



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



Public Hearing Presentation

May 2021

Prepared by Roger Pugliese

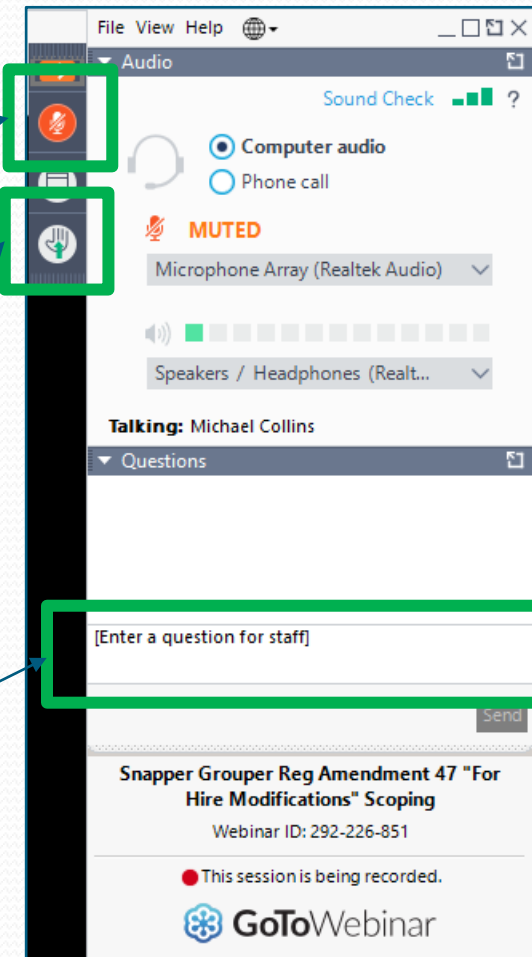


How do I work the webinar?

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*



Coral Amendment 10

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



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



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.



Coral Amendment 10

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



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.

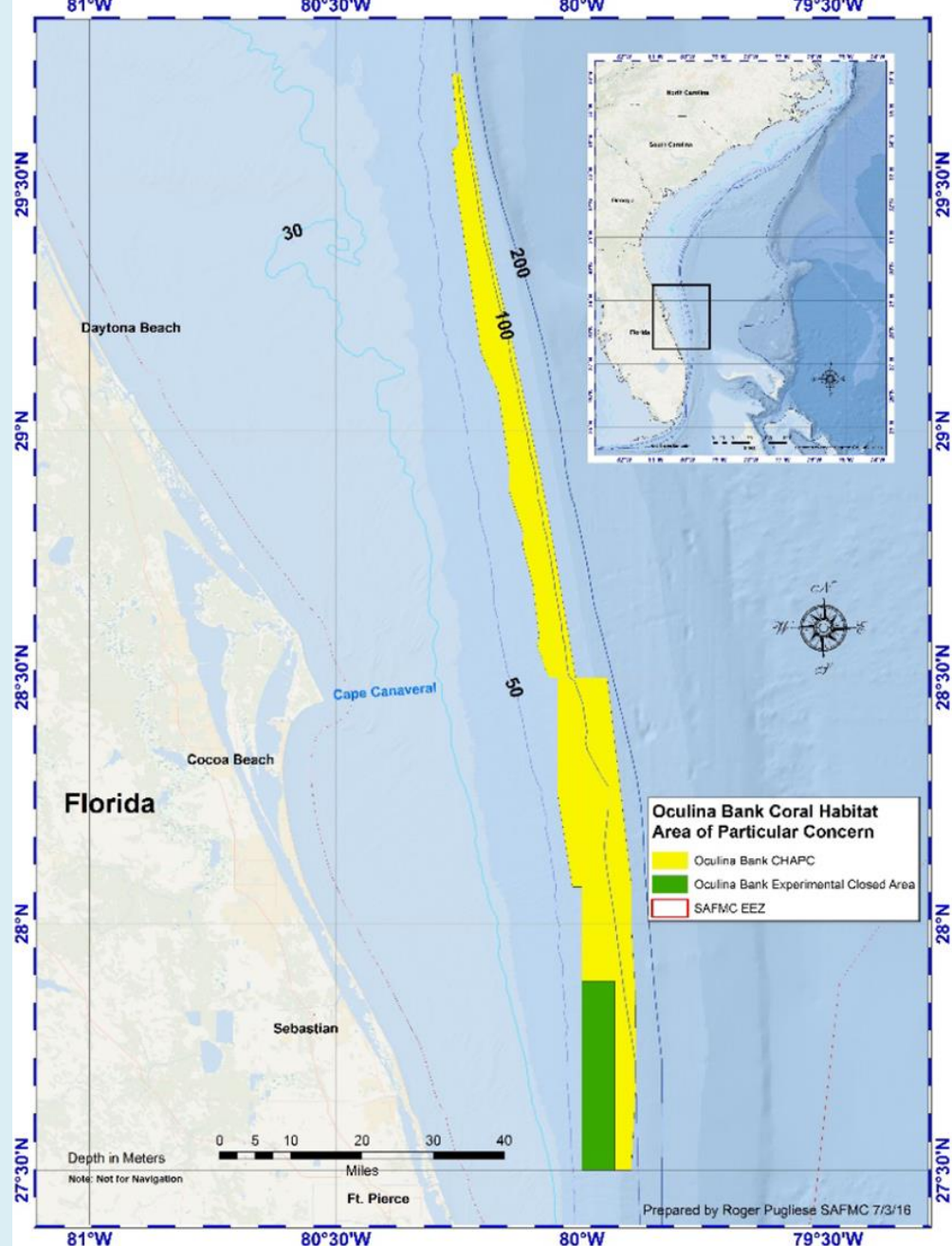
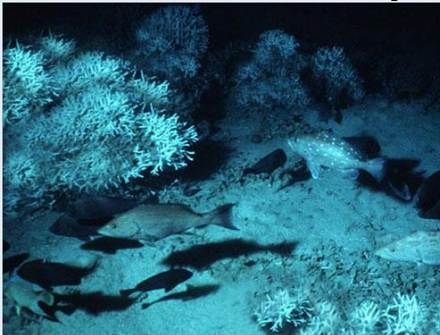


Coral Amendment 10



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.



