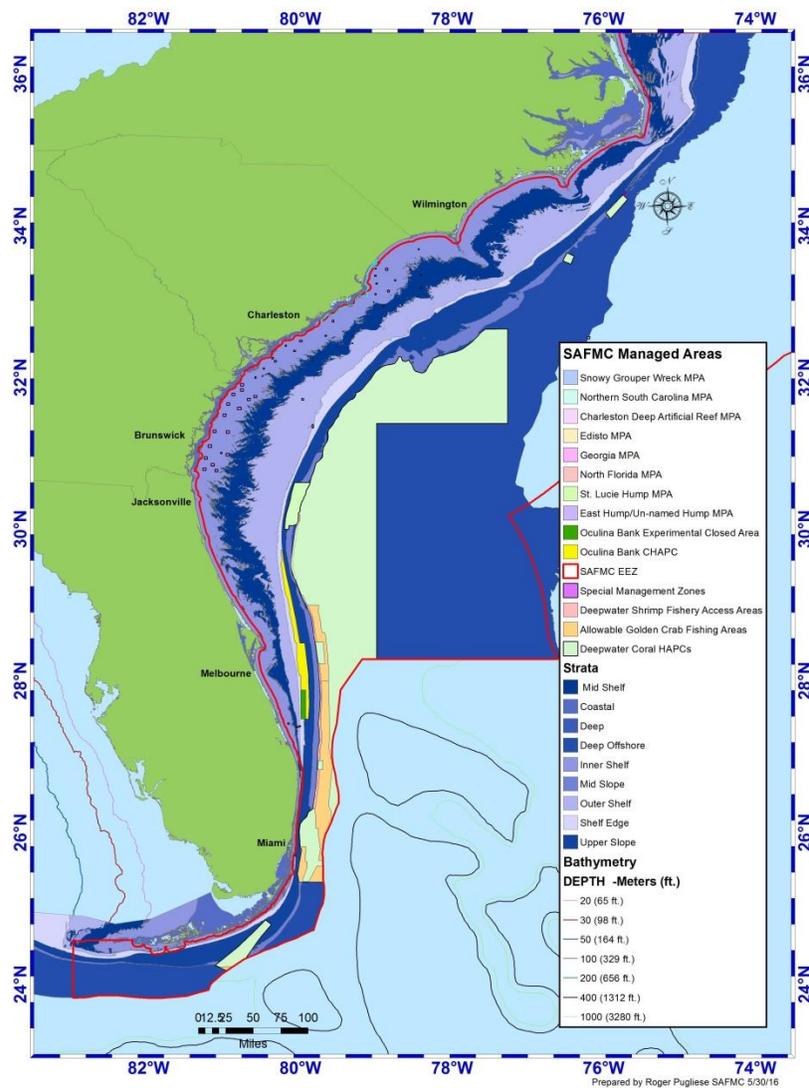


Figure 1. Snapshot of Depth Zones and Managed Areas presented in the SAFMC Habitat and Ecosystem Atlas ([http://ocean.floridamarine.org/safmc\\_atlas/](http://ocean.floridamarine.org/safmc_atlas/)).

To Facilitate development FEP II Managed Species Writing Team provided input on the spatial partitioning of offshore habitat to allow general evaluations of existing mapping efforts and further develop the Strategy the SEAMAP Species Habitat Characterization and Assessment Workgroup and Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel are being engaged along with other regional partners to refine the strategy.

Table 1. Habitat depth zones established for map strategy.

<b>Meters:</b>	<b>Categories</b>
0-5	Nearshore
5-20	Inner Shelf
20-30	Mid Shelf
30-50	Outer Shelf
50-100	Shelf Edge
100-300	Upper Slope
300-400	Mid Slope
400-5,000	Deep Offshore
>5,000	Deep

In order to build on regional partner activities and planning supporting comprehensive regional mapping and characterization the following regional efforts will be included but not limited to: the development of the 2016-2020 SEAMAP 5 Year Management Plan (<http://www.seamap.org/documents/seamapDocs/2016-2020%20SEAMAP%20Management%20Plan.pdf>) ; refinement of the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) 10 Year Build-out Plan ([http://secoora.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/default/files/webfm/SECOORA\\_BuildOut\\_Submittal\\_2Dec1011\\_VERSION5.pdf](http://secoora.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/default/files/webfm/SECOORA_BuildOut_Submittal_2Dec1011_VERSION5.pdf)) and Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System development planning; Integration of SALCC Habitat Mapping Project products; BOEM and GIS from Wind Planning Areas (<https://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-GIS-Data/>); coordination with and access to products developed pursuant to the 2016 Deep Water Coral Mapping Initiative; and continued development and linkages to distribution of managed species, prey of managed species and other regional species.

The South Atlantic Strategy focuses on needs refining mapping of benthic habitats conserved by or serving as essential fish habitat for species managed by the South Atlantic Council.

1. Identify mapping needs and requirements based on Council managed species, essential fish habitat and managed areas.
2. Develop spatial inventory of existing regional observing/mapping assets and organizations with processing capabilities.
3. Continue to expand and integrate recent mapping products in the regional repository supporting Council management the Habitat and Ecosystem Atlas providing a continual alignment of priorities presented and mapping accomplished to date.
4. Support collaboration in collection of the necessary region-wide physical characteristic data.