Agenda Item E.1.d
Supplemental Public Comment 4
June 2009

PROPOSAL TO THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO MODIFY GROUNDFISH ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS

Juan de Fuca Coral Canyons and Grays Canyon Sponge Reefs

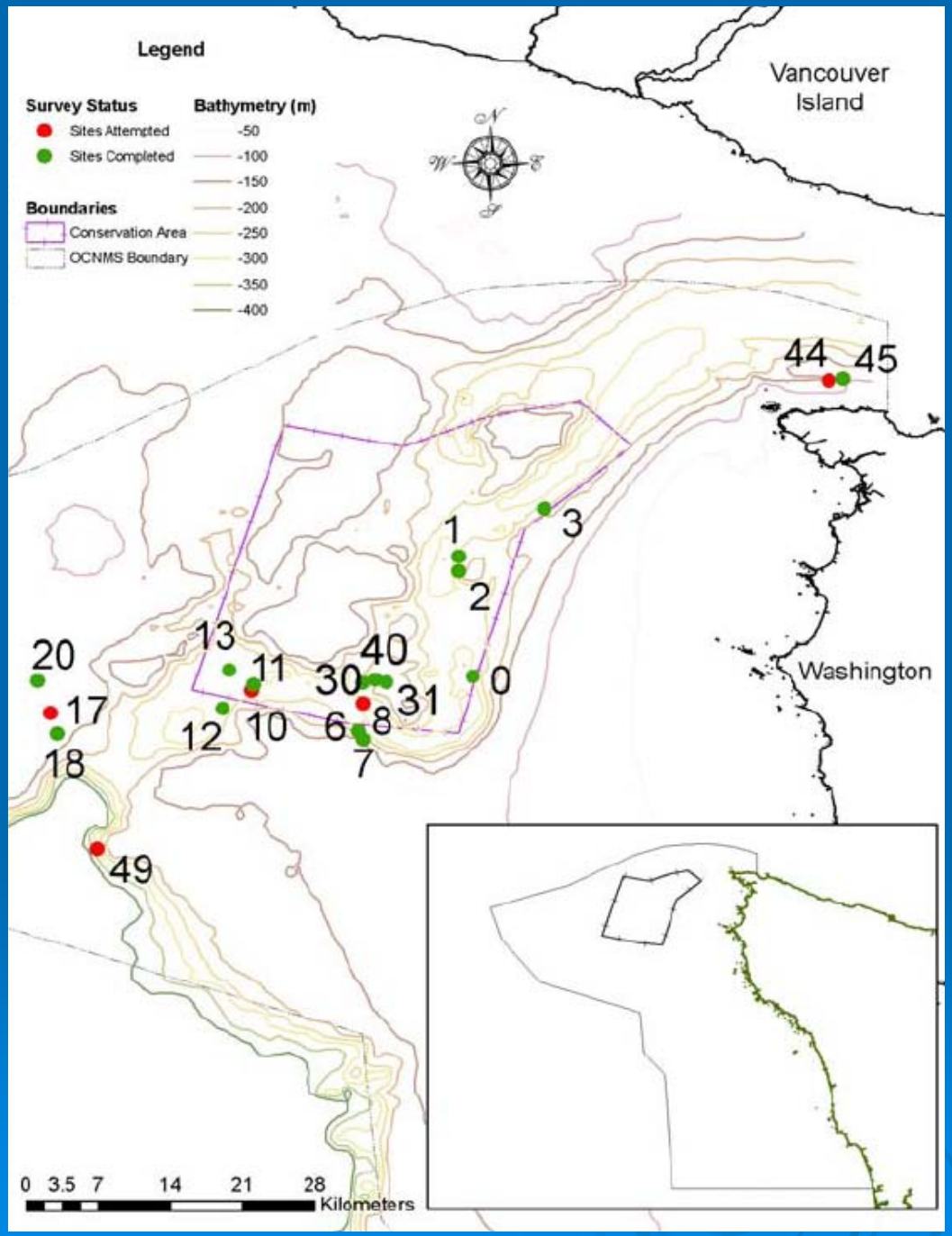
OCEANA | Protecting the World's Oceans

Ben Enticknap, Oceana

PFMC. June 13, 2009

"The three dimensional structure of deep corals may function in very similar ways to their tropical counterparts, providing enhanced feeding opportunities for aggregating species, a hiding place from predators, a nursery area for juveniles, fish spawning aggregation sites, and attachment substrate for sedentary invertebrates."

