

Ecosystem-Based Management and The Fishery Ecosystem Plan of the South Atlantic Region

APNEP Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel Meeting

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SAFMC- Ecosystem-Based Management

- Development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan
- Development of Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendments
- Development of Tools to Support Transition to Ecosystem- Based Management
- Regional Ecosystem Coordination

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FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN (FEP) DEVELOPMENT:

- Provides a comprehensive view of the Biological, Social and Economic characteristics of the South Atlantic Ecosystem
- Updates Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and EFH –HAPC information
- Serves as a Source Document for Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1 and future CE-BAs

VOLUME STRUCTURE:

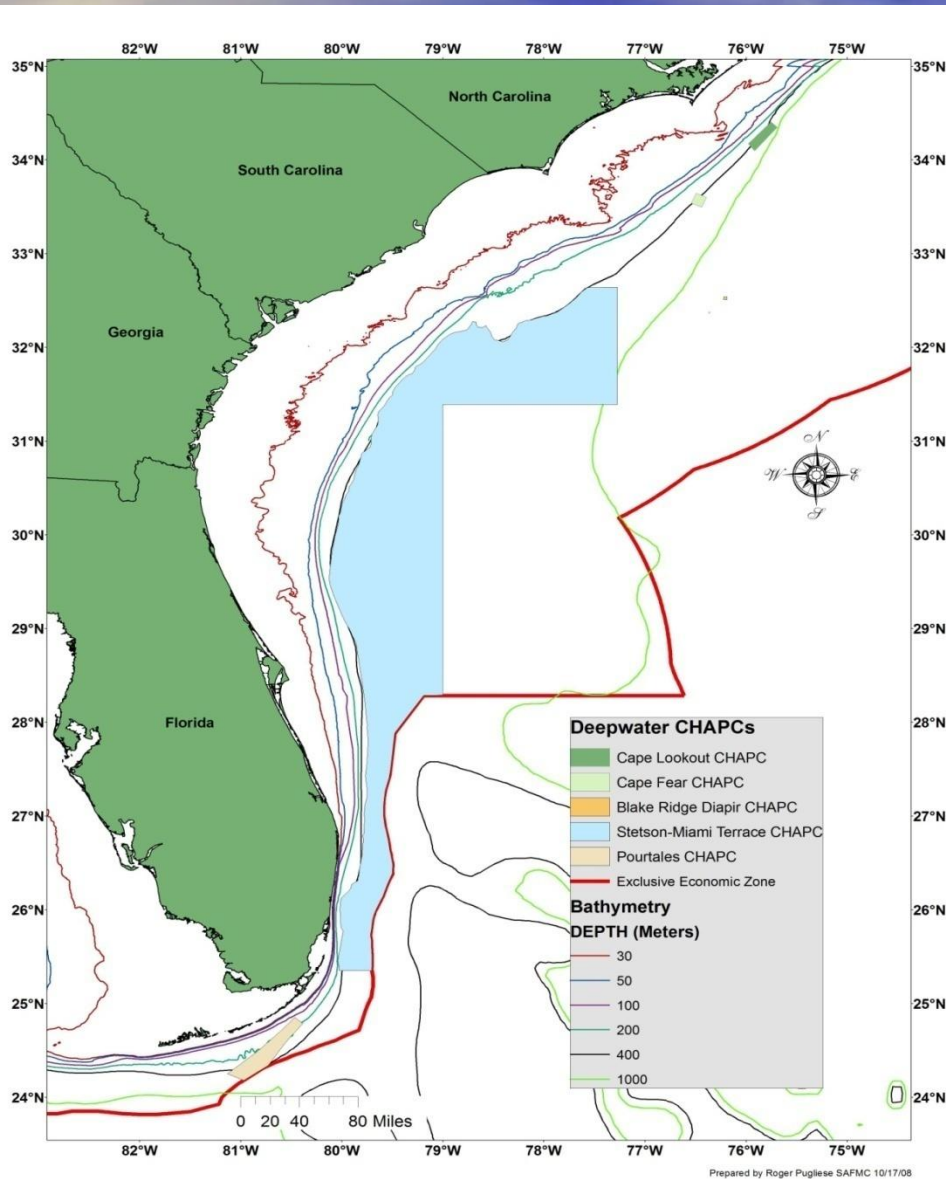
- I Introduction and Overview
- II South Atlantic Habitats and Species
- III South Atlantic Human & Institutional Environment
- IV Threats to South Atlantic Ecosystem and Recommendations
- V South Atlantic Research Programs & Data Needs
- VI References

