

## **SAC's Regulatory Recommendations for Expansion Areas**

### **Fishing**

- 1) Include all fishing regulatory recommendations of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) for all expansion areas, as contained in the letter dated November 8, 2016. (Attachment of document).
- 2) Recommendation that the weak link environmental safeguard be mandatory for anchors within the boundaries of any Coral HAPC or FGBNMS.
- 3) Include regulations that allow free-diving spearfishing at all new banks, but not the three current and expanded bank areas of the present FGBNMS. There shall also be no take of reef fish by spearfish equipment and there shall be no possession of any reef fish on board the vessel, when in possession of a speargun in the new areas of the FGBNMS. SCUBA tanks are prohibited on board a freedive spearfishing vessel.
- 4) Exemption to current regulations: possession of speargun (stowed and not available for immediate use) on board a vessel while within the boundaries of the existing FGBNMS is allowed, but the vessel may not be in possession of any fish species (with the exception of bait fish).  
  
i.e. (Prohibit possession of any fish species if in possession of a speargun within the existing FGBNMS.)
- 5) To recommend that, prior to the development of a final EIS of the FGBNMS Expansion, the FGBNMS present the modified boundaries under consideration to the Gulf Council and the Gulf Council be given the opportunity to provide recommendations of fishing regulations in these modified boundaries.

### **Oil & Gas**

- 1) Continue to allow seismic surveying acquisition inside the boundaries of the new bank expansion areas, adopting the BOEM & BSEE regulations for these activities.
- 2) Continue to allow BOEM oil & gas leasing of the areas inside the boundaries of the new bank expansion areas.
- 3) Continue with the existing regulations regarding pipelines inside the boundaries of the new bank expansion areas.