

**FINAL  
SUMMARY REPORT  
HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
Via Webinar  
June 17-18, 2021**

The Committee approved a revised agenda and minutes from the March 2021 meeting.

**Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel Meeting Report**

Anne Deaton, AP Chair provided an overview and recommendations developed during the spring Habitat and Ecosystem AP webinar.

**Habitat and Ecosystem Program Blueprint**

Staff provided an overview of development of a Habitat and Ecosystem Blueprint and establishment of a Habitat and Ecosystem Blueprint Workgroup to discuss scope of and process to develop an overarching document.

**MOTION 1: ADOPT THESE AS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE HABITAT BLUEPRINT AND PROGRAM.**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

Goals and Objectives

**Goal 1. Comply with the habitat mandates of the MSA and its amendments.**

- Describe and identify essential fish habitat (EFH) for the fishery as required in Council FMPs.
- Provide information for use in FMP development to minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing.
- Identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat.
- Provide information to support the Council's role in mandatory EFH reviews.
- Provide information to support Council comments on activities by Federal or State agencies that may impact the habitat of the resources managed by the Council.

**Goal 2. Provide information to support Council communication on habitat issues.**

- Provide habitat research needs for consideration in Council Research and Monitoring Plans.
- Provide habitat research needs and Council habitat priorities to inform regional planning and research efforts.
- Provide information to support Council responses to habitat related requests for information.
- Provide information to support Council outreach activities on habitat issues.

**Coral Amendment 10**

Council staff reviewed public hearing comments received on Coral Amendment 10 and provided an overview of the decision document and the Committee approved the following motions and provided the following guidance:

**MOTION 2: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS IN CORAL AMENDMENT 10**  
**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**  
**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**Purpose for Action**

The purpose of Coral Amendment 10 is to determine whether to establish a shrimp fishery access area along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern where the permit holders of a valid limited access Commercial Vessel Permit for Rock Shrimp (South Atlantic EEZ) would be able to fish for and possess rock shrimp.

**Need for Action**

The need for Coral Amendment 10 is to increase economic and social benefits to rock shrimp fishermen by increasing access to historic rock shrimp fishing grounds, while maintaining protection of the Oculina deep water coral ecosystems.

**MOTION 3: APPROVE ACTION IN CORAL AMENDMENT 10**  
**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**  
**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

The Committee reaffirmed selection of (Action 1) **Preferred Alternative 2:**

**Preferred Alternative 2.** Establish a shrimp fishery access area that is 22 mi<sup>2</sup> along the eastern edge of the northern extension of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern. Allow a shrimp vessel with a valid limited access Commercial Permit for Rock Shrimp (South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone) to bottom trawl for rock shrimp within the established area bounded by the following coordinates.

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
1	29° 17.533' N	80° 10.367' W
2	29° 10.983' N	80° 8.65' W
3	29° 3.583' N	80° 7.483' W
4	28° 54.417' N	80° 5.383' W
5	28° 48.6' N	80° 4.367' W
6	28° 30' N	80° 1.017' W
7	28° 30' N	80° 0.767' W
8	28° 46.017' N	80° 3.483' W
9	28° 48.617' N	80° 3.95' W
10	28° 53.3' N	80° 4.817' W
11	29° 11.333' N	80° 8.617' W
12	29° 17.567' N	80° 10.117' W

(Note: Amendment Document will be finalized and approval for submission to Secretary of Commerce will be considered during the September 2021 Council Meeting)

**Timing and Task(s)**

**MOTION 4: ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):**

- Provide minutes of public meetings when rock shrimp was discussed in 2014.
- Provide information to Council members on where to find research on sediment plumes.
- Prepare Coral Amendment 10 for consideration for approval at the September 2021 meeting.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**