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COMPREHENSIVE ECOSYSTEM AMENDMENT 1 DEVELOPMENT:

- Protect deepwater coral ecosystems in the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's by establishing five Deepwater Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs).
- Addresses Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) mandates in the EFH Final Rule highlighting
 - spatial presentations of designated EFH and EFH-HAPCs presented through Council Internet Map Server
 - The FEP presentation of updated habitat information supporting EFH designations.

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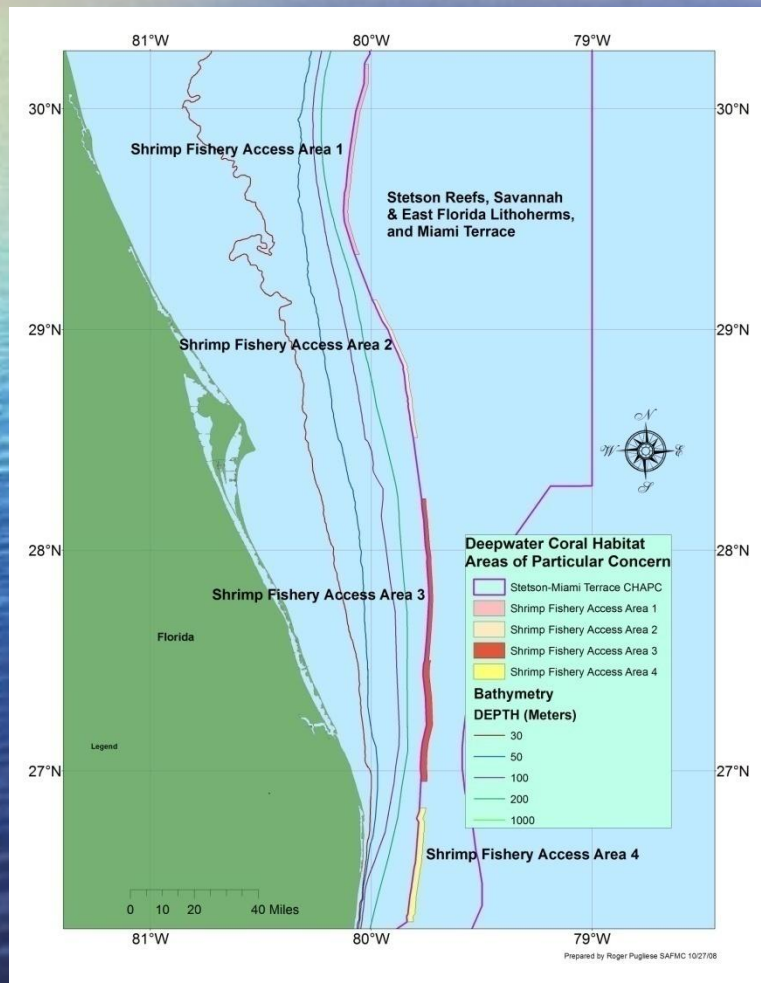


CE-BA 1 Establishes Five Deepwater Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern :

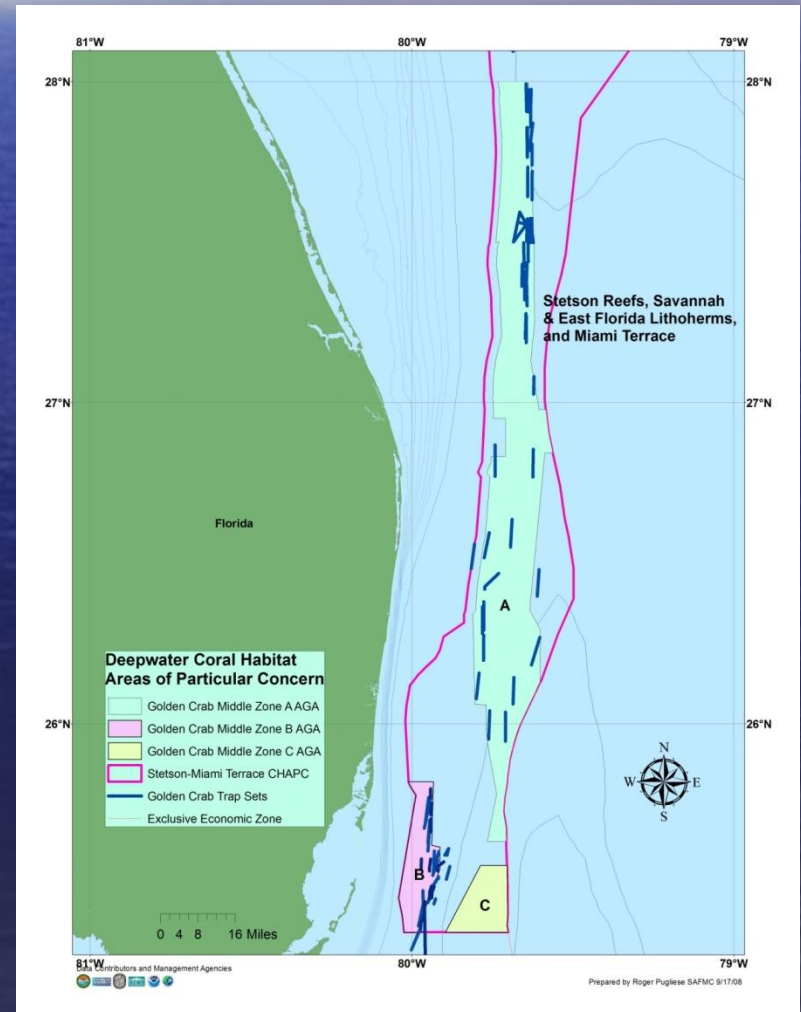
1. Cape Lookout *Lophelia* Banks CHAPC
2. Cape Fear *Lophelia* Banks CHAPC
3. Blake Ridge Diapir CHAPC
4. Stetson Reefs, Savannah and East Florida Lithoherms and Miami Terrace CHAPC
5. Pourtales Terrace CHAPC

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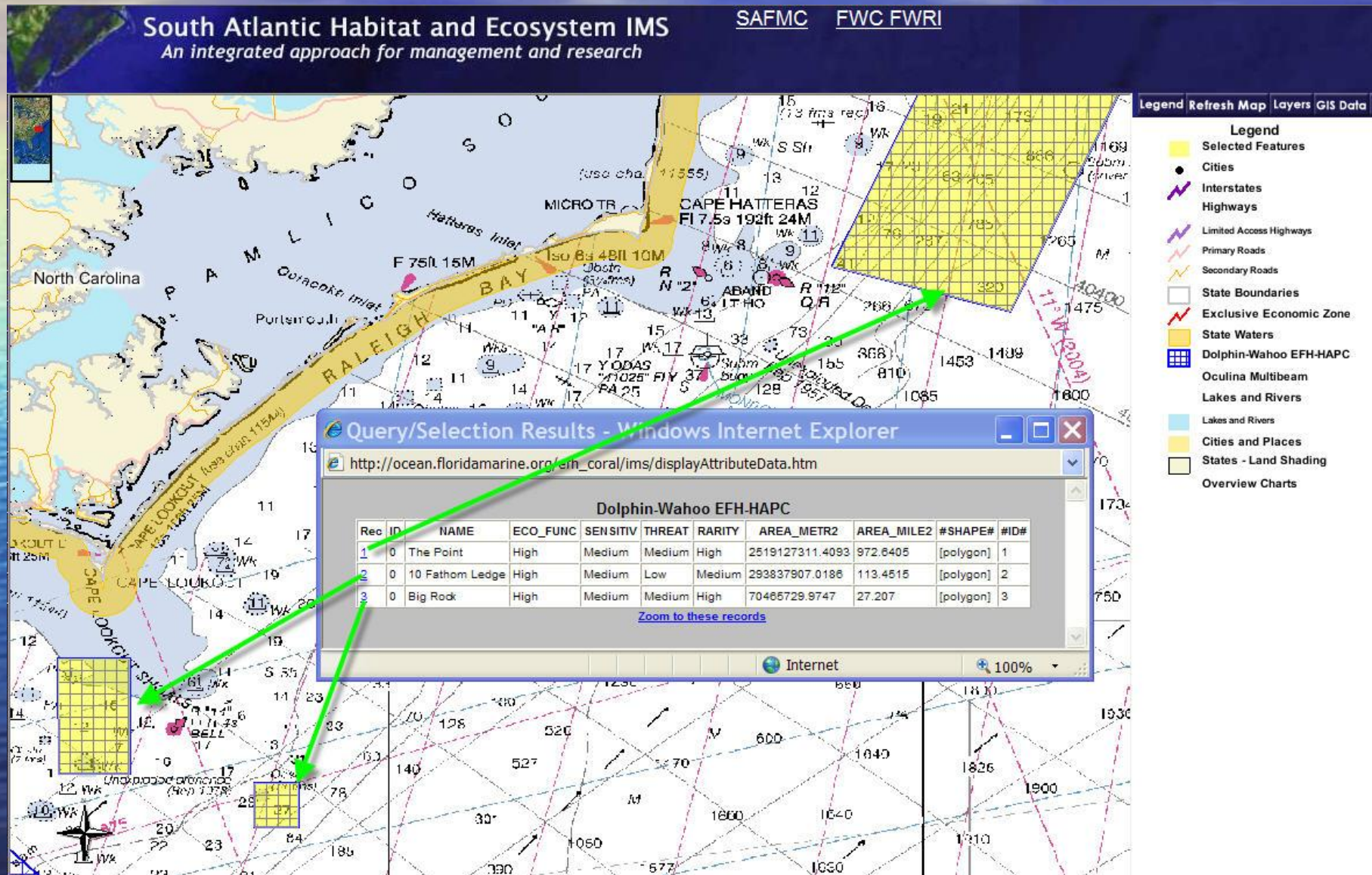
Shrimp Fishery Access Areas



Golden Crab Allowable Gear Areas



Sample screen shot of spatial presentation of EFH-HAPCs on South Atlantic Habitat and Ecosystem IMS



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Development of Ecosystem Support Tools:

South Atlantic Habitat and Ecosystem Internet Map Server (IMS)

- Developed in cooperation with Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute to support ecosystem-based resource management, habitat, species and ecosystem research, and regional collaboration

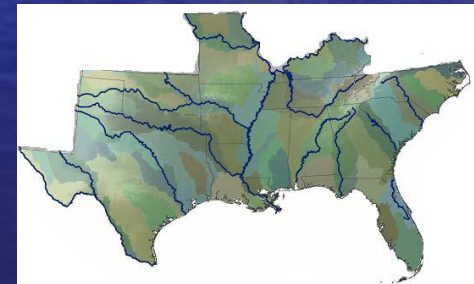
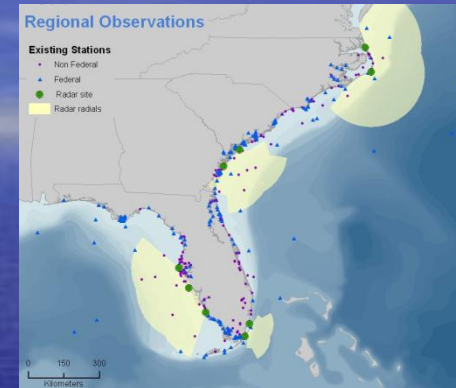
Development Phases:

- 1 Developed IMS to provide access to related GIS data
- 2 Developed Ecosystem Section of the Website
- 3 Transitioned homepage to a Portal application to facilitate development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan
- 4 Developed EcoSpecies, EcoResearch, and EcoFish modules
- 5 Expanding EcoSpecies and EcoResearch modules, and facilitating transition to ArcGIS Server application (Present)

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Ecosystem Coordination:

- Southeast Coastal Ocean Regional Association (SECOORA)
- Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP)
- Fishery Independent Research (SEAMAP/MARMAP/State)
- South Atlantic Governor's Alliance



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South Atlantic Governor's Alliance:

Mission

Regionally implement science based actions and policy solutions that more efficiently and effectively balance coastal and marine ecosystems' capacity to support human and natural systems in South Atlantic Region.

Initial Priorities

Healthy Ecosystems

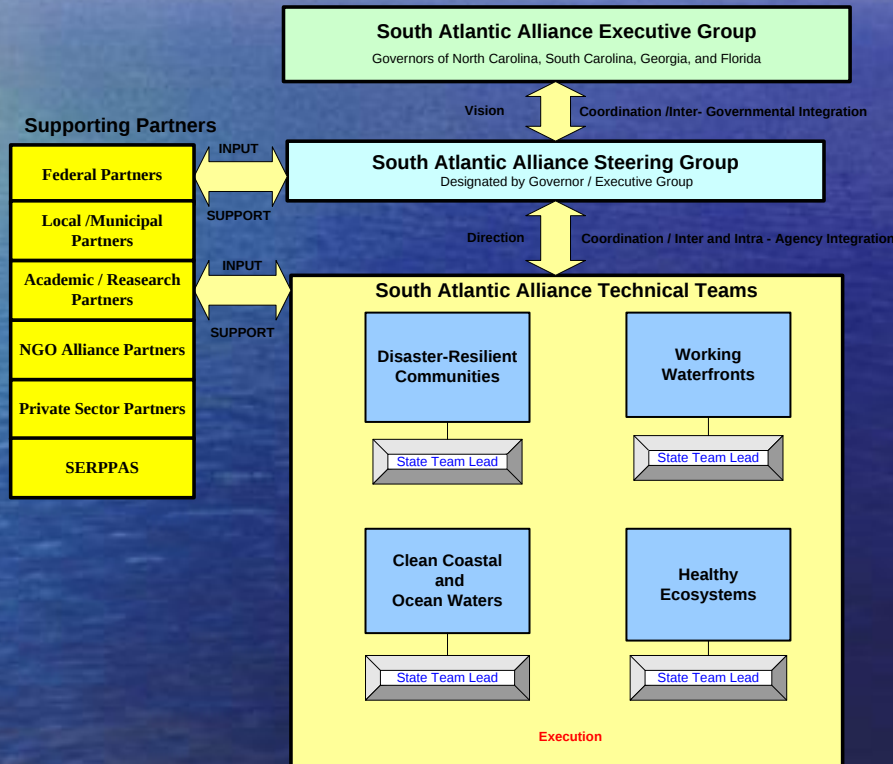
Working Waterfronts

Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

Disaster Resilient Communities

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South Atlantic Governor's Alliance Structure



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Future Activity and Timing:

- FEP Approved By Council March 2009
- CE-BA 1 to be Approved September 2009
- FEP and CE-BA 1 Submitted October 2009
- Review Options for CE-BA 2 June 2009
- Review Options for Other Place-Based Management: Deepwater Snapper Grouper Closure, Red Snapper /Snapper Grouper Closed Area, Deepwater Species Closed Area June and September 2009
- Continue Investigation into Ecosystem Model Development and Integration of Ocean Observing Data or Products (from SECOORA) into the Stock Assessment Process

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Other Future Management Activity and Timing: Establishing Allowable Catch Limits for Managed Species -

- “Any FMP which is prepared by any Council...shall - Establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability”
 - MSA Section 303(a)(15)

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Timeline to Implement Regulations:

Jan. & Feb. 2009 – Public scoping

March 2009 – Council review scoping comments and options paper

September 2009 – Council approve for public hearings

March 2010 - Submit to Secretary of Commerce

Jan. 1, 2011 – Implementation of regulations