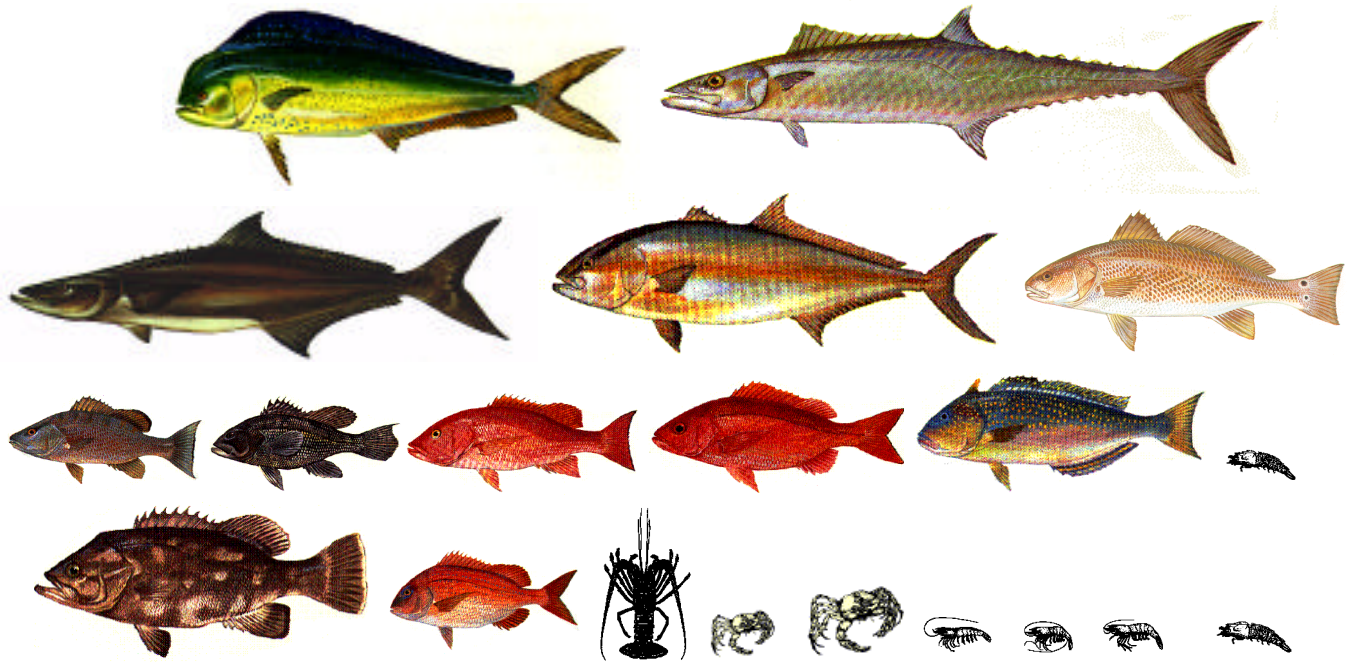




FINAL

**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 GROUPER 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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FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

(INCLUDING A FINAL EA/SEIS, RIR & SIA/FIS)

Prepared by the:
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

OCTOBER 1998

Financial assistance for producing this document was provided by grant funds from the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under Public Law 104-208, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	i
LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES.....	v
LIST OF ACTIONS.....	vi
COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT COVER SHEET	viii
FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	x
REGULATORY IMPACT REVIEW.....	xiii
SUMMARY OF REGULATORY IMPACT REVIEW (EXPECTED CHANGES IN NET BENEFITS).....	xvi
SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT/FISHERY IMPACT STATEMENT.....	xxv
SOCIAL IMPACT (SIA/FIS) SUMMARY	xxix
1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED.....	1
1.1 Historical Overview of SAFMC Activities to Conserve Essential Fish Habitat	1
1.2 Habitat Responsibilities as Defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.....	2
1.3 Affected Fishery Management Plans and Fish Stocks.....	3
1.4 SAFMC Habitat Plan and Comprehensive Habitat Amendment Development Process.....	4
1.5 Issues, Problems and Management Objectives for Comprehensive Amendment	4
1.6 Summary of Existing Management Measures which Directly or Indirectly Protect Essential Fish Habitat.....	5
1.7 Proposed Measures	5
2.0 ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION	7
3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	14
3.1 List and General Description of Stocks Comprising the Management Unit.....	14
3.1.1 Definitions of Overfishing for Managed Species	14
3.1.2 Optimum Yield for Managed Species.....	14
3.1.3 Summary of Present Harvest Levels for Managed Species	14
3.1.4 Description of Fishing Activities for Managed Species	14
3.1.5 Status of Stocks for Managed Species.....	14
3.2 Description and Distribution of Essential Fish Habitat for Managed Species.....	14
3.3 Managed Species Distribution and Use of Essential Fish Habitat.....	14
3.4 Threats to Essential Fish Habitat	14

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	15
4.1 Introduction.....	15
4.2 Management Options.....	19
4.2.1 Amendment 3 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.....	19
4.2.1.1 ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Penaeid and Rock Shrimp	19
4.2.1.2 Existing Management Measures in the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Which Directly or Indirectly Protect Essential Fish Habitat	21
4.2.1.3 Assessment of Present Fishing Activities.....	21
4.2.1.4 ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Penaeid Shrimp.....	21
4.2.1.5 ACTION 3. Implement a Voluntary Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) as soon as possible in the Rock Shrimp Fishery.....	22
4.2.2 Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Red Drum Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.....	27
4.2.2.1 ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Red Drum	27
4.2.2.2 Existing Management Measures in the Red Drum Fishery Management Plan Which Directly or Indirectly Protect Essential Fish Habitat.....	29
4.2.2.3 Assessment of Present Fishing Activities.....	29
4.2.2.4 ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Red Drum.....	29
4.2.3 Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.....	31
4.2.3.1 ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Species in the Snapper Grouper Management Unit.....	31
4.2.3.2 Existing Management Measures in the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan Which Directly or Indirectly Protect Essential Fish Habitat	33
4.2.3.3 Assessment of Present Fishing Activities.....	33
4.2.3.4 ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Species in the Snapper Grouper Management Unit.....	33
4.2.3.5 ACTION 3. No Action to Prohibit All Fishing in the Experimental Closed Area	35
4.2.3.6 Recommendations for other managed species harvested in the Experimental Closed Area.....	38
4.2.4 Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.....	38
4.2.4.1 ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Coastal Migratory Pelagics	38
4.2.4.2 Existing Management Measures in the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan Which Directly or Indirectly Protect Essential Fish Habitat.....	40
4.2.4.3 Assessment of Present Fishing Activities.....	40
4.2.4.4 ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Coastal Migratory Pelagics.....	40
4.2.4.5 ACTION 3. No Action to Prohibit Fishing for Coastal Migratory Pelagics in the Experimental Closed Area	42

4.2.5 Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Golden Crab Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.....	44
4.2.5.1 ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Golden Crab	44
4.2.5.2 Existing Management Measures in the Golden Crab Fishery Management Plan Which Directly or Indirectly Protect Essential Fish Habitat.....	45
4.2.5.3 Assessment of Present Fishing Activities.....	45
4.2.5.4 ACTION 2. No Action to Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Golden Crab.....	46
4.2.6 Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Spiny Lobster Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.....	46
4.2.6.1 ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Spiny Lobster.....	46
4.2.6.2 Existing Management Measures in the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan Which Directly or Indirectly Protect Essential Fish Habitat.....	47
4.2.6.3 Assessment of Present Fishing Activities.....	47
4.2.6.4 ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Spiny Lobster.....	48
4.2.6.5 ACTION 3. No Action to Prohibit Fishing for Spiny Lobster in the Experimental Closed Area.....	49
4.2.7 Amendment 4 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region.....	51
4.2.7.1 ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region	51
4.2.7.2 Existing Management Measures in the Fishery Management Plan for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats which Directly or Indirectly Protect Essential Fish Habitat.....	53
4.2.7.3 Assessment of Present Fishing Activities.....	53
4.2.7.4 ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom.....	53
4.2.7.5 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
4.2.7.6 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°17'N. Latitude, on the south by 28°16'N. Latitude, on the east by 80°W. Longitude, and on the west by 80°3'W. Longitude.....	62
4.2.7.7 ACTION 4. No Action to Prohibit all Fishing within the Experimental Closed Area.....	64
4.2.8 Mechanism for Determination of Framework Adjustments/ Framework Procedure and Activities Authorized by the Secretary of Commerce	66
4.2.9 SAFMC Proposed Process for Reviewing and Commenting on Projects Affecting Essential Fish Habitat.....	69
4.3 Unavoidable Adverse Effects.....	69
4.4 Relationship of Short-Term and Long-Term Productivity.....	71
4.5 Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitments of Resources.....	72

4.6 Cumulative Effects.....	72
4.7 Public and Private Costs	72
4.8 Effects on Small Businesses: Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis	72
5.0 THREATS TO ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT.....	76
6.0 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS	77
7.0 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT RESEARCH NEEDS	109
8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS.....	123
9.0 LIST OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.....	132
10.0 OTHER APPLICABLE LAW	133
10.1 Vessel Safety.....	133
10.2 Coastal Zone Consistency.....	133
10.3 Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Acts	133
10.4 Paperwork Reduction Act.....	135
10.5 Federalism.....	135
10.6 National Environmental Policy Act.....	135
11.0 REFERENCES.....	139
12.0 PUBLIC HEARING LOCATIONS AND DATES.....	142
13.0 APPENDICES	A-1
Appendix A. SAFMC Proposed Process for Reviewing/Commenting on Projects Affecting Essential Fish Habitat.....	A-1
Appendix B. EIS Comment and Response	B-1
Appendix C. Oculina/Habitat Bottom Distribution and Satellite Oculina Coral HAPC Coordinates	C-1
Appendix D. Proposed Rule for the Comprehensive Habitat Amendment	D-1

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Summary of Expected Changes in Net Benefits.....	xvi
Table 2. Social Impact (SIA/FIS) Summary.....	xxix
Table 3. Summary of Environmental Consequences.....	8
Table 4. Calico Scallop Landings and Exvessel Value in the South Atlantic 1981-1996.....	60

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Calico scallop spawning areas and fishing grounds.....	57
Figure 2. Calico scallop shell distribution.....	58
Figure 3. Map of hashed areas prohibited under Management Action 2 and coral, coral reef and live/hard bottom habitat associated with rock shrimp harvest areas.....	59

LIST OF ACTIONS IN COMPREHENSIVE HABITAT AMENDMENT

PAGE

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. 19
- ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Penaeid Shrimp. 21
- 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

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Coastal Migratory Pelagics. 38
- ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Coastal Migratory Pelagics. 40
- ACTION 3. No Action to Prohibit Fishing for Coastal Migratory Pelagics in the Experimental Closed Area. 42

Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Golden Crab Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

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	<u>PAGE</u>
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.	46
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Spiny Lobster.	48
ACTION 3. No Action to Prohibit Fishing for Spiny Lobster in the Experimental Closed Area.	49
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.	51
ACTION 2. Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats.	53
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ACTION 4. No Action to Prohibit All Fishing Within the Experimental Closed Area.	64
<u>FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE & ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY SECRETARY</u>	
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:

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.

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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

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FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE & ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY SECRETARY

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

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