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**Date:** September 10, 2021 at 7:36:17 AM EDT

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**Subject: Shrimp Fishery Access Area Coral Amendment 10**

Please support Preferred Alternative #2 in Coral Amendment 10. I have been involved in the shrimp industry in Mayport Florida for over 40 years. This area has been documented as being very productive for the rock shrimp boats. Keeping it closed would be detrimental to the fishing industry. This bottom was taken away from the industry in error when Coral Amendment#8 was passed. We were promised the Amendment would be corrected and the area would be given back at a later date. The area to be released to the fisherman is not located on the coral but outside of it. Rock Shrimp vessels are required to maintain VMS equipment to ensure they are outside of the coral area at all times. Rock shrimp boats do not want to drag on coral, the safety of the crew and boat are top priority when trawling. Now is the time to give back what was taken in error. The council, in a rush to implement Coral Amendment 8, moved forward with the existing boundary with the promise to correct this negative impact on the rock shrimp fishery at a later date. That was over 7 years ago. Roger Puglese provided analysis in Coral Amendment 8 that attempted to establish economic value to VMS points and inaccurately under valued this area and erroneously assumed this area was not of value to the rock shrimp fishery. VMS was implemented in the rock shrimp fishery in the early 2000s for enforcement purposes and to prevent future taking of valuable rock shrimp fishery area.

Thank you,  
Gerald Pack  
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