

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1  
Frequently Asked Questions  
June 2010

**What is the Comprehensive Ecosystem Based Amendment 1 (CE-BA 1)?**

The CE-BA 1 implements management measures to establish deepwater coral habitat areas of particular concern (CHAPCs) in the South Atlantic region; establishes shrimp fishery access areas and allowable gear areas for the golden crab fishery within the CHAPCs; and updates spatial information on essential fish habitat (EFH).

**What is the intent of CE-BA 1?**

CE-BA 1 protects deepwater coral ecosystems from bottom damaging fishing gear. It establishes deepwater CHAPCs to protect what is believed to be the largest distribution (>60,000 square kilometers; 23,000 square miles) of deepwater coral ecosystems in the world.

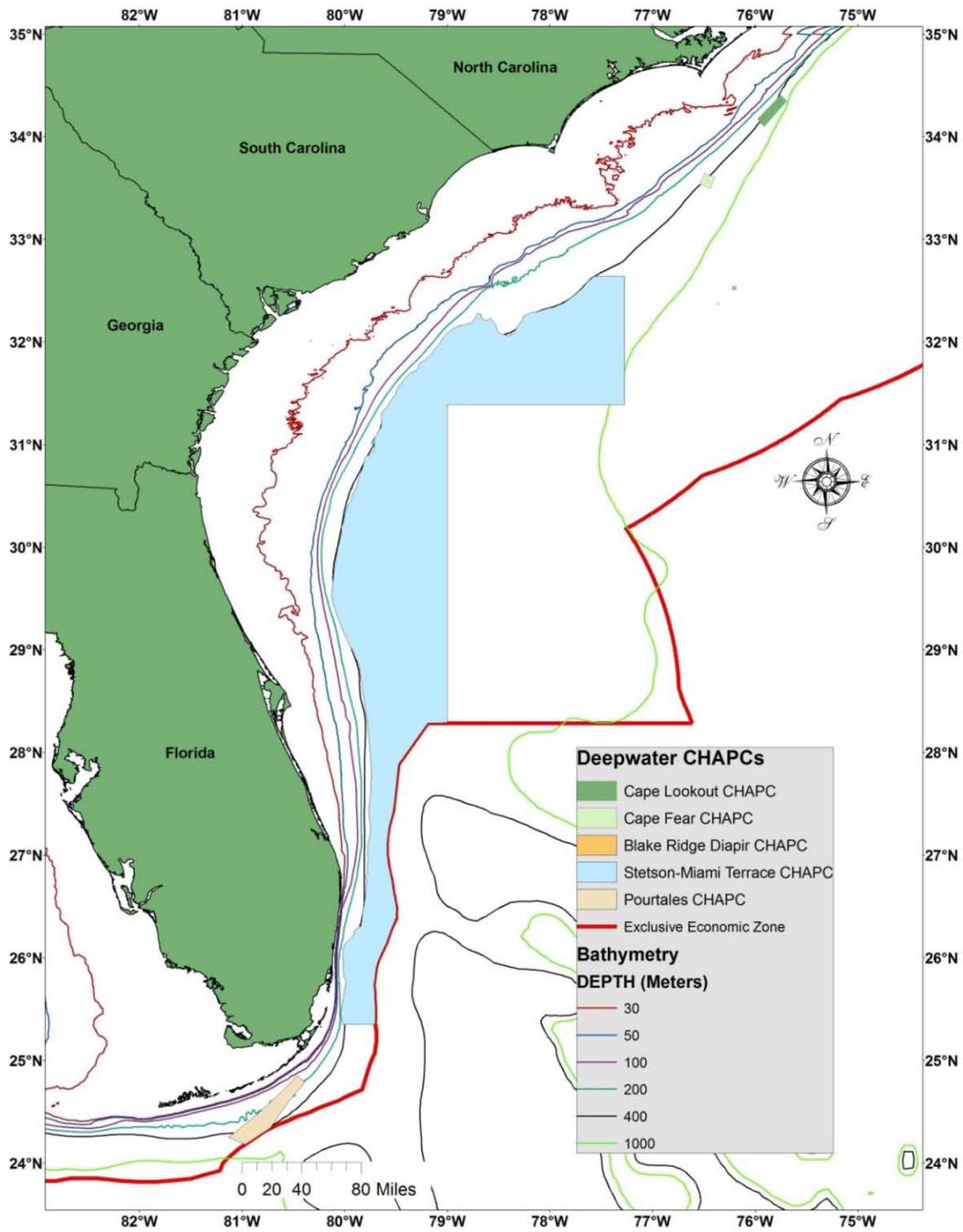
**Where are the CHAPCs located?**

CHAPCs are located in the following areas:

- Cape Lookout Lophelia Banks
- Cape Fear Lophelia Banks
- Stetson Reefs, Savannah and East Florida Lithoherms, and Miami Terrace (Stetson-Miami Terrace)
- Pourtales Terrace
- Blake Ridge Diapir Methane Seep

The CHAPCs were selected based on locations of deepwater coral colonies or suspected deepwater coral colonies. With the exception of the Portales Terrace CHAPC, all of the CHAPCs are in water depths greater than 300 m (984 feet).

The following map shows the location of the CHAPCs. The exact coordinates of the CHAPCs can be found in Appendix F of the CE-BA 1 document or on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) Web site: <http://www.safmc.net>



**Which fisheries are affected by the measures in CE-BA 1?**

Fisheries that use bottom damaging gear within the CHAPCs are prohibited. This includes bottom longline, trawl (bottom and mid-water), dredge, pot or trap, or the use of an anchor, anchor and chain, or grapple and chain by all fishing vessels. Currently the only commercial fisheries that operate in the proposed CHAPCs are the wreckfish, golden crab, and royal red shrimp fisheries. Management measures in CE-BA 1 allow these fisheries to continue with little or no negative impacts to deepwater coral habitat.

**What is prohibited within the CHAPCs?**

Within the CHAPCs, the possession of coral species and the use of all bottom damaging gear is prohibited including bottom longline, trawl (bottom and mid-water), dredge, pot or trap, or the use of an anchor, anchor and chain, or grapple and chain by all fishing vessels.

**Is deep-drop fishing for snapper-grouper species allowed within the CHAPCs?**

Deep-drop fishing for snapper-grouper species is allowed when done without anchoring. Anchoring within a CHAPC is prohibited by all vessels.

**Where are the shrimp fishery access areas?**

The shrimp fishery access areas are located in the historic fishing grounds of the deepwater shrimp fishery. The exact coordinates of the shrimp fishery access areas can be found in Appendix G of the CE-BA 1 document or on the Council’s Web site: <http://www.safmc.net>

**Where are the golden crab “allowable gear areas”?**

The golden crab allowable gear areas are located in the historic fishing grounds of the golden crab fishery. The exact coordinates of the golden crab “allowable gear areas” can be found in Appendix H of the CE-BA 1 document or on the Council’s Web site: <http://www.safmc.net>

**Why are the golden crab and deepwater shrimp fisheries allowed to operate in the CHAPCs?**

The Council worked with the fishing industry to allow these fisheries to operate in their traditional fishing areas within the CHAPCs to minimize adverse social and economic impacts on the fishery. These fisheries are not able to expand into the CHAPCs.

**CE-BA 1 includes amendments to seven fishery management plans to include spatial representation of previously designated EFH. What does this mean?**

EFH was designated for managed species through the EFH Final Rule (1998). As part of the EFH Final Rule, all fishery management plans are required to provide spatial representation of EFH (i.e. maps).

**Where can I get a copy of CE-BA 1?**

CE-BA 1 can be found at: [www.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov)