



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



Scoping Presentation

February 2021

Prepared by Roger Pugliese

Council Process – *FMP/Plan Amendment*



Coral Amendment 10



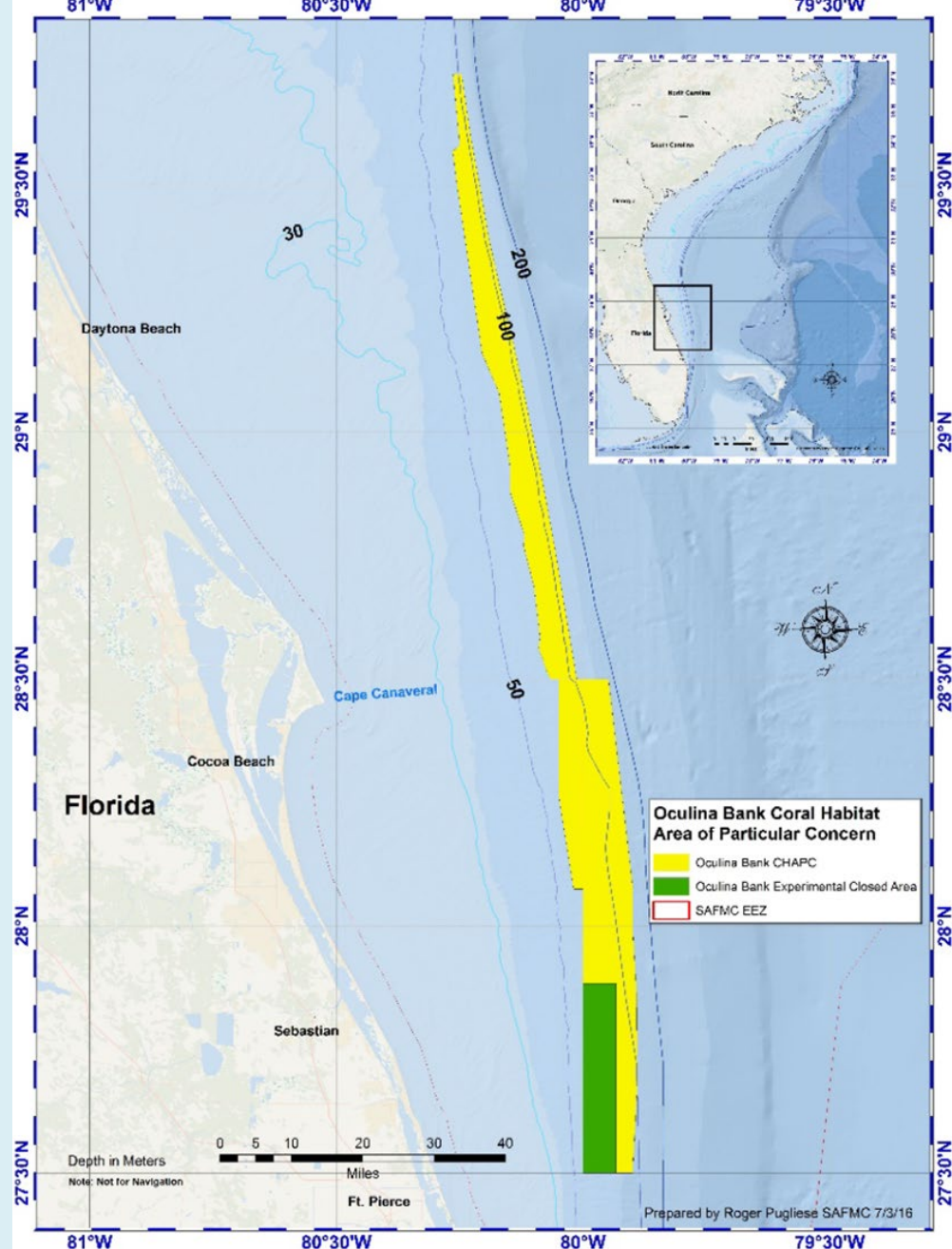
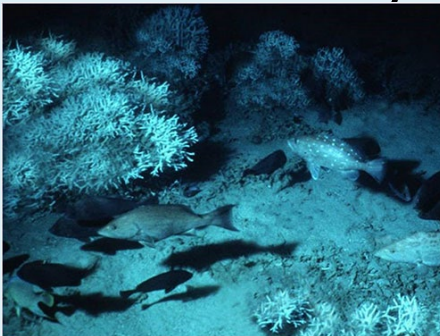
Outline

- **What** is the Oculina Bank Coral Habitat Area of Particular Concern
- **What** is the Rock Shrimp Fishery
- **What** would Coral Amendment 10 do?
- **Why** is the Council addressing the request?
- **Where** is the proposed SFAA?
- **How** can you provide additional information and tell the Council what you think



What is the Oculina Bank Coral 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.



