FINAL

COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT ADDRESSING ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT IN FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

AMENDMENT 3 TO THE SHRIMP FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN,
AMENDMENT 1 TO THE RED DRUM FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN,
AMENDMENT 10 TO THE SNAPPER GROUPIER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN,
AMENDMENT 10 TO THE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN,
AMENDMENT 1 TO THE GOLDEN CRAB FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN,
AMENDMENT 5 TO THE SPINY LOBSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND
AMENDMENT 4 TO THE CORAL, CORAL REEFS, AND LIVE/HARD BOTTOM HABITAT FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
(INCLUDING A FINAL EA/SEIS, RIR & SIA/FIS)

OCTOBER 1998

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Prepared by the:
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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ACTION 3. Implement a Voluntary Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) as soon as Possible in the Rock Shrimp Fishery. 22

Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Red Drum Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Red Drum. 27
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Red Drum. 29

Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Species in the Snapper Grouper Management Unit. 31
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Species in the Snapper Grouper Management Unit. 33
ACTION 3. No Action to Prohibit All Fishing in the Experimental Closed Area. 35

Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
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Amendment 4 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region

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ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats. 53

ACTION 3A. Expand the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) to an area bounded to the west by 80°W. longitude, to the north by 28°30' N. latitude, to the south by 27°30' N. latitude, and to the east by the 100 fathom (600 feet) depth contour. 54

ACTION 3B. Establish the following two Satellite Oculina HAPCs: (1) Satellite Oculina HAPC #1 is bounded on the north by 28°30'N. Latitude, on the south by 28°29’N. Latitude, on the east by 80°W. Longitude, and on the west by 80°3’W. Longitude, and (2) Satellite Oculina HAPC #2 is bounded on the north by 28°16’N. Latitude, on the east by 80°W. Longitude, and on the west by 80°3’W. Longitude. 62

ACTION 4. No Action to Prohibit All Fishing Within the Experimental Closed Area. 64

FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE & ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY SECRETARY

Mechanism for Determination of Framework Adjustments/Framework Procedure and Activities Authorized by the Secretary of Commerce.

Establish a procedure to allow for rapid modification to definitions of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), and establishment of new, or modification of existing, Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs). 66
COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT COVER SHEET

This integrated document contains all elements of the Comprehensive Amendment, Final Environmental Assessment (EA)/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), and Social Impact Assessment (SIA)/Fishery Impact Statement (FIS). Separate Tables of Contents are provided to assist readers and the NMFS/NOAA/DOC reviewers in referencing corresponding sections of the Amendment. Introductory information and/or background for the EA/FSEIS, RIR, and SIA/FIS are included within the separate table of contents for each of these sections.

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Name of Action:
(X) Administrative ( ) Legislative

SUMMARY
The Council is proposing the following actions to meet the habitat-related requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act:

Amendment 3 to the FMP for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Penaeid and Rock Shrimp.
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Penaeid Shrimp.
ACTION 3. Implement a Voluntary Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) as soon as Possible in the Rock Shrimp Fishery.

Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Red Drum Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Red Drum.
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Red Drum.

Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Species in the Snapper Grouper Management Unit.
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Species in the Snapper Grouper Management Unit.
ACTION 3. No Action to Prohibit All Fishing Within the Experimental Closed Area.
Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics
Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Coastal Migratory Pelagics.
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Coastal Migratory Pelagics.
ACTION 3. No Action to Prohibit Fishing for Coastal Migratory Pelagics in the Experimental Closed Area.

Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Golden Crab Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Golden Crab.
ACTION 2. No Action to Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Golden Crab.

Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Spiny Lobster Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Spiny Lobster.
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Spiny Lobster.
ACTION 3. No Action to Prohibit Fishing for Spiny Lobster in the Experimental Closed Area.

Amendment 4 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region
ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region.
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats.
ACTION 3A. Expand the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) to an area bounded to the west by 80°W. longitude, to the north by 28°30'N. latitude, to the south by 27°30'N. latitude, and to the east by the 100 fathom (600 feet) depth contour.
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ACTION 4. No Action to Prohibit All Fishing Within the Experimental Closed Area.

FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE & ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY SECRETARY
Mechanism for Determination of Framework Adjustments/Framework Procedure and Activities Authorized by the Secretary of Commerce.
Establish a procedure to allow for rapid modification to definitions of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), and establishment of new, or modification of existing, Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs).