

Proposed Criteria for evaluating SARS

The habitat value in conjunction with site specific criteria should drive the consideration of a SARS. Habitat value of the existing structures within the proposed SARS should be the primary basis for a SARS determination. Enhancement of a proposed SARS with additional structure is appropriate; however the enhancement should not overshadow the premise for initially creating the SARS. Other site specific criteria must also be considered in the evaluation process. The following is intended as a guide for developing a process for evaluating SARS.

A. Habitat Value- Total habitat value for a SARS should be based on a compilation of 1) a biological assessment of the site, 2) unique characteristics of the site, and 3) habitat values for the individual jackets. Habitat values for those jackets brought to the proposed SARS for enhancement should be graded.

1. Rapid Biological Assessment of proposed location

- a) Overall biomass
- b) Species diversity (fish & invertebrates)
- c) Species abundance (fish & invertebrates)
- d) Presence\absence of desired species (fish & invertebrates)

2. Unique biological characteristics of proposed location

- a) Essential habitat for mammals, turtles, fish, or invertebrates
- b) Spawning site
- c) Established population of threatened or endangered species

3. Individual Jacket Habitat Value

Individual jacket habitat values should only be considered for those structures which require immediate decommissioning due to hurricane damage or those structures for which it can be demonstrated that production has ceased and decommissioning is eminent (within 1 year). Furthermore individual jacket habitat value should be graded based on proximity to the proposed SARS as detailed below:

- 100% individual jacket habitat value for each structure within proposed SARS boundaries.
- 66% individual jacket habitat value for each structure towed from less than 5 miles of the proposed SARS center. (Habitat value of the existing structure(s) within a proposed SARS should drive the development of the SARS; therefore creating the premise for reducing the habitat value for structures towed to the proposed SARS)

- 33% individual jacket habitat value for each structure towed from 5 to 15 miles of the proposed SARS center. (Habitat value of the existing structure(s) within a proposed SARS should drive the development of the SARS; therefore creating the premise for reducing the habitat value for structures towed to the proposed SARS)
- 5% individual jacket habitat value for each structure towed from greater than 15 miles of the proposed SARS center. (Highly probable that these jackets could have been towed to an established artificial reef)
- 0% for land-based materials

a) Jacket Size

- (1) Number of piles
- (2) Percentage of jacket to be reefed

b) Final Jacket Reef Configuration

- (1) Water Depth at Reef
- (2) Reefed Jacket Profile
- (3) Reefed Jacket Structural Complexity
 - (a) Shallowest horizontal elevation
 - (b) Number of horizontal elevations
 - (c) Vertical conductors (conductor profile)
 - (d) Unusual structural complexity (skirt piles, unique mud mat, etc.)
- (4) Durability (single structure, several pieces, or debris)
- (5) Stability of structure(s)

c) Necessity of explosives for P&A or decommissioning

d) Timeline for final reef deployment

B. Site Specific Criteria

1. USCG Clearance-buoy requirements

- a) Liability**
- b) Marking Duration**
- c) Expense**

2. Proximity to features

- a) Navigation (Safety Fairways\LOOP\ LNG Terminals)**
- b) Established Artificial Reefs\Planning Areas**
- c) Natural Reefs\Features**
- d) Established Oil & Gas Pipelines**
- e) Established Oil & Gas Structures**

- (1) Potential structure enhancement within 15 miles
- (2) Potential for more complex reef site

3. Interaction with Commercial Fishing

- a) **Trawlers**
- b) **Reef Fishermen**

4. Interaction with Recreational Interest

- a) **Private Anglers**
- b) **Scuba divers**
- c) **Charter boats\Head boats**

5. Alternative uses of Area

- a) **Further Oil & Gas extraction/ pipelines**
- b) **Sand extraction**
- c) **Wind\Solar farms**
- d) **Aquaculture**

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