Coral Amendment 10



What would Coral Amendment 10 do?

- Establish a rock shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Coral Habitat Area of Particular Concern to provide limited access to traditional fishing grounds.



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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



Why is the Council addressing the request to establish a SFAA?

Rock shrimp fishermen indicating the fishery is variable and at times operated slightly inshore of the northern extension of the OHAPC, have requested the Council establish a SFAA to provide access to this historic trawling area.

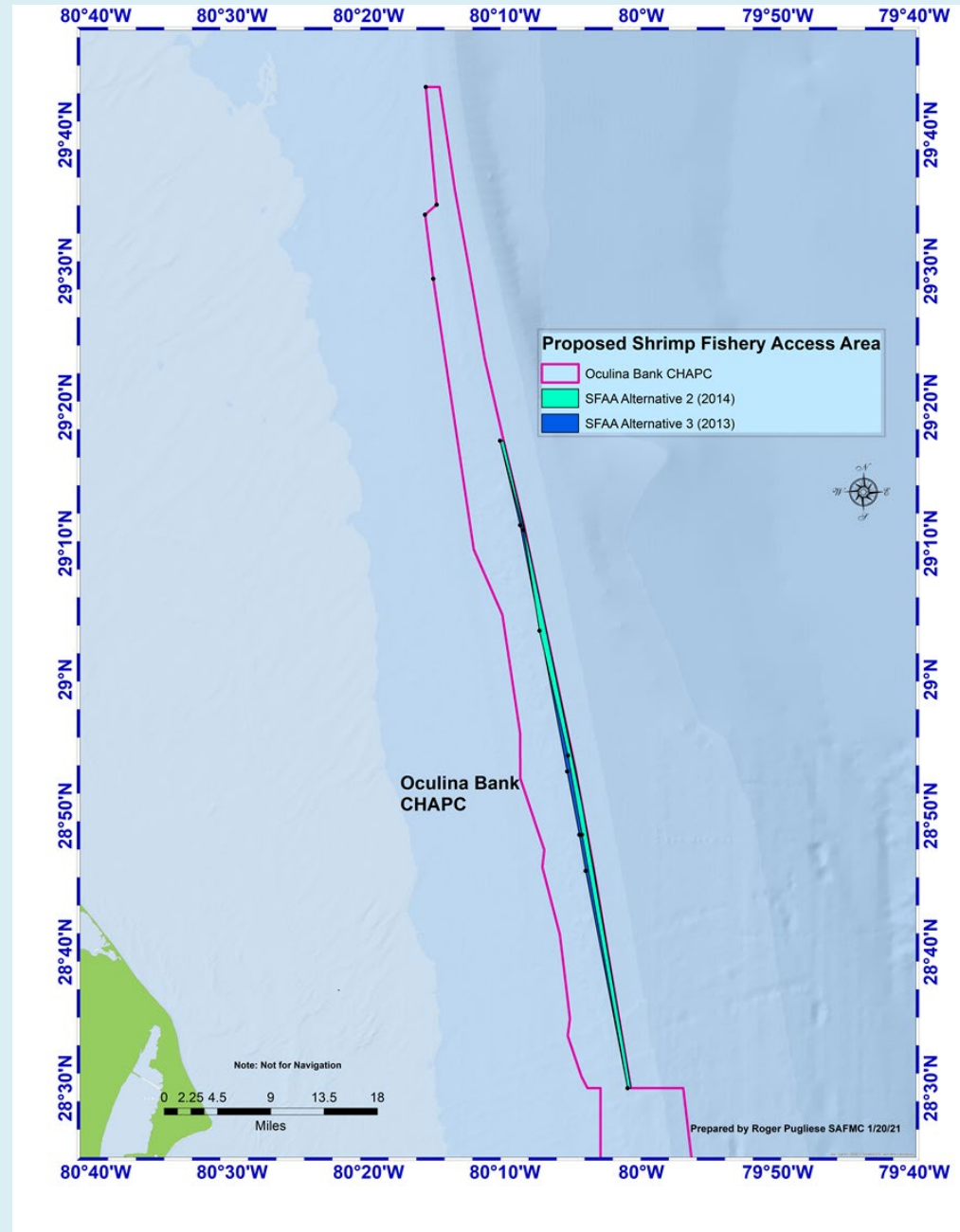


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Where is the proposed Shrimp Fishery Access Area?

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

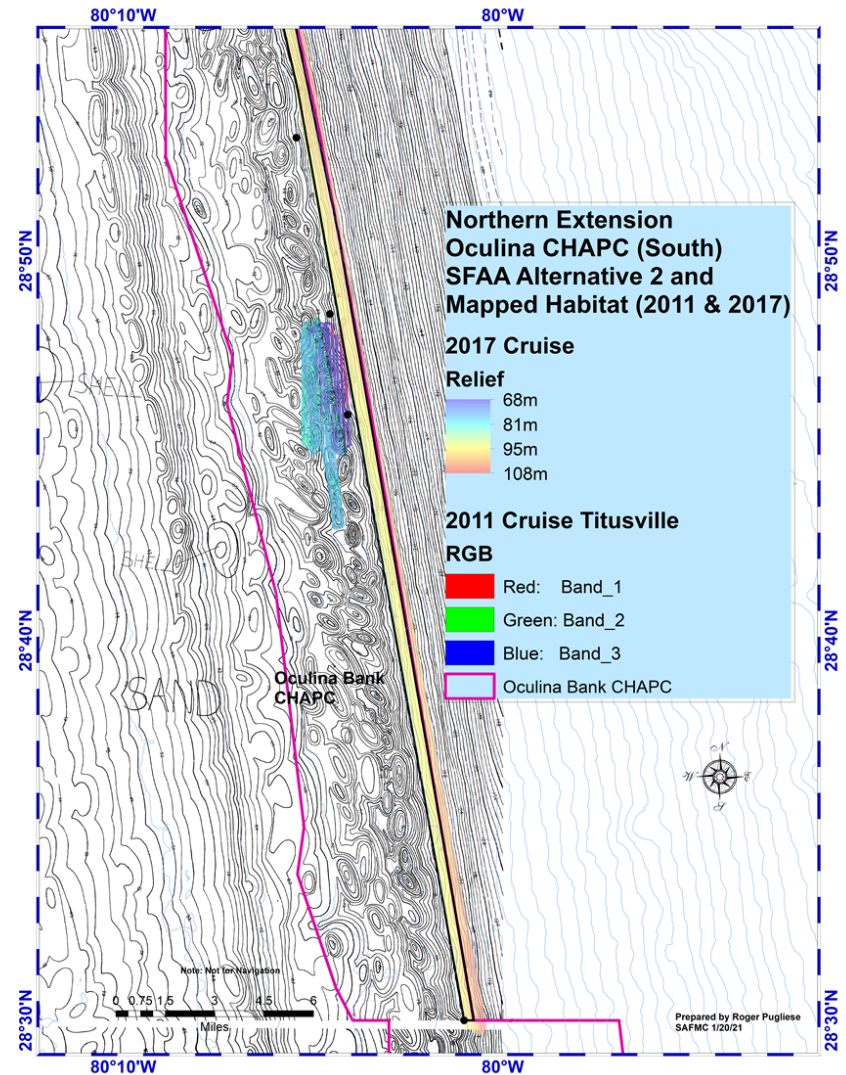
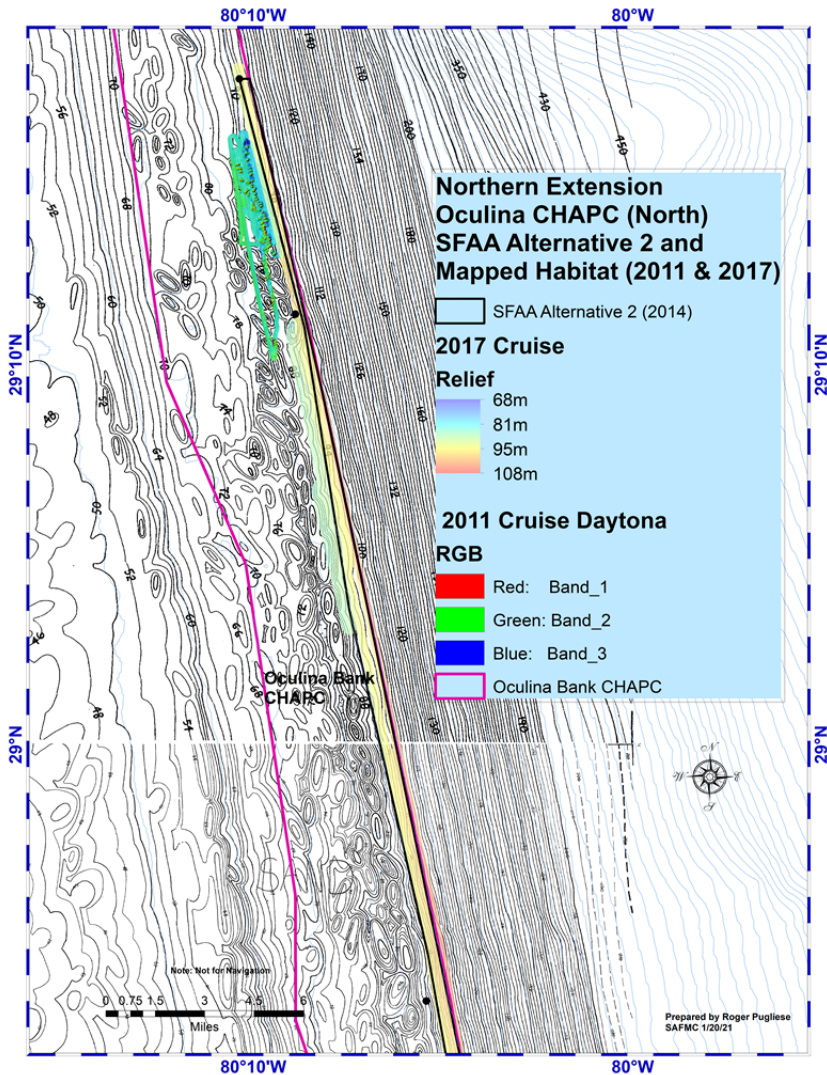


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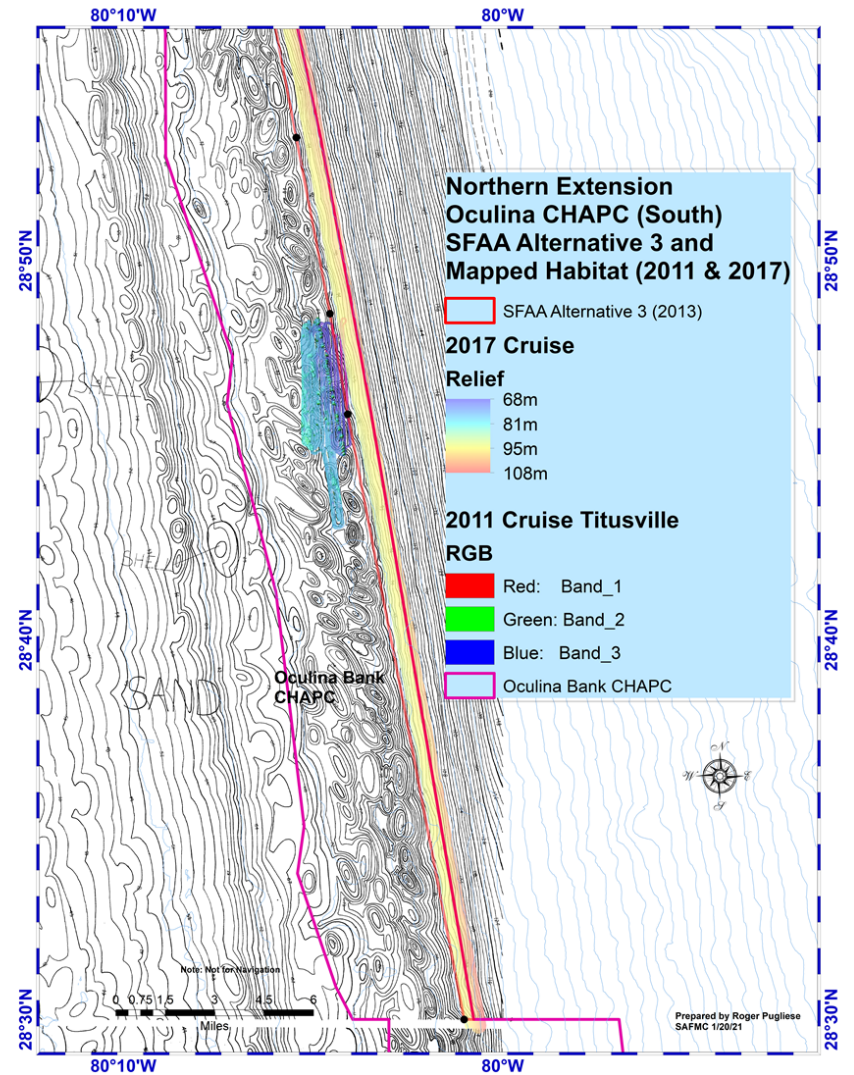
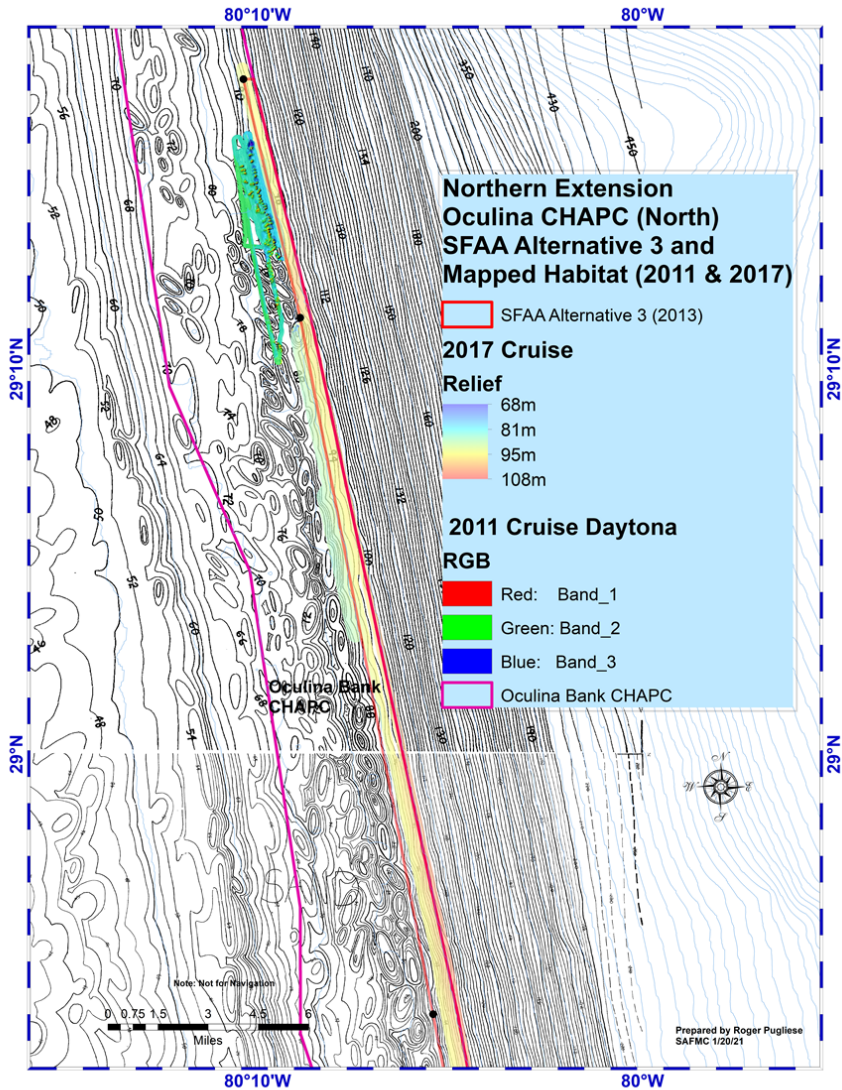
Preferred Alternative 2



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Alternative 3



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When would the proposed changes take place?

- Council reviews scoping comments and approves for public hearings – **March 2021**
- Public hearings – **Spring 2021**
- Council approves for submission to NMFS – **June 2021**
- Changes to regulations effective – **Early 2022**



What information can you provide?

- Do you fish on the eastern boundary of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank CHAPC?
- How would the proposed action affect your activity?
- Should the proposed SFAA be modified?
- Do you have information on habitat associated with the northern extension of the CHAPC?



How do I Comment?

- Submit written comments using the **online form** available from the Public Hearings and Scoping Meetings page on the Council's website (www.safmc.net)
- **Written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on February 10, 2021.**
- 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 scoping materials from the Public Hearing and Scoping Meeting page.



Webinars

Webinar attendees must register to participate. Registration information will be posted on the Council's website.

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

February 8, 2021 Webinar

Webinar Registration: [Mon, February 8, 2021, 5 PM](#)

February 9, 2021 Webinar

Webinar Registration: [Tues, February 9, 2021, 9 AM](#)





QUESTIONS?

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