1. INTRODUCTION

Deep-sea corals are fragile, slow-growing organisms that play an important role in the marine ecosystem including as habitat for managed fishery species. Corals are vulnerable to various types of disturbance of the seafloor. This amendment is being developed to identify management areas where deep-sea corals occur, and restrict the use of particular types of fishing gears in those areas to preserve and protect these coral habitats. This amendment contains alternatives that aim to identify and protect concentrations of corals in select areas and restrict the expansion of fishing effort into areas where corals are likely to be present. The Council is developing this management plan amendment utilizing its discretionary authority under section 303(b) in MSA.

Locations throughout the New England region are under consideration for management. South of Georges Bank, areas under consideration include discrete canyons and seamounts as well as broad areas of the slope and abyssal plain that extend from the shelf break to the Exclusive Economic Zone boundary. In the Gulf of Maine, management areas under consideration include inshore locations along the eastern Maine coast, and offshore locations in Jordan and Georges Basins. Gear restriction options include all bottom-tending gears, with possible exemptions for red crab and other types of traps, including lobster traps, or just mobile bottom-tending gears. The Council recognizes the importance and value of commercial fisheries that operate in or near areas of deep-sea coral habitat. As such, measures in this amendment will be considered in light of their benefit to corals as well as their costs to commercial fisheries.
2. PURPOSE

To depict the spatial extent of a draft management zone to protect deep-sea corals from the negative impacts of fishing. These zones are being considered as part of the New England Fishery Management Council's Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment. These zones will continue to be modified throughout the amendment development process and should be considered a draft until a final decision is recommended by the Council to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

3. SOURCES AND AUTHORITIES

- For questions, contact Michelle Bachman (mbachman@nefmc.org)

4. DATABASE DESIGN AND CONTENT

Native storage format: ArcGIS File Geodatabase – simple feature class

Feature Types: Polygons

Data Dictionary:

For broad zones:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FID</td>
<td>Uniquely identifies a feature</td>
<td>OBJECTID</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shape</td>
<td>Geometric representation of the feature</td>
<td>geometry</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Name of the zone</td>
<td>text</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Area_miles</td>
<td>Area of each zone in miles</td>
<td>Double</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Area_km</td>
<td>Area of each zone in km</td>
<td>Double</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ZoneType</td>
<td>Type of zone</td>
<td>text</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>shortname</td>
<td>Abbreviated name of the zone</td>
<td>text</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feature Class Name: CoralAmendment

Total Number of Unique Features: 4

Dataset Status: In Progress

5. SPATIAL REPRESENTATION
Geometry Type: vector polygon
Horizontal Datum: North American Datum 1983
Ellipsoid: Geodetic Reference System 1980

XY Resolution: XY Scale is 100000000.0000001
Tolerance: 0.0000000089831528411952117

Geographic extent: -70.66 to -65.69, 38.04 to 44.23

IS0 19115 Topic Category: biology, environment, oceans

Place Names:
Atlantic Ocean, Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine, Wilkinson Basin

Recommended Cartographic Properties:

Discrete Zones:

Scale range for optimal visualization: 5,000,000

6. DATA PROCESSING

Processing environment: ArcGIS 10.5, Windows 10 Professional, Intel Core i5 CPU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Steps Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. QUALITY PROCESS

Attribute Accuracy: Attribute information is based upon source material and is accurate as such.
Logical Consistency: These data are believed to be logically consistent.

Completeness: These are draft management areas and subject to change

Positional Accuracy: These zones were delineated using bathymetric contours. Accuracy based on the correct location of the source layer.

Timeliness: Data up to date as of April 2018.

Use restrictions: Not for navigation

Distribution Liability: Data provided as is. Northeast Ocean Data and NEFMC are not liable for any interpretations, assumptions, or conclusions based on these data