

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for species under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Following is a listing of the current South Atlantic Council's EFH designations and the FMPs that they pertain to.

- Tidal freshwater (palustrine) (Shrimp, Red drum)
- Estuarine and marine emergent wetlands (e.g., intertidal marshes) (Shrimp, Red drum, Snapper grouper)
- Tidal palustrine forested areas (Shrimp)
- Estuarine scrub/shrub (mangroves and mangrove fringe) (Shrimp, Red drum, Snapper grouper, Spiny lobster)
- Estuarine and marine submerged aquatic vegetation (e.g., seagrass) (Shrimp, Red drum, Snapper Grouper, Spiny lobster)
- Subtidal and intertidal non-vegetated flats (Shrimp)
- Oyster reefs and shell banks (Red drum, Snapper grouper)
- Unconsolidated bottom (Red drum, Snapper grouper, Spiny lobster)
- Offshore marine habitats used for spawning and growth to maturity (Shrimp)
- All interconnecting water bodies as described in the Habitat Plan (Shrimp)
- Offshore terrigenous and biogenic sand bottom habitats from 18 to 182 meters (Rock shrimp)
- Shelf current systems near Cape Canaveral, Florida (Rock shrimp)
- Gulf Stream (Rock shrimp, Royal Red shrimp, Snapper grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Golden crab, Spiny lobster, Dolphin wahoo)
- Upper regions of the continental slope from 180 meters (590 feet) to about 730 meters (2,395 feet) over blue/black mud, sand, muddy sand, or white calcareous mud (Royal Red shrimp)
- Ocean high salinity surf zones (Red drum, Coastal Migratory Pelagics)
- Artificial reefs (Red drum, Snapper grouper)
- Coral reefs (Snapper grouper, Spiny lobster)
- Live/hardbottom (Snapper grouper, Spiny lobster)
- Medium to high profile outcroppings on and around the shelf break zone from shore to at least 600 feet (but to at least 2000 feet for wreckfish) where the annual water temperature range is sufficiently warm to maintain adult populations of members of this largely tropical complex (Snapper grouper)
- Spawning area in the water column above the adult habitat and the additional pelagic environment, including *Sargassum* (Snapper grouper)
- Sandy shoals of capes and offshore bars (Coastal Migratory Pelagics)
- High profile rocky bottom and barrier island ocean-side waters, from the surf to the shelf break zone, but from the Gulf stream shoreward, including *Sargassum* (Coastal Migratory Pelagics)
- All coastal inlets (Coastal Migratory Pelagics)

- All state-designated nursery habitats of particular importance (for example, in North Carolina this would include all Primary Nursery Areas and all Secondary Nursery Areas) (Coastal Migratory Pelagics)
- High salinity bays, estuaries, and seagrass habitat (Coastal Migratory Pelagics – Cobia).
- U.S. Continental Shelf from Chesapeake Bay south through the Florida Straits (and into the Gulf of Mexico) (Golden crab)
- Nearshore shelf/oceanic waters (Spiny lobster)
- Shallow subtidal bottom (Spiny lobster)
- Sponges (Spiny lobster)
- Algal communities (*Laurencia*) (Spiny lobster)
- Rough, hard, exposed, stable substrate in subtidal to outer shelf depths, subtropical (15°-35° C), within a wide range of salinity and turbidity levels sufficiently low enough to provide algal symbionts adequate sunlight penetration for photosynthesis (Coral)
- Defined hard substrate in subtidal to outer shelf depths throughout the management area (Coral).
- Muddy, silty bottoms in subtidal to outer shelf depths within a wide range of salinity and light penetration (Coral)
- Charleston Gyre (Dolphin wahoo)
- Florida Current (Dolphin wahoo)
- Pelagic *Sargassum* (for dolphin under Coastal Migratory Pelagics)