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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.

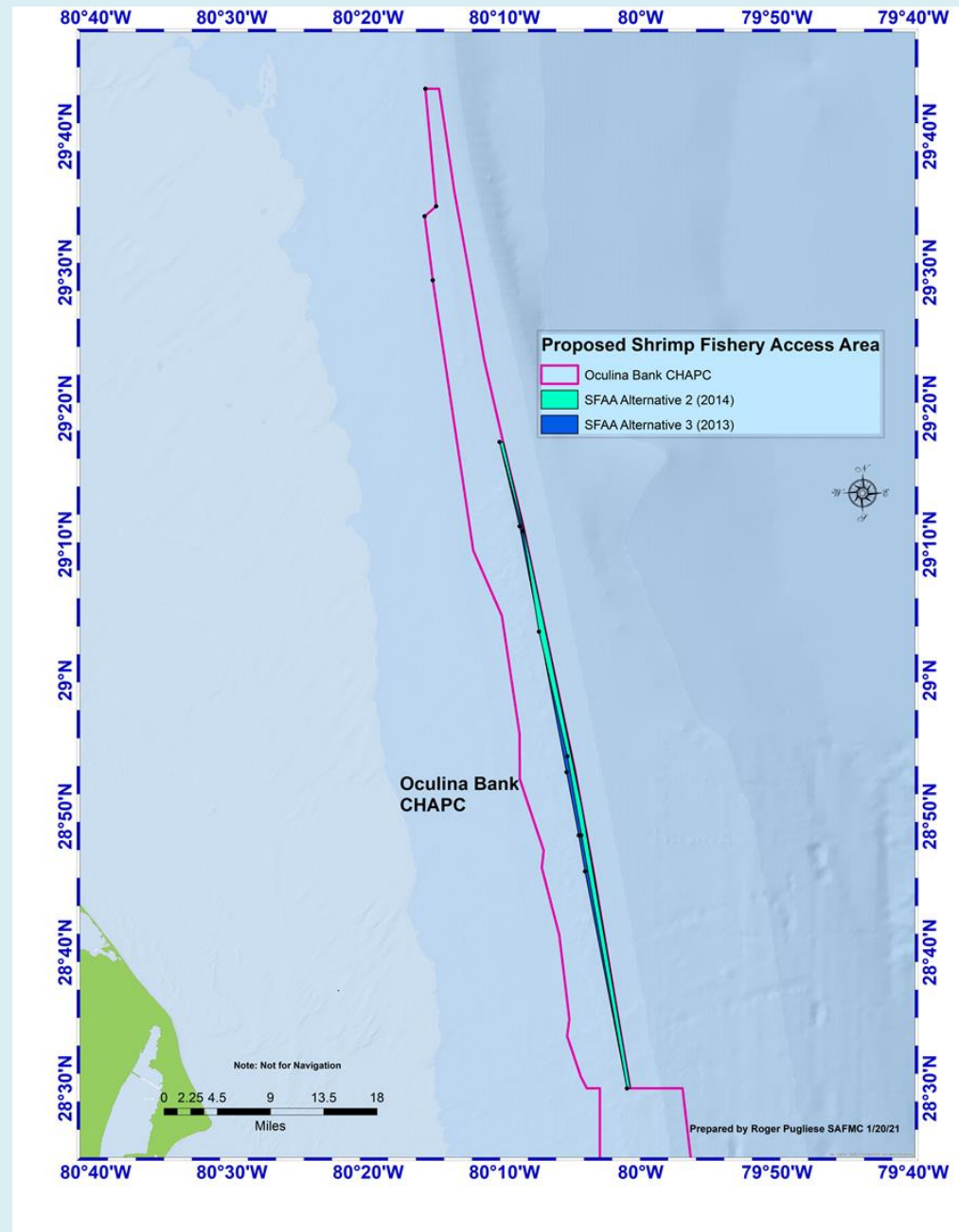


Coral Amendment 10



Where is the proposed Shrimp Fishery Access Area?

- Located along the eastern boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Coral HAPC.



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Currently: No shrimp fishery access areas in the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern.

Preferred Alternative 2.

