

**Joint Coral and Habitat Protection and Restoration Committee Report  
April 3, 2017  
Dale Diaz and John Sanchez, Chairs**

*Summary of the Scoping Workshops for Coral Amendment 7*

Staff presented the summary of comments that were received regarding the scoping document for Coral Amendment 7. Committee members discussed including all 47 areas that were proposed by the 2015 coral working group. There was concern that this would be interpreted as disingenuous to fishermen as it was discussed during the advisory panel meetings that the number of areas would be limited to the proposed areas currently included in the scoping document. Staff suggested there could be a second document that include the remaining proposed areas for later consideration. Committee members discussed being up front with the public at the onset and including all 47 proposed areas for consideration into the current Coral Amendment 7. There are actually 23 areas included in the scoping document- 15 were proposed to have regulations by the Coral SSC/AP and 8 were proposed to not have regulations. The remaining 24 areas include existing HAPCs with no regulations and include some areas under consideration for the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. The Committees determined that it would be best to move forward with the proposed areas in the scoping document for Coral Amendment 7.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **To add a second amendment that would address the proposed areas not included in the scoping document for Coral Amendment 7 (Coral Amendment 8).**

Motion carried with no opposition.

This concludes my report.