

SITES CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMENDMENT 14 BUT NOT CONSIDERED AS RESONABLE ALTERNATIVES AT THIS TIME :

A. INSHORE OPTIONS CONSIDERED BUT REMOVED: During the 2001 scoping process the public was asked to suggest sites the Council should consider designating MPAs, specifically focusing on deepwater snapper grouper species. Any sites recommended by the public were brought to the Council for consideration. The below sites are not being analyzed in Draft Amendment 14 because they do not meet the Council's criteria of protecting deepwater snapper grouper species. However, as the Council considers using MPAs to protect mid-shelf snapper grouper species in subsequent amendments these sites will be analyzed in greater detail.

Other Possible Option 1A (North Carolina): This box represents an area within the New River bombing range. Water depth in this area is approximately 7-13 fathoms. This area was originally chosen because of its importance for juvenile gag recruitment, sub-adult gags and black sea bass. It was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it is inshore, in shallow water, and does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

NW 34°27' N 77°20' W	NE 34°27' N 77°10' W
SW 34°17' N 77°20' W	SE 34°17' N 77°10' W

Other Possible Option 2A (North Carolina): This box represents an area west of the “WR2 Tower”. Water depth is 14-19 fathoms and it holds many of the mid-shelf snapper grouper complex species. This site holds a lot of structure and red porgy and vermilion snapper. It was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it is in shallow water, inshore and does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species. This area also produces roughly 80% of the fish landed from Topsail, Carolina and Wrightsville Beaches and would have great impacts on those areas.

NW 34°02' N 77°20' W	NE 34°02' N 77°10' W
SW 33°52' N 77°20' W	SE 33°52' N 77°10' W

Other Possible Option 3A (North Carolina): This box represents an area that surrounds “Frying Pan Tower”. It is recommended that this site be 5 miles by 5 miles surrounding the tower. Water depth is 9-12 fathoms. This area is a popular diving site, but is also within close proximity to University of North Carolina at Wilmington which may make it ideal for research and monitoring. This area was removed for consideration at this time because it is inshore, in shallow water and does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

NW 33°35' N 77°30' W	NE 33°35' N 77°20' W
SW 33°25' N 77°30' W	SE 33°25' N 77°20' W

Other Possible Option 4A (North Carolina): This box represents an area east of Cape Lookout. The water depth for this area is approximately in 50 –100 fathoms. This area was removed for consideration, because although it meets the depth criteria it is located next to an area known as "Big Rock" and is highly utilized. It is also located near the "Atlas Tanker" and many people move through this box to get to the wreck.

NW 34°30' N 76°00' W	NE 34°30' N 75°00' W
SW 34°20' N 76°00' W	SE 34°20' N 75°00' W

Other Possible Option 5A (South Carolina): The center point of this five by ten nautical mile box is located at 31° 53.0’ N; 080° 08.0’ W and the box would be orientated horizontally. This site is in 9-10 fathoms. Due to its inshore location and shallow water It was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species

Other Possible Option 6A (South Carolina): The center point of this five by ten nautical mile box is located at 33° 00.0’ N; 078° 07.0’ W and the box would be orientated vertically. This site is in 17-22 fathoms. Due to its inshore location and shallow water It was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

Other Possible Option 7A (South Carolina): The center point of this five by ten nautical mile box is located at 32°38.0’ N; 079° 28.5’ W and the box would be orientated horizontally. This site is in 7-13 fathoms. Due to its inshore location and shallow water It was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does

not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

Other Possible Option 8A (South Carolina): The center point of this five by ten nautical mile box is located at 32° 18.5' N; 079° 33.5' W and the box would be orientated horizontally. This site is in 14-17 fathoms. Due to its inshore location and shallow water It was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species

Other Possible Option 9A (South Carolina): The center point of this five by ten nautical mile box is located at 31° 53.0' N; 080° 08.0' W and the box would be orientated horizontally. This site is in 12-15 fathoms. Due to its inshore location and shallow water It was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species

Other Possible Option 10 A(South Carolina): The center point of this five by ten nautical mile box is located at 31° 45.0' N; 070° 53.0' W and the box would be orientated horizontally. This site is in 19-25 fathoms. Due to its inshore location and shallow water It was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species

Other Possible Option 11 A (Georgia): Located in 20-27 fathoms, the SW corner of this potential MPA lies at approximately 31°45.0' N Latitude, 79°53.0 W Longitude The recommended area is located north of U.S. Navy TACTS tower "R8" (31°38.0' N Latitude) and west of the outer boundary of Georgia Artificial Reef WW (79°57.7' W Longitude). The area does not incorporate the tower since it is targeted heavily by fishermen but is located near the tower since it may be possible to use this structure for MPA monitoring and enforcement/compliance. This site does not include artificial reef WW, which is located just inshore of the proposed inner boundary . The site was proposed to be 5nm x 10nm long . Scattered live bottom is reported to occur throughout . This site was intensely targeted by roller trawls in the past, yielding large numbers of very small vermilion snapper and holds possible habitat for vermilion, red porgy, and other snapper grouper species. Due to its inshore location and shallow water It was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

Other Possible Option 12 A (Georgia): Located in 14-20 fathoms, the SW corner of this potential MPA lies at approximately 30°57.0 N Latitude, 80°45.0' W Longitude. Located north of U.S. Navy TACTS tower "R5" (30°56.5' N Latitude 80°45.0 W Longitude , the site does not incorporate the tower since it is targeted heavily by fishermen; however it may be possible for this structure for MPA monitoring and enforcement/compliance. The MPA was proposed to be 5nm x 5nm. Scattered live bottom is reported to occur throughout with possible habitat for red porgy and other

snapper grouper species. Due to its inshore location and shallow water it was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

Other Possible Option 13A (Georgia): Located in 60-70' depths, the SW corner of this potential MPA lies at approximately 31°27.2 N Latitude, 80°45.34' W longitude. Located north east of Gray's Reef, this predominant sand-shell site has been proposed by CCA for construction of an experimental man-made . This site was proposed to be 2nm x 2nm in size. Due to its inshore location and shallow water it was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

Other Possible Option 14 A (Georgia): Located in 55'-70' depths, this site would encompass the southeast quadrant of the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. Establishment of a restricted study site within Gray's Reef has been discussed in conjunction with the revision of the Sanctuary's management plan; however, this process remains ongoing at this time and no proposals /recommendations have been finalized. This site was removed from further consideration because it did not meet the Council's criteria of protecting deepwater snapper grouper species and also because it lies within the boundaries of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary and the Council felt it was best to refer this site to their management process.

Other Possible Option 15A (Florida): Outside of the Indian river Lagoon area (known as the "Chris Benson Reef (?)") from the A-can north approx. 25 miles. A lot of hardbottom habitat. Due to its inshore location and shallow water it was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

Other Possible Option 16A (Florida): Red Snapper Sink, or the Spring outside of St. Augustine, in 18-22 fathoms of water. Due to its inshore location and shallow water it was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

Other Possible Option 17A (Florida): Blackmars reef and Tanzars Reef. Due to its inshore location and shallow water it was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

Other Possible Option 18A (Florida): Pines area 8 miles off Sebastian in 55'-65' of water, for the purpose of habitat protection. Due to its inshore location and shallow water it was removed from consideration during this round of developing MPAs because it does not meet the Council's criteria of protecting overfished deepwater snapper grouper species.

B. OFFSHORE SITES CONSIDERED BUT REMOVED: During the 2001 scoping process the public was asked to suggest sites the Council should consider designating MPAs, specifically focusing on deepwater snapper grouper species. Any sites recommended by the public were brought to the Council for consideration. After The below sites will not be analyzed in detail in Draft Amendment 14 because, all they are located in deepwater, for reasons listed below they do not meet the Council's criteria for MPAs.

Other Possible Option 1B (Georgia): “Charleston Bump, “ east of Sapelo Island, with center coordinates at approximately 31°30.0 N Latitude, 78°30.0W Longitude. Initially thought to lie east of South Carolina, George Sedberry indicated that the “Bump” actually lies due east of Georgia. This was proposed for consideration as an MPA due to documented importance to fisheries, ongoing studies, and other regulations already affecting this area. Size of the MPA was suggested at 10nm x 10nm or larger Complete closure was recommended for consideration. This site was removed from consideration because the one South Atlantic fishery operating in this area (Wreckfish) is well managed and considered a clean fishery.

Other Possible Option 2B (Florida): Islamorada Hump was chosen as a potential MPA because of spawning activity such as amberjack, snowy grouper and blackfin tuna. It has also been noted that warsaw grouper are often caught there. It was suggested that this area be a no-take MPA. This site was removed from consideration because due to it's popularity as a fishing spot and the economic impact MPA regulations for this site would have on the local community. The East Hump an alternate, yet comparable, site was added to the list to replace the Islamorada Hump.

C. SITES IN STATE WATERS OR UNDER OTHER JURISDICTIONS THAT WERE CONSIDERED BUT REMOVED: The Council determined that it would not be appropriate at this time to analyze sites in State waters as the Council does not have jurisdiction in State waters. However, Council members recognize that some snapper grouper species rely on habitats in State waters for part of their lifecycle and as the Council considers using MPAs for those snapper grouper species they will work closely with the states to ensure protection.

Other Possible Option 1C (Florida): Carysfort Reef - Current Sanctuary Preservation Area should be extended out into deeper water to encompass area outside this SPA that holds black grouper. This area was removed from further consideration due to the fact that it lies in State waters. Also this site is known as "sailfish ally" and is very important to the charter industry in that area.

Other Possible Option 2C (Florida): South of Fowery Rocks which is part of Biscayne National Park's Emerald Reef . This possible MPA would start at 30' water depth and extend to 300' depth. This area is historically a cubera snapper spawning site, a good general site for habitat and for ease of enforcement. This area was removed from further consideration because it lies within the boundaries of the Key Biscayne National Park.

Other Possible Option 3C (Florida): In Broward County the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Marine Preserves Committee is recommending a state MPA off of Ft. Lauderdale by the Sea and it is recommend that there be a federal extension of that area from the shoreline out to the third reef line. This area was removed from consideration because it lies in State waters.

Other Possible Option 4C (Florida): Sloans Curve to the breakers which is 60-80ft of water. Currently there is a dive community which is imposing restrictions on itself and it is recommended that this area be made a full no-take zone. This area was removed from consideration because it lies in State waters.

Other Possible Option 5C (Florida):Lake Worth Inlet, South Jetty: This is a very small area where pre-spawning Grouper aggregations occur when cold fronts pass through this area and produce strong ground seas and NW winds. The aggregation occurs in December and January months. This area was removed from consideration because it lies in State waters.

Other Possible Option 6C (Florida): This area is called the Palm Beach Reefs. This is a high profile hard bottom with coral, sponges, sea fan and periodic, early winter, pre-spawning Grouper aggregations may be found. The local dive boat operators have discouraged spearfishing in this area and have seen a return of many Snapper Grouper species. This area was removed from consideration because it lies in State waters.

D. Other Sites that were considered but removed:

Other Possible Option 2D (Florida): Oculina habitat from current restricted Oculina bank area north to off the coast of NC where the Oculina coral ends. Recommendation is to allow fishing but not allow bottom fishing or anchoring.

Other Possible Option 3D (Florida):Continue the current restrictions in the Oculina Experimental Research Reserve and improve upon enforcement. This will be handled in Snapper Grouper Amendment 13.

Other Possible Option 4D (Florida): Peanut Oculina This is a sensitive Oculina reef structure in 180' that has Gag Grouper, Amberjack aggregations. Oculina Coral structure. This site was removed from consideration due to the small size of the area which will make enforcement extremely difficult.

Other Possible Option 5D (Florida): Deep water spawning spot North of the 44200 line on Oculina shelf. The Council did not receive enough information for this site to consider it at this time.