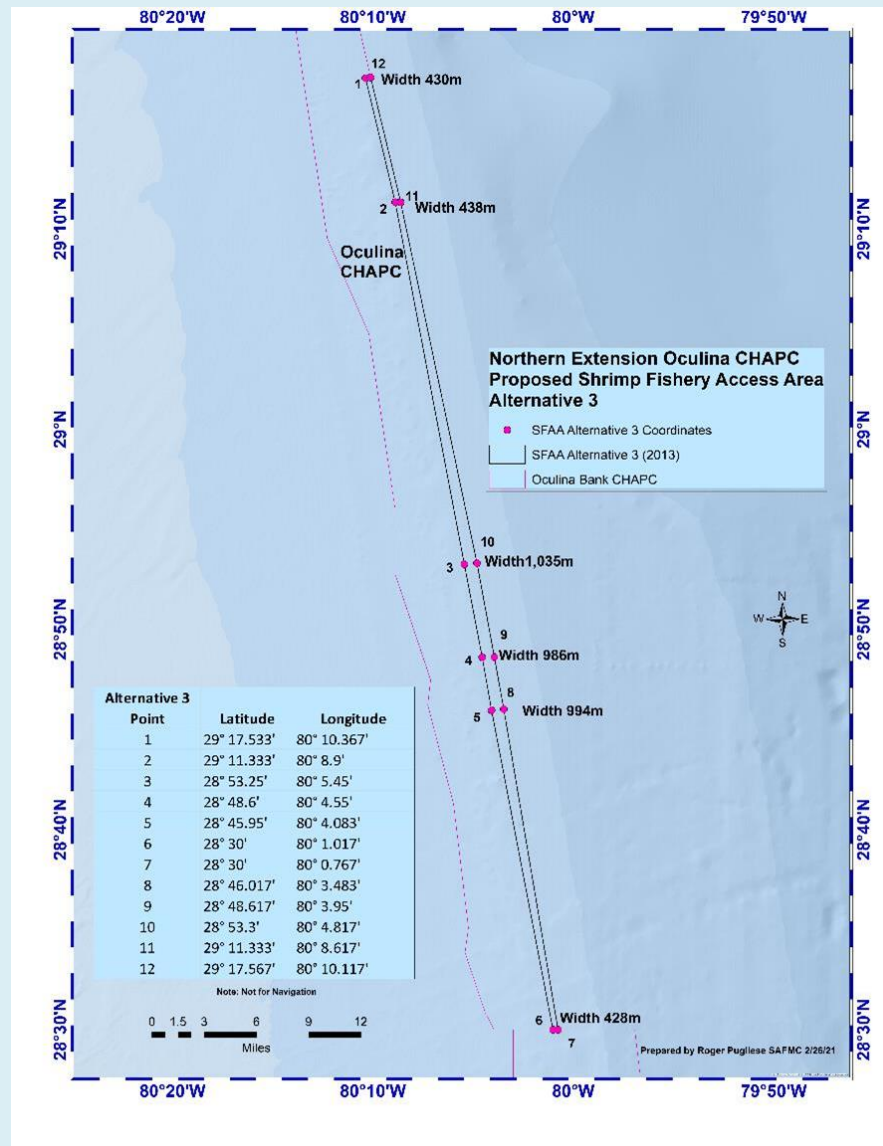
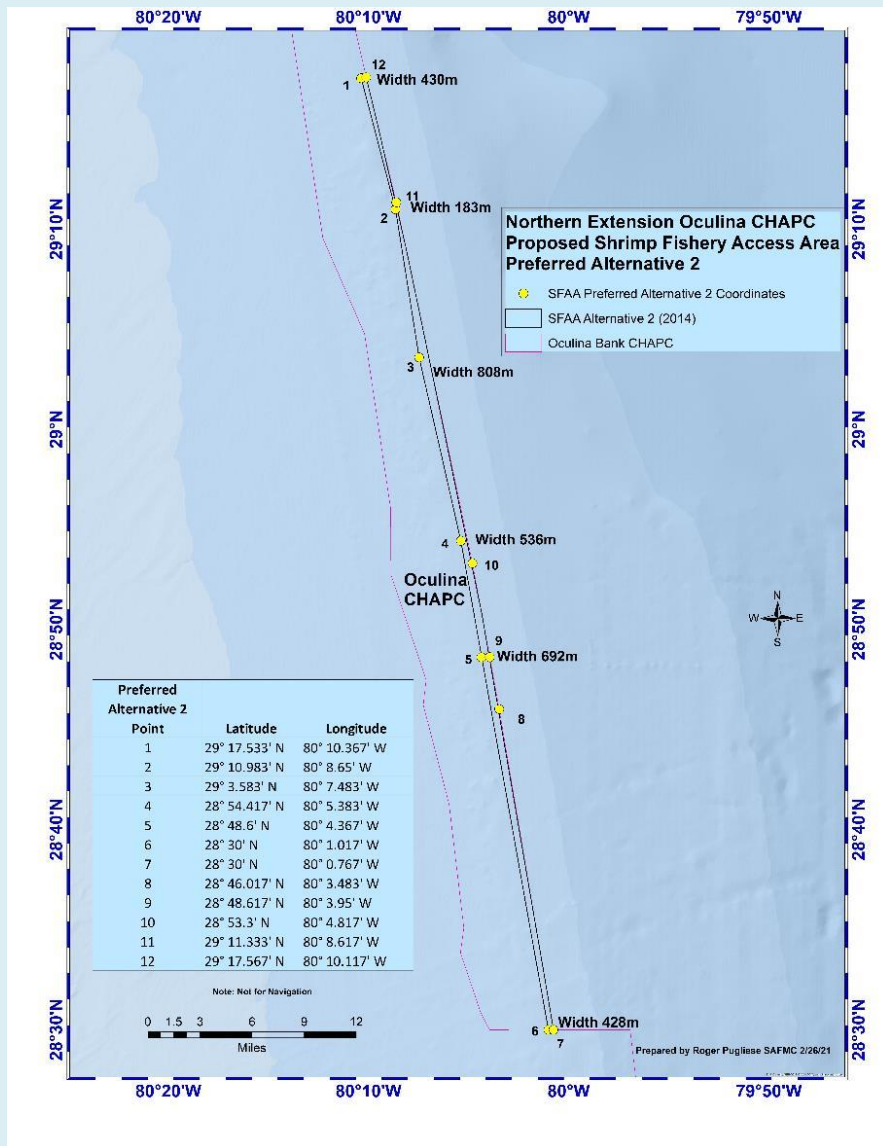
- Establish a 22 square mile SFAA
- Allow a shrimp vessel with a valid limited access Commercial Permit to fish for Rock Shrimp in the SFAA.

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.



Alternatives

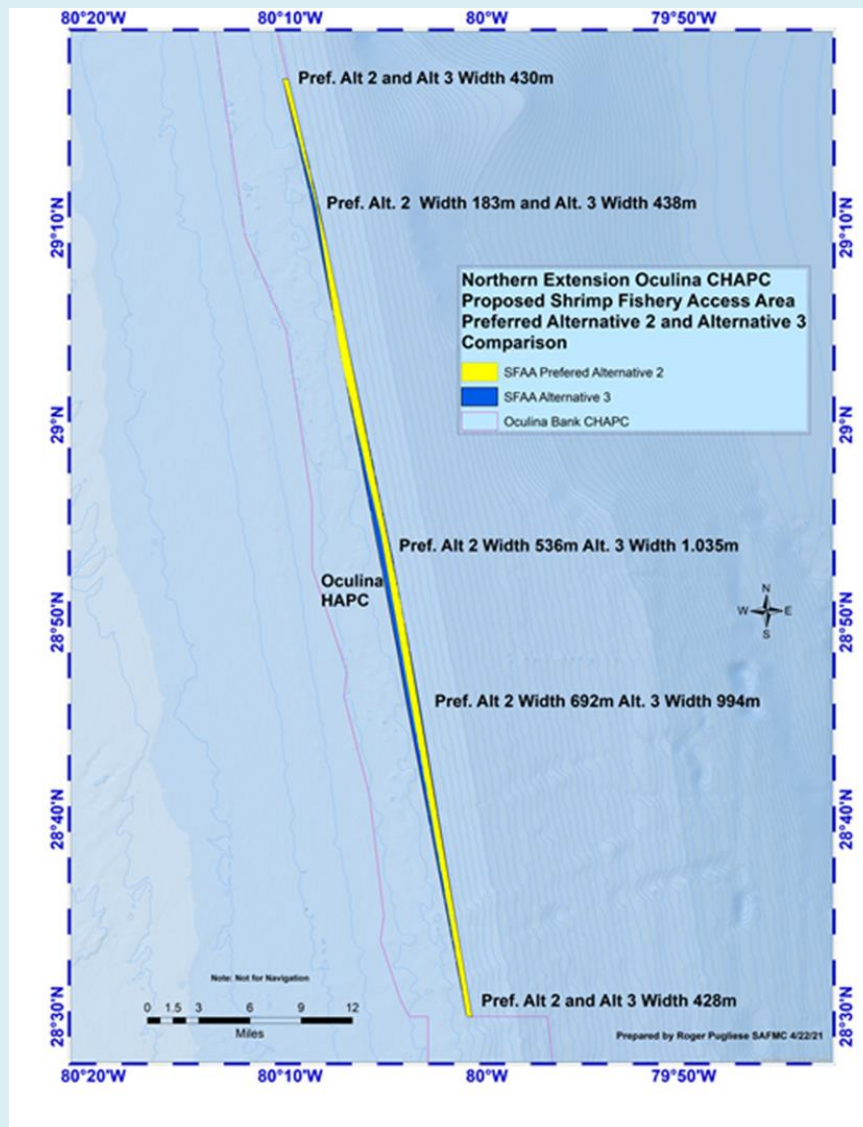


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Alternatives

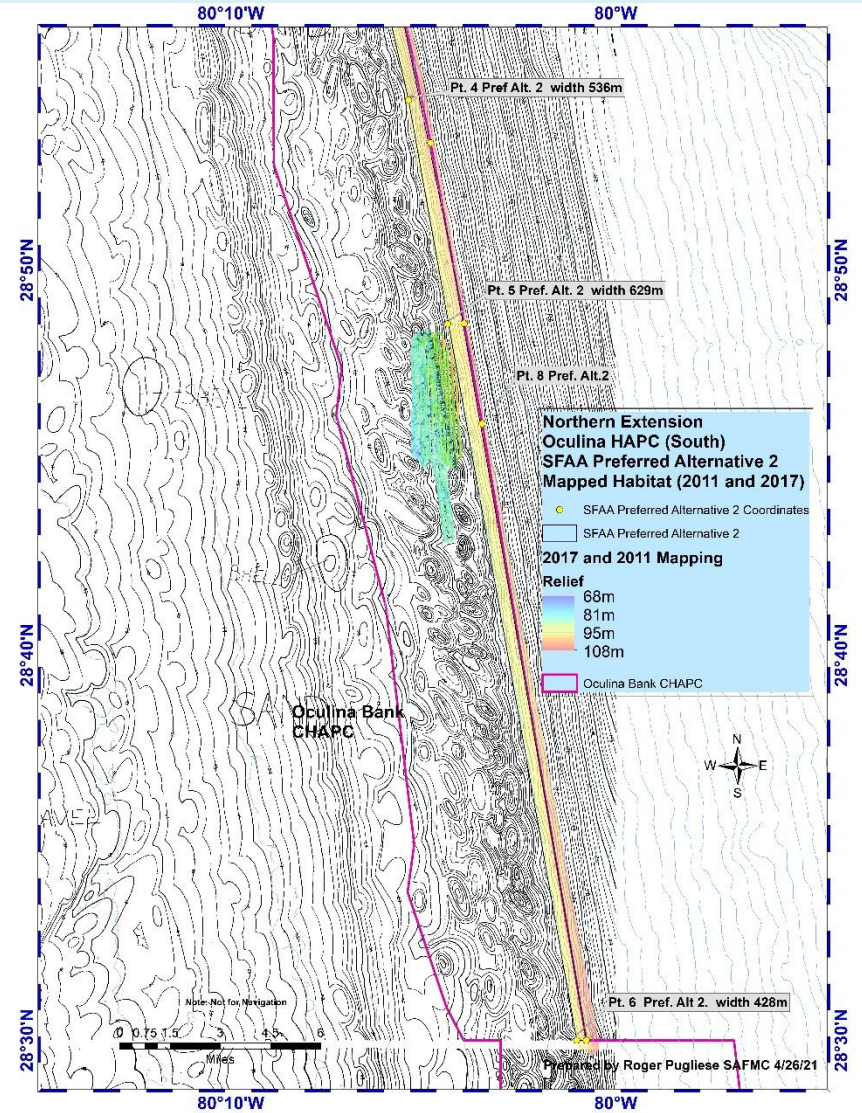
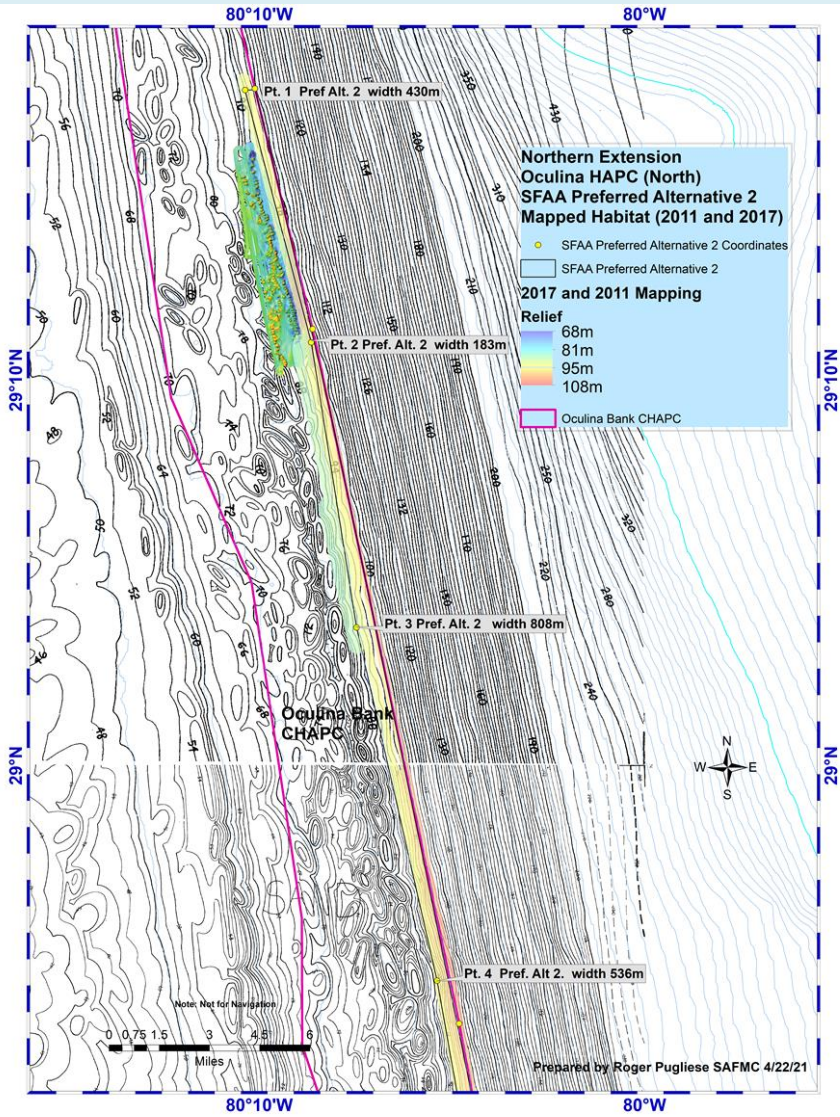


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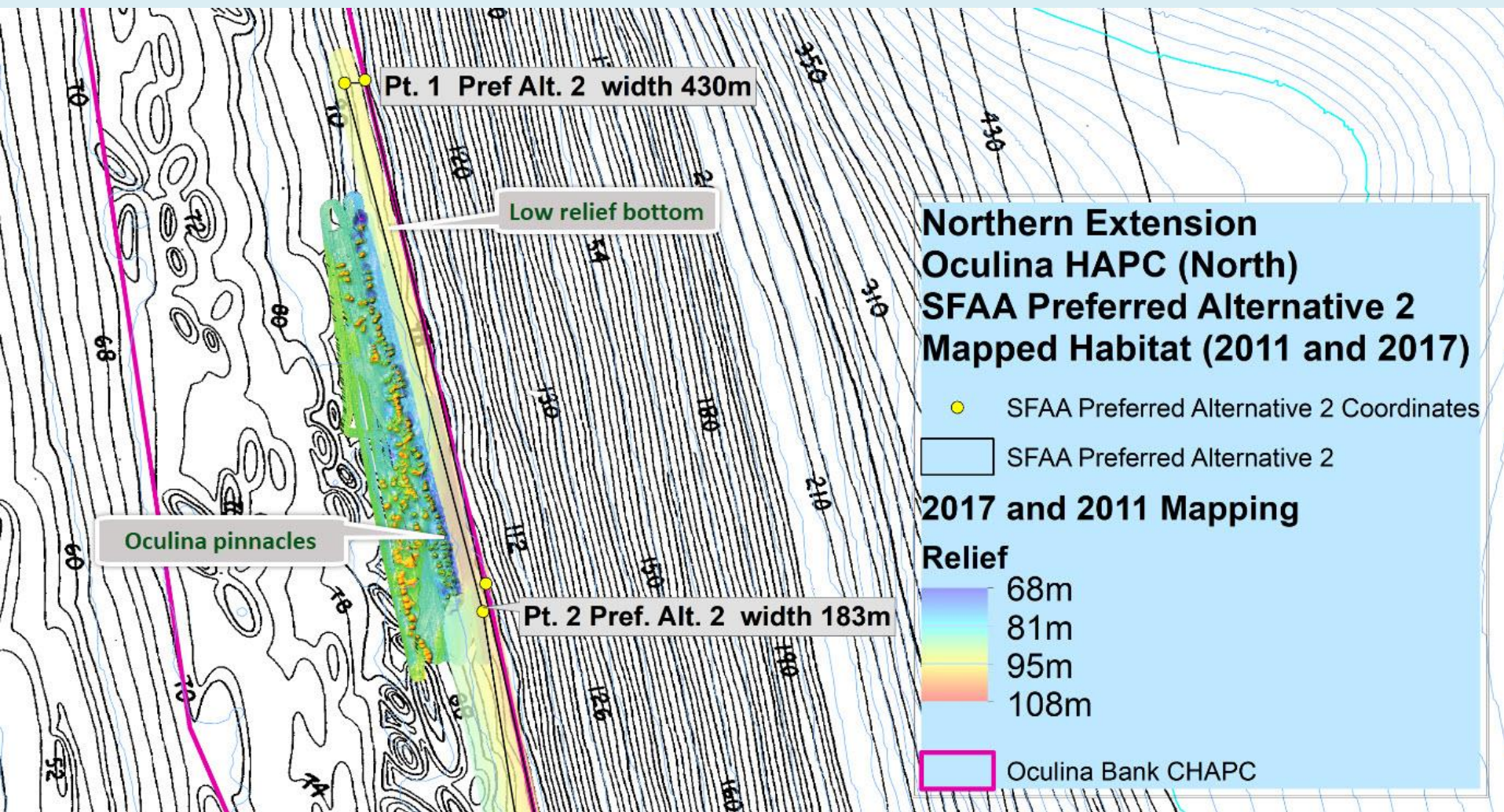


