

## **RESULTS FROM THE AUGUST 31, 2001 MARINE PROTECTED AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING**

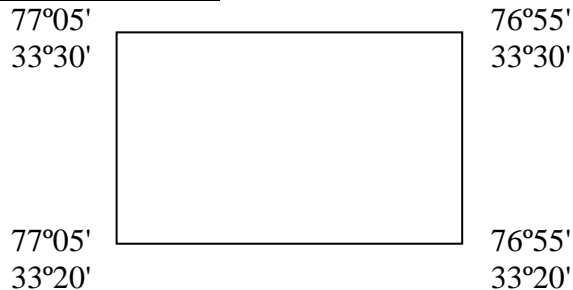
At its August 31, 2001 meeting in Charleston, SC, after hearing deliberations and recommendations from the Marine Protected Areas, Snapper Grouper, Wreckfish, Habitat, Coral and Law Enforcement Advisory Panels, the Marine Protected Areas Committee voted to forward the following recommendations to the Snapper Grouper Committee with regards to marine protected areas:

1. The MPA Committee recommends that the Snapper Grouper Committee consider the use of MPAs to supplement management approaches to be considered for the deepwater grouper tilefish complex.
2. MPAs to consider are listed below, they have been discussed and recommended by the "mega-AP" (MPA, Snapper Grouper, Wreckfish, Habitat, Coral and Law Enforcement) at their Charleston meeting (August 29-30, 2001). The list provides areas identified to protect habitats known to be inhabited by the deepwater groupers and tilefish. Nominated sites not recommended will be held for possible future consideration.
3. The Committee further recommends that the Snapper Grouper AP and Assessment Group review the data provided by MARMAP and other sources to determine if any additional sites may be reasonable candidates to further protect species of concern.
4. Finally the committee should move forward with the concept of the artificial refugia by endorsing site NC-2 and other possible sites in the region.

**Motion: adopt recommendations made by the mpa committee.  
approved by committee.**

**List of Sites Recommended by the MPA Committee to Continue to be Considered as Marine Protected Areas**

**North Carolina Site 1:**



This box represents an area that encompasses a portion of the 30 fathom break. Water depth is approximately 128-148 fathoms.

**The MPA Committee's recommendation is to continue the consideration of this site but to move the eastern boundary 5 miles (Note: The above box and coordinates are the original location/size). They recommend the site be a Type 2 MPA, with no possession of prohibited species.**

**Snapper Grouper Committee Recommendation:  
create a 10 x 10 mile box around area north of cape fear and south of hatteras (snowy spawning area, speckled hind and blueline – according to marmap data) to gather comments from ap, assessment group and public. Intent that this area be a type 2 mpa.  
approved by committee.**

**North Carolina Site 2:**

North Carolina site 2 is a recommendation for an artificial refugia site in an area approximately 12 miles south of Beaufort Inlet. This area would be about 2 square miles in approximately 10 fathoms.

**The MPA Committee recommendation is to continue the consideration of this site, accepting the MPA Advisory Panel's recommendation to ensure there is enough hard bottom for comparison and to make the area a Type 1 MPA.**

**Snapper Grouper Committee Recommendation:  
retain n-3 and n-4 for further input from snapper grouper ap with the intent that we move forward with one site.  
approved by committee.**

**South Carolina Site 1 (formerly N-4):**

The center point of suggested South Carolina site N-4 would lie at 33° 06.0' N; 77° 49.0' W and the 5 x 10 nautical mile box surrounding it would be orientated horizontally.

**The MPA Committee recommends removing South Carolina site N-3 from consideration and moving forward with South Carolina site N-4 for consideration (with the possibility that it may need to be moved) as a Type 2 MPA.**

**Snapper Grouper Committee Recommendation:**

**South Carolina Site 2 (formerly C-3):**

The center point of suggested South Carolina site C-3 would lie at 32° 21.0' N; 79° 00.0' W and the 5 x 10 nautical mile box surrounding it would be orientated horizontally.

**The MPA Committee recommends moving forward with consideration of South Carolina site C-3 as a Type 2 MPA.**

**Snapper Grouper Committee Recommendation:**

**South Carolina Site 3 (formerly Site S-3) and Georgia Site 1 (formerly Site G-2):**

The center point of suggested South Carolina site S-3 would lie at 31° 24.3' N; 79° 32.0' W and the 5 x 10 nautical mile box surrounding it would be orientated vertically.

The NW corner Georgia site G-2 lies at 31° 32.275' N. Latitude, 79° 36.347' W. Longitude. Located in 600-650' water depths, this site is located on the continental slope, and consists of a one to three mile wide strip of predominately mud bottom that parallels the shelf edge in shallower depths.

**The MPA Committee recommends moving forward with the consideration of South Carolina Site 3 and Georgia Site 1 (NOTE: We believe it is the Committee's intent that through more analysis there will be only one site in this area, not two, but we will get clarification of this in September) as a Type 2 MPA.**

**Snapper Grouper Committee Recommendation:**

**combine the boxes, and move to the west and north (move the eastern boundary to the west) . the western boundary will still be looked at.**

**Florida/ Experimental *Oculina* Research Reserve:**

Continue the current restrictions in the *Oculina* Experimental Research Reserve and improve upon enforcement to protect the habitat and deepwater snapper grouper species.

**The MPA Committee recommends moving forward with the Experimental *Oculina* Research Reserve as a Type 2 MPA.**

**Snapper Grouper Committee Recommendation:  
remove this site from amendment 14.  
approved by committee.**

**Florida/ Sea Bass Rocks (formerly Hobe Sound Bars):**

The coordinates of Sea Bass Rocks are as follows: the NW corner lies at 27° 8' N latitude and 80° W longitude; the NE corner lies at 27° 8' N latitude and 79°58' W longitude; the SW corner lies at 27° 4' N latitude and 80° W longitude; and the SE corner lies at 27° 4' N latitude and 79° 58' W longitude.

**The MPA Committee recommends moving forward with the consideration of Sea Bass Rocks as a Type 2 MPA.**

**Snapper Grouper Committee:**

**Florida/ Islamorada Hump:**

The coordinates for the portion of the Islamorada Hump being considered are as follows: The NW corner lies at 24°48.882' N latitude and 80°28.794' W longitude; the NE corner lies at 24°48.882' N latitude and 80° 24.748' W longitude; the SW corner lies at 24°42.466 N latitude and 80°28.794' W longitude; and the SE corner lies at 24°42.466 N latitude and 80° 24.748' W longitude.

**The MPA Committee recommends moving forward with the consideration of a portion of the Islamorada Hump as a Type 2 MPA.**

**\*Alternate option (as submitted by Islamorada Charterboat Association): East Hump and an unnamed hump whose coordinates are:**

<b>Northwest</b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>Southwest</b>	<b>Southeast</b>
<b>24.36.50N</b>	<b>24.32.00N</b>	<b>24.32.50N</b>	<b>24.27.50N</b>
<b>080.45.50W</b>	<b>080.36.00W</b>	<b>080.48.00W</b>	<b>080.38.50W</b>

**Their recommendation this area be a Type II MPA with a 5 year review.**

**Snapper Grouper Committee Recommendation:**

**remove islamorada hump from mpa list.  
approved by committee**

**snapper grouper committee recommendation: Accept proposal for east hump and unnamed hump as presented by bill kelly's proposal.  
approved by committee.**

**Formal Council Sanctioned Review**

**In addition to the above recommendations the MPA Committee has recommended that there be a Formal Council Sanctioned Review by which after 5 years the Council can evaluate the effectiveness of each site as a MPA.**

**Five Years after the implementation of regulations that designate each site as a marine protected area a Formal Council Sanctioned Review shall take place. At such time research reports, monitoring reports, law enforcement issues, public input or any other pertinent information regarding each marine protected area will be presented to the Snapper Grouper Committee. The Committee would then ask the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel, and the Snapper Grouper Assessment Group for a recommendation on whether or not to continue with marine protected area regulations. After reviewing the recommendations from each of the advisory bodies, the Snapper Grouper Committee would then make a final recommendation to the Council on whether or not to repeal the restrictions within the marine protected area.**

**It is the Council's intent that the regulations that make each area a marine protected area would continue to remain in effect past this five year period, unless as a result of the Council's formal review it is determined the site should no longer continue as an MPA. At this point the Council would then develop an amendment to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan to repeal or modify the regulations that created the marine protected area.**

**motion: adopt above wording with the change that we not limit who will review information – appropriate bodies will be involved with reviewing data.  
approved by committee**

**The MPA Committee also made the following recommendation:**

**The Council should continue to develop an integrated and ecologically based network of MPAs as part of an ecosystem-based management program, with a principle focus on protecting and rebuilding all species in the snapper grouper complex.**

Specifically, the Council should request that the Habitat, MPA Snapper Grouper, Wreckfish, Calico Scallop, Rock Shrimp, Law Enforcement, and Coral APs provide further input to the Snapper Grouper Committee and the Council on actions needed to implement such a network, including:

- a) Actions to protect and rebuild pertinent pre-adult life history stages of the severely overfished deepwater snapper grouper species, and
- b) Actions to protect and rebuild pertinent life history stages for the other species of the complex.

**motion: accept the recommendation from the mpa committee.  
approved by committee.**