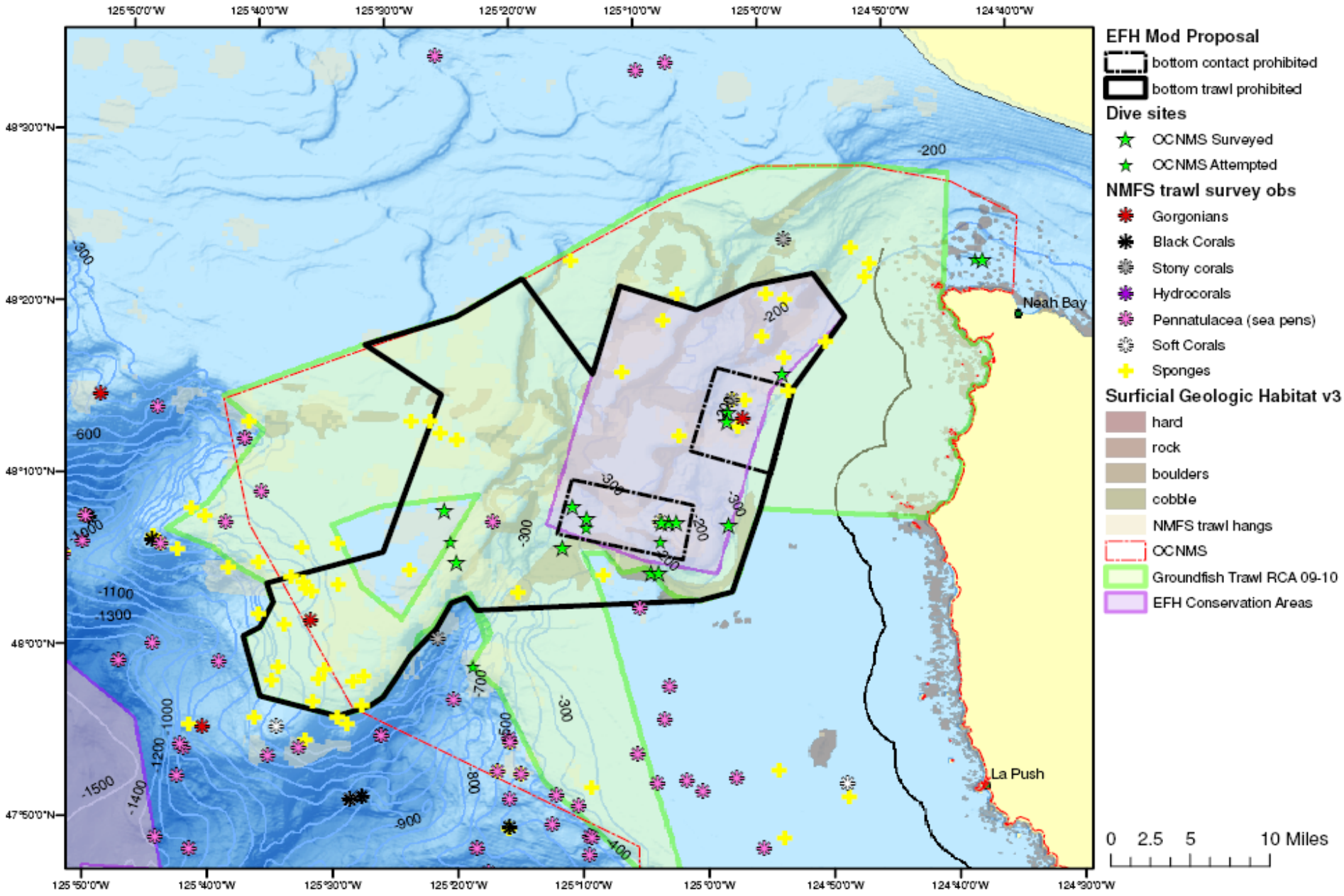
NOAA 2007. State of Deep Coral Ecosystems of the United States



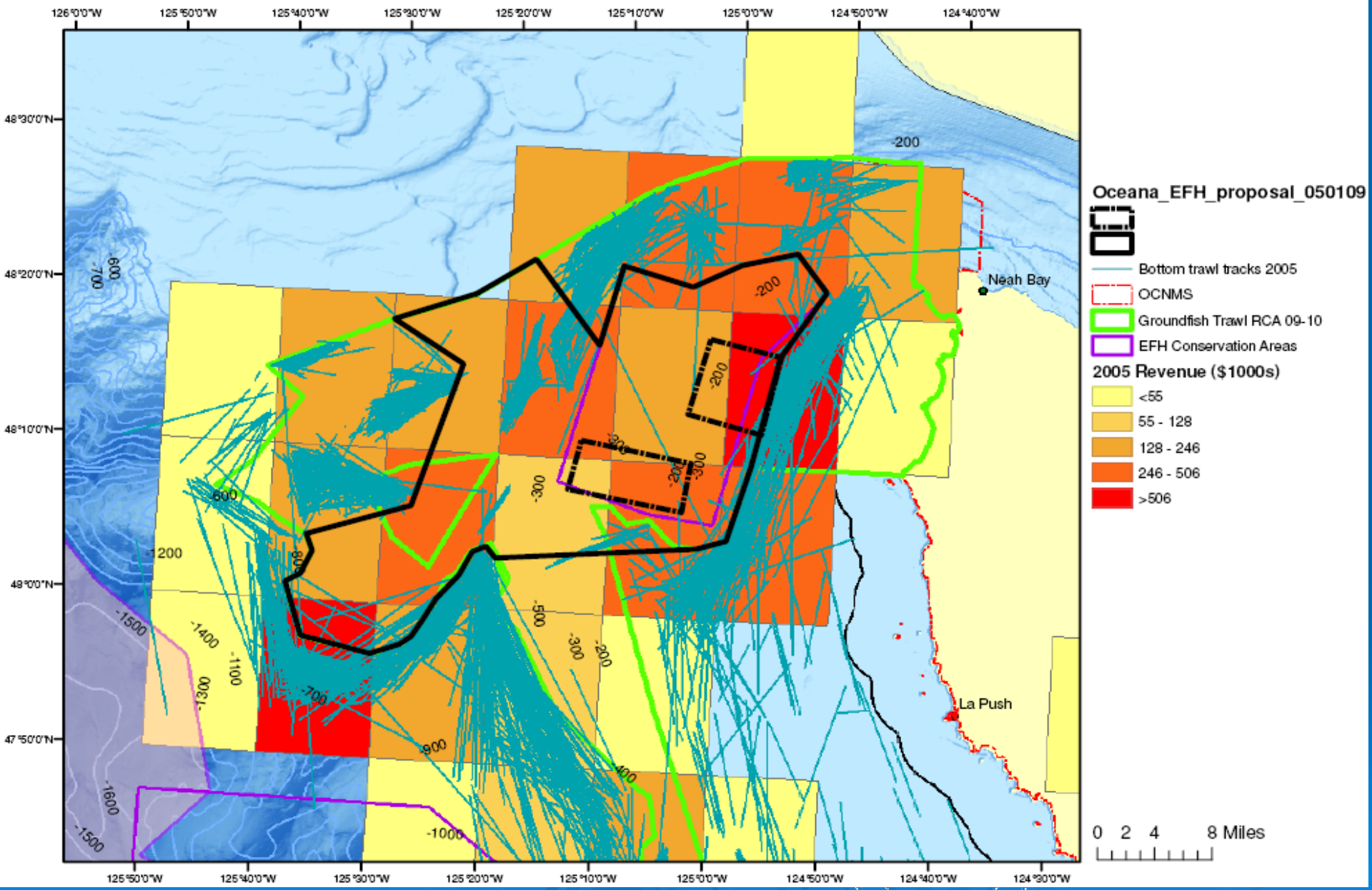
OCNMS Research Dives 2006

- Coral and sponge communities at 14 of 15 dive sites
- 17 coral species
- Reef building sponges
- Evidence of fishing induced habitat damage

Figure 2: Juan De Fuca Coral Canyons Important Ecological Area Proposed EFH Closure Modification



