

Draft Area of Interest: LORAN Tower Ledges and Offshore Martin Deep Ridge

LORAN Tower Ledges –

Objectives:

- Seasonal protection for spawning aggregations.
- Provide increased protection for key reef-associated fish species and habitats upon which they depend for their entire life cycle.
- Protect from water quality issues.

Habitat Background:

- The Community Working Group identified this draft area of interest because of the spawning aggregations that are present and other unique geologic features.
- There is not necessarily high coral cover but there is high relief in this area which is important habitat for fish.
- This area has Gray Snapper and Goliath Grouper spawning aggregations.
- This area specifically includes the artificial reefs and northern running extension of reef line.

Human Use Background:

- This area is near (but not adjacent to) to areas managed in federal waters by the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.
- This is a high fishing area.
- Diving occurs in 80-100' depth.
- There are current agencies considering this area for beach renourishment sand sourcing.
- The fishes that spawn in this area are already managed by seasonal closures or by complete closures (e.g. Goliath Grouper). However the Community Working Group noted that fishing regulations can change and wanted to ensure protection for the spawning aggregation areas.

Questions:

- The Community Working Group considered this draft area of interest along with the Offshore Martin County Ledges draft area of interest. They would like feedback on whether you think both/either areas are important for management consideration and why?

Offshore Martin Deep Ridge –

Objectives:

- Seasonal protection for spawning aggregations.
- Provide increased protection for key reef-associated fish species and habitats upon which they depend for their entire life cycle.
- Protect from water quality issues.

Habitat Background:

- The Community Working Group identified this draft area of interest because of the spawning aggregations and it is a unique area.
- The area contains both reef lines and artificial reefs near the northern border.
- This area has Gray Snapper and Goliath Grouper spawning aggregations.

Human Use Background:

- Beach renourishment sand borrowing sites are located within this area.
- This area was specifically identified south of existing artificial reefs.

Questions:

- The Community Working Group considered this draft area of interest along with the LORAN Tower Ledges draft area of interest. They would like feedback on whether you think both/either areas are important for management consideration and why?

▲ Artificial Reef

🚤 Dive Sites

--- FL State Water Boundary

🟩 Aquatic Preserve

🟪 State Park

Mooring Buoys

○ In use

● Not in use

Habitat

🟪 Coral Reef and Hardbottom

🟨 Sand

Alabama Georgia

Florida

Martin

Palm Beach

Broward

Miami-Dade

OFR Region

10 Miles

90 Miles

North

South

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles
1 centimeter = 0.2 kilometers
1 inch = 0.4 miles
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 km

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