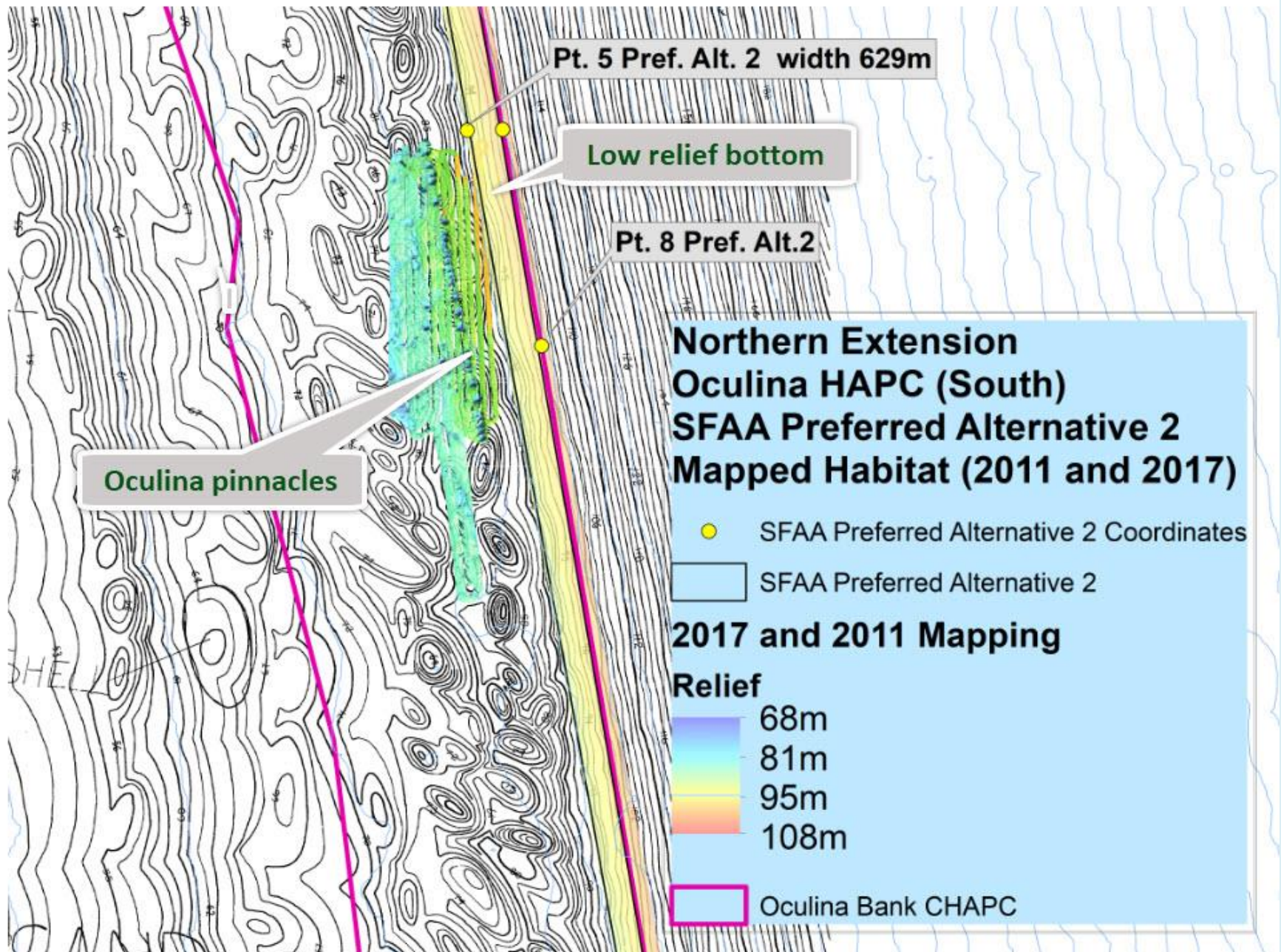
Preferred Alternative 2



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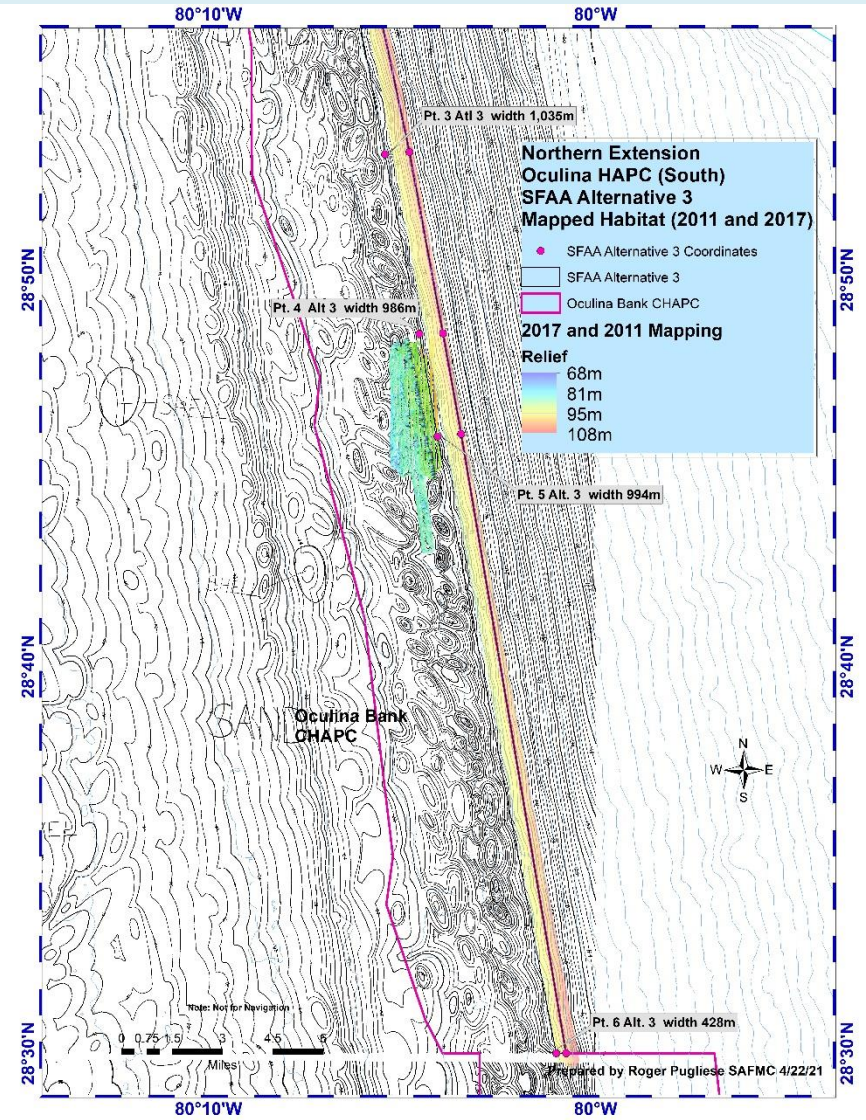
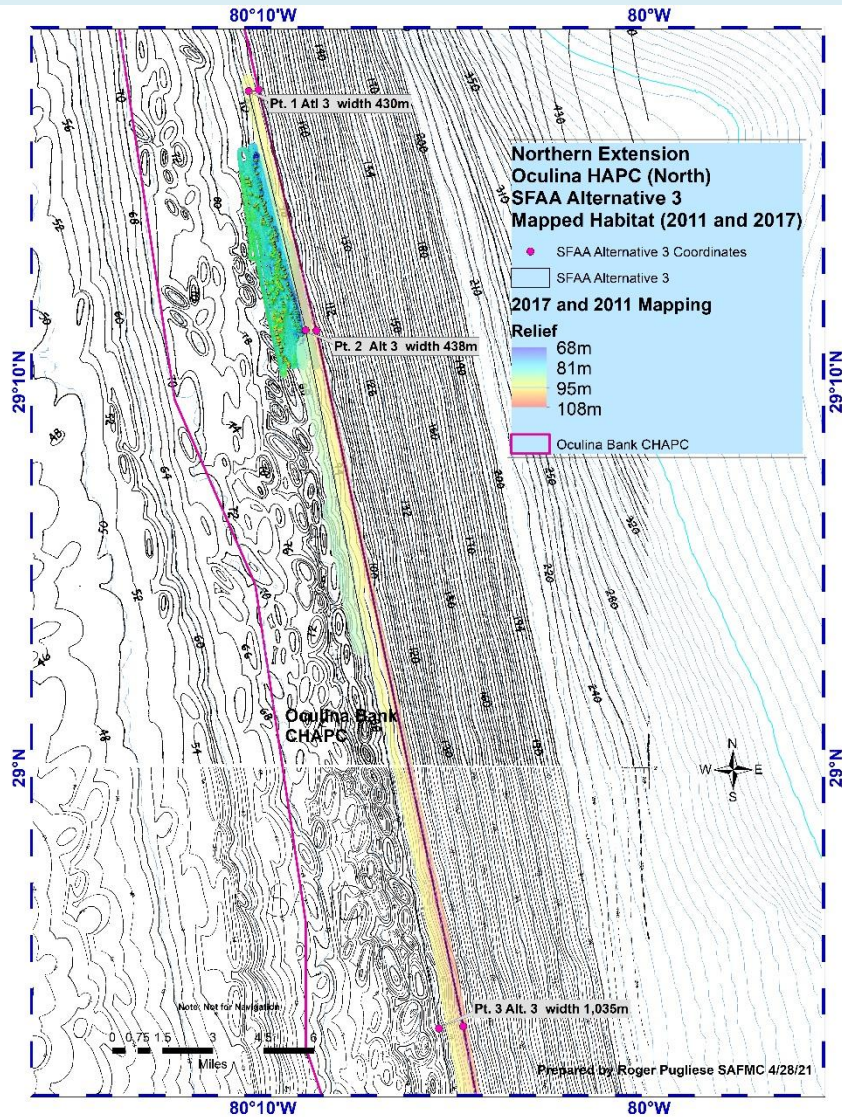


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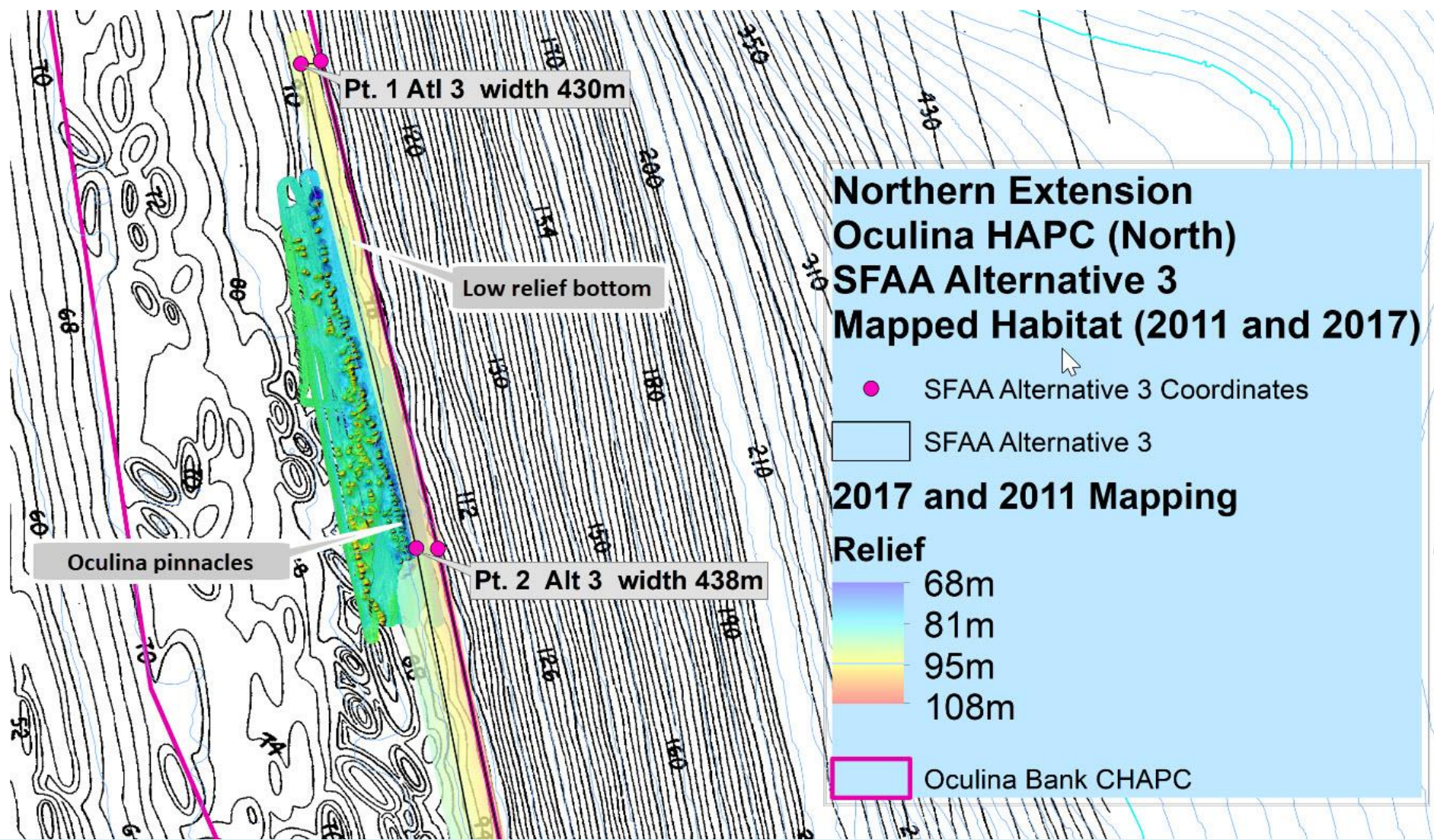


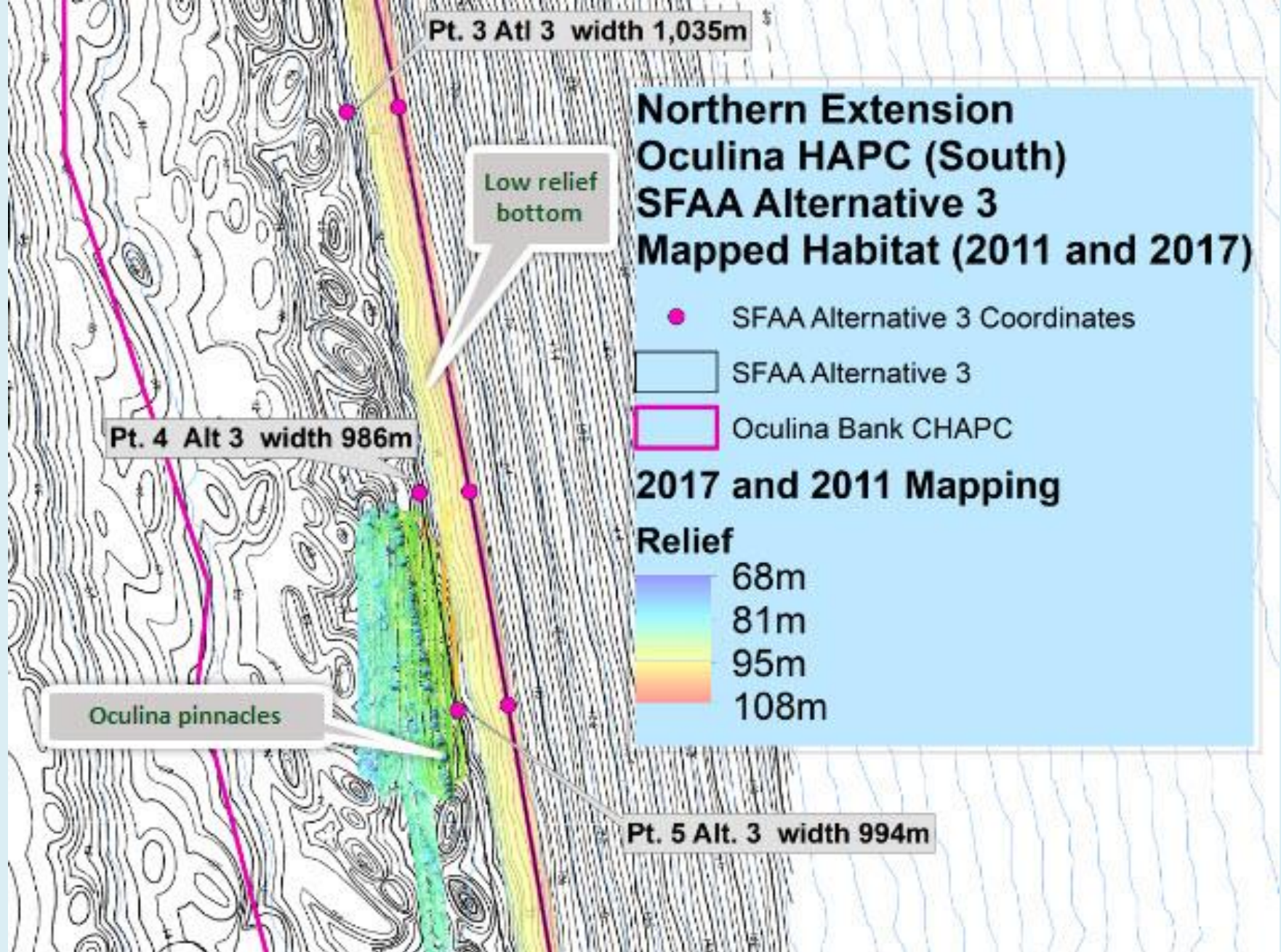
Alternative 3



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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](#)



A serene sunset scene over the ocean. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper left, casting a long, shimmering reflection down the center of the water. The sky is a gradient of warm orange and yellow. In the foreground, several seagulls are silhouetted against the dark water, standing in the shallow surf. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

QUESTIONS?

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