Juan De Fuca Trawling Activity (2005) and Management Map



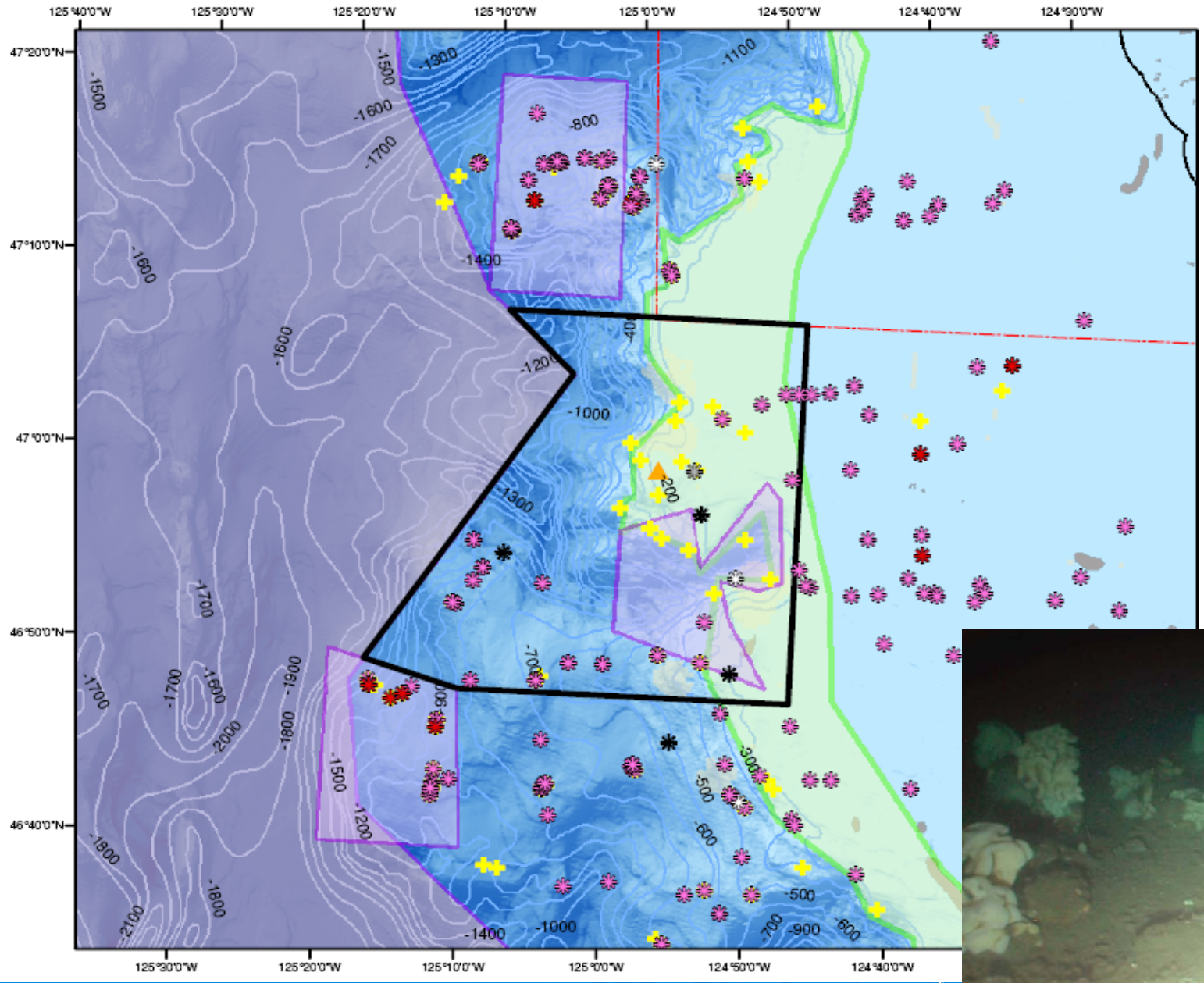
Gray's Canyon

Glass Sponge Reef

"The Washington reef is at least 2,000 feet long and up to 10 feet tall."
– Seattle P.I. July 28, 2007.

"The Queen Charlotte Basin [sponge] reef complexes support diverse communities that are distinct from surrounding shelf communities and play a role as nursery habitats for rockfish (*Sebastes* spp.)." Cook et al. 2008

Figure 3: Grays Canyon Sponge Reefs Important Ecological Area Proposