

August 12, 2024

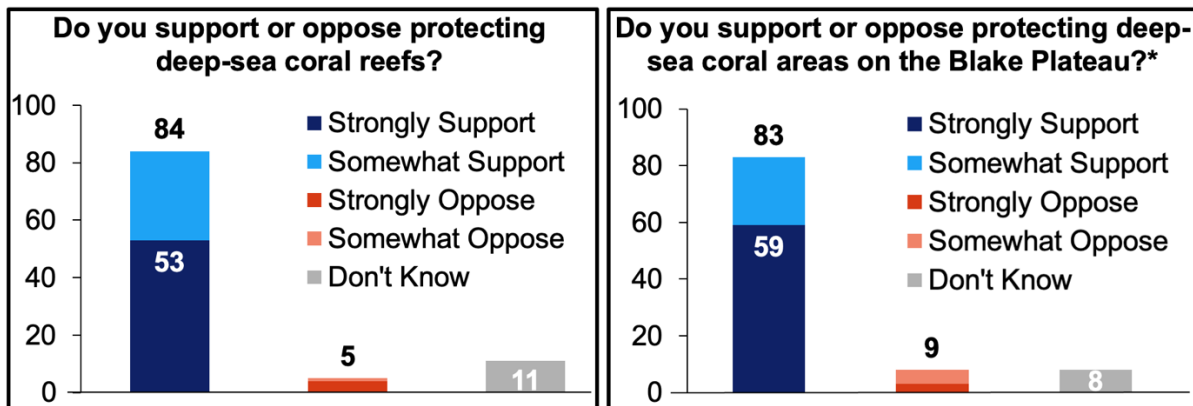
To: Interested Parties

Fr: Impact Research

Re: **Findings from Polling on Protecting Areas on the Blake Plateau**

Recent polling of Georgia and coastal South Carolina voters shows overwhelming support for protecting deep-sea coral areas on the Blake Plateau. Voters are particularly motivated by protecting the habitat and the endangered species that rely on them.

- Voters strongly support protecting deep-sea coral reefs in general and the Blake Plateau in particular.** 84% of voters support protecting deep-sea coral reefs, including a majority who *strongly* support it. Support is above 80% in both Georgia (84% support) and coastal South Carolina (86%) as well as with Democrats (86%), Republicans (82%), and Independents (85%). Similar numbers of voters support protecting deep-sea coral areas on the Blake Plateau after learning more about it.



**Information shown before question: The Blake Plateau is an ocean area located 80-200 miles off the coasts of the Carolinas, Florida, and Georgia. The Blake Plateau contains the world's largest deep-sea coral habitat and is home to many species of fish, marine mammals, and birds. The Blake Plateau holds cultural and spiritual significance for the Gullah/Geechee people, whose enslaved ancestors crossed its waters during the Middle Passage.*

- Voters are motivated to protect vulnerable marine life and recognize the area's cultural legacy.** Around three-quarters of voters said that supporting endangered species such as sperm whales (76%) and preserving the world's largest deep-sea coral reef habitat (71%) are convincing reasons to support protections. More than three-quarters of Black voters (79%) said that the area's legacy as a cultural landmark, serving as the resting place for Gullah/Geechee ancestors who didn't survive the crossing of the Middle Passage, is a convincing reason to support protections.
- Almost half of voters would have more favorable views of a President who protected deep-sea coral areas on the Blake Plateau** (46% More favorable / 4% Less favorable / 46% No difference).

Findings and recommendations are based on the results of a live phone and text-to-web survey conducted by Impact Research from July 19th to 23rd, 2024, among N=500 voters in Georgia and with a N=100 oversample of voters in coastal South Carolina counties (Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, and Jasper). The margin of error is +3.5% for the full sample.