





**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)

Prepared by the:  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

**OCTOBER 1998**

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- 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**

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Golden Crab. 44
- ACTION 2. No Action to Establish Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) for Golden Crab. 46

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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
ACTION 4. No Action to Prohibit All Fishing Within the Experimental Closed Area.	64
<b><u>FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE &amp; ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY SECRETARY</u></b>	
<b>Mechanism for Determination of Framework Adjustments/Framework Procedure and Activities Authorized by the Secretary of Commerce.</b>	
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.

#### **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.

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.

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).