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Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 11:59 AM

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Subject: Opposition to trawling within OHAPC boundaries

To The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

With regard to Amendment 10 to allow trawling within OHAPC boundaries I would like to add my voice to those opposing this short-sighted action. Much of the horrific damage done by bottom trawling around the world has gone largely undocumented, but thanks to the efforts of Prof. John Reed at HBOI the damage that has been done to the *Oculina* reef system was scientifically documented and resulted in the formation of the first marine reserve to protect a deep-water coral reef. To now subvert that achievement with this very ill advised amendment will undermine any chance of recovery of these decimated regions. The collapse of fisheries around the world have followed a very predictable pattern, going from waters teeming with life to overexploitation and collapse as agencies charged with the protection of the fishery ignore scientific data documenting clear indicators of decline and cave to short-term commercial fishing interests. Please don't let that happen here by allowing the death by a thousand cuts which would result if you permit trawling within OHAPC boundaries.

Sincerely,

Edith Widder

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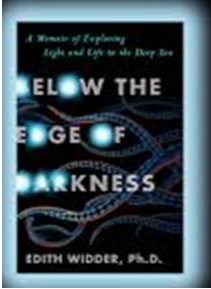
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*The **Ocean Research & Conservation Association** is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and the species they sustain through the development of innovative technologies and science based conservation action.*

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