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Joint Coral AP and Coral SSC Recommendations and Proposed Next Steps



Motions

April 2017: To add a second amendment that would address the proposed areas not included in the scoping document for Coral Amendment 9 (Coral Amendment 10).

April 2018: To recommend that at such time that Coral Amendment 10 is under development there be a joint meeting of the Shrimp AP, Coral AP, Shrimp SSC, and Coral SSC.

October 2019: To reconvene the Coral AP and Coral SSC to reexamine priority areas for consideration for coral HAPCs in light of new data and the FGBNMS expansion.



Timeline



March 2021: Council contracts CSA Ocean Sciences to update information and propose additional areas that would benefit from management.



February 2022: Coral AP and Coral SSC reviewed CSA's progress to date.



June 2022: CSA presents final results to Council.

August 2022: Anticipated release of FKNMS draft rule and presentation to Council.



Coral Amendment 9

Effective: 11/16/2020

- 13 HAPCs with restrictions on bottom tending gear and anchoring
- Dredge fishing prohibition
- 8 HAPCs w/o fishing regulations

Revised 11/16/2018

Coral Habitat Areas Considered for Habitat Area of Particular Concern Designation in the Gulf of Mexico



Final Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coral and Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Waters

Including Final Environmental Impact Statement

November 2018



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Sanctuary Expansions

- **Flower Garden Banks**

- Include 14 additional reefs and banks
- Effective 03/22/2021

- **Florida Keys**

- Tentative draft rule release on 07/12/2022, with 100 day public comment



Joint Coral AP and Coral SSC Meeting

February 7, 2022

Recommendations to the Council:

- For the Council to consider additional sites in the Gulf that were not part of the CSA report. These sites can include areas identified as priority sites from meso/deep bottom communities prioritization effort by NOAA.
- As part of the development of Coral Amendment 10, request that the Council convene another expert working group to review the CSA report and consider other data to inform any additional HAPC sites.



Next Steps

1. Convene the IPT & Coral AP/SSC & Expert Working Group
 - Evaluate the areas proposed in the CSA report to consider:
 - Area prioritization
 - Modify boundaries
 - Consolidate areas
 - Add/remove areas from the list
 - Consider ongoing efforts & CRCP deliverables
 - Identify data gaps



Next Steps

2. Migrate and update the CSA dashboard to meet the Council needs for working group efforts – post to website
3. Reevaluate established HAPCs and FGBNMS expansion
4. Timing - Convene Coral Working Group after the release of the FKNMS proposed rule



Questions?

