Amendment 10 to the Coral, Coral Reefs and Live Hard bottom Habitat FMP

Public Hearing Presentation
May 2021
Prepared by Roger Pugliese
How do I work the webinar?

To unmute (or mute) your microphone, click the microphone icon.

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment click on the hand icon and we will unmute you.

You can type a question into the text box.
Council Process – FMP/Plan Amendment

**FISHERY ISSUE:**  
Management Need Identified

**SCOPING:**  
Public provides comments on ways to address management need  
Council reviews input/ develops management actions and alternatives

**PUBLIC HEARING:**  
Public provides comments on management actions and alternatives  
Council reviews input/ modifies amendment and selects preferred alternatives

**FINAL APPROVAL:**  
Last Chance for Public Input at Council Meeting
Outline

**WHAT** is being proposed

**WHY** is the Council proposing action

**HOW** would the action come about and how might it affect you

**WHEN** would the proposed action take place

**HOW** can you tell the Council what you think

Coral Amendment 10
What would Coral Amendment 10 do?

• Establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern to provide limited access to traditional fishing grounds.
What would Coral Amendment 10 do?

Allow bottom trawling for rock shrimp in the shrimp fishery access area while maintaining the prohibition on use of all other bottom tending gear and anchoring.
What is the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern?

- Established in 1982 and expanded in 1996 and 2014, the OHAPC is located off the east coast of Florida. Fishing with bottom tending gear or anchoring is prohibited to protect the deepwater Oculina coral ecosystem.
Rock Shrimp Fishery

• Rock shrimp are harvested by large bottom trawl vessels towing four nets at a time for several hours.

• Catches of rock shrimp have been variable with storms, abundance, regulations, and other factors impacting landings.

• The fishery had its best year since 2009 in 2017 harvesting 2.7 million pounds with a value of 4.9 million dollars.
Why is the Council addressing the request to establish a SFAA?

Rock shrimp fishermen requested the Council establish a SFAA to provide access to this historic trawling area indicating the fishery is variable and at times operated slightly inshore of the northern extension of the OHAPC.
Where is the proposed Shrimp Fishery Access Area?

• Located along the eastern boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Coral HAPC.
Currently: No shrimp fishery access areas in the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern.

Preferred Alternative 2.
• Establish a 22 square mile SFAA
• Allow a shrimp vessel with a valid limited access Commercial Permit to fish for Rock Shrimp in the SFAA.

Alternative 3.
• Establish a 32 Square Mile SFAA
• Allow a shrimp vessel with a valid limited access commercial Permit for Rock Shrimp to bottom trawl for rock shrimp within the SFAA.

Coral Amendment 10
Alternatives

Coral Amendment 10

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Preferred Alternative 2

Northern Extension
Oculina HAPC (North)
SFAA Preferred Alternative 2
Mapped Habitat (2011 and 2017)

- SFAA Preferred Alternative 2 Coordinates
- SFAA Preferred Alternative 2
2017 and 2011 Mapping

Relief:
- 68m
- 81m
- 96m
- 108m

Oculina Bank CHAPC

Coral Amendment 10

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Northern Extension
Oculina HAPC (South)
SFAA Preferred Alternative 2
Mapped Habitat (2011 and 2017)

- SFAA Preferred Alternative 2 Coordinates
- SFAA Preferred Alternative 2

2017 and 2011 Mapping
Relief
- 68m
- 81m
- 95m
- 108m

Oculina Bank CHAPC
Alternative 3

Coral Amendment 10

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Northern Extension
Oculina HAPC (South)
SFAA Alternative 3
Mapped Habitat (2011 and 2017)

- SFAA Alternative 3 Coordinates
- SFAA Alternative 3
- Oculina Bank CHAPC

2017 and 2011 Mapping

Relief
- 68m
- 81m
- 95m
- 108m

Pt. 3 Alt 3 width 1,035m
Pt. 4 Alt 3 width 986m
Pt. 5 Alt. 3 width 994m

Low relief bottom

Oculina pinnacles
Action 1 - Possible Effects

**Biological:** Not establishing a SFAA- no negative biological impacts

**Preferred Alternative 2 and Alternative 3**
- negative impacts to deep-water coral habitat but expected to be low considering:
  - mapping in area shows no high relief coral habitat
  - rock shrimp occurrence and fishing in area is variable
  - fishermen expected to target rock shrimp in productive areas previously trawled and impacted
- direct effects to unmapped low relief habitat
- indirect effects to coral could result through influx of suspended sediments created while bottom trawling
Action 1 - Possible Effects

Economic: Not establishing a SFAA - no change in economic benefits

Preferred Alternative 2 and Alternative 3
• increases in catches of rock shrimp and increase in direct net economic benefits
• similar economic effects

Alternative 3
• higher economic benefits since this alternative would allow access to an additional 10 square miles of fishing grounds
Action 1 - Possible Effects

**Social:** Not establishing a SFAA - minimal social effects

**Preferred Alternative 2 and Alternative 3**
- addresses stakeholder concerns regarding access to historically important fishing grounds
- improve stakeholder perceptions of the management process
- expected to have greater social benefit than not establishing a SFAA

**Preferred Alternative 2**
- slightly higher social benefit because it represents the most recent recommendation by rock shrimp fishermen.
When would the proposed changes take place?

- Public hearings – **May 2021**
- Council reviews public hearing comments and approves actions – **June 2021**
- Council approves for submission to NMFS – **September 2021**
- Changes to regulations effective – **2022**
How do I Comment?

**Verbal Public Comment** will be accepted during the webinars on May 12 & 13, 2021 following the presentation and questions. **Other comments must be received by May 14, 2021 at 5 PM** to be included in the public hearing record for the amendment.

- **Written Comments:** Use the online form to submit written comment electronically:
  - Submit Comment
  - Read Public Comment
- **Comments by Mail:** Send comments to John Carmichael, Executive Director, SAFMC, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405
- **Comments by Fax:** 843/769-4520
- View presentations and access the public hearing documents from the [Public Hearing and Scoping Meeting page](#) or contact the Council office at 843/571-4366 (toll free 866/SAFMC-10).
Webinars

Webinar attendees must register to participate. Registration information is posted on the Council’s website.

Public Hearing: Establishing a Shrimp Fishery Access Area along the Northern Extension of the Oculina Bank Coral Habitat Area of Particular Concern (Coral Amendment 10)

**May 12, 2021 Webinar**
- Webinar Registration:  **Wed, May 12, 2021, 5 PM**

**May 13, 2021 Webinar**
- Webinar Registration:  **Thurs, May 13, 2021, 5 PM**
QUESTIONS?

Roger.Pugliese@safmc.net
(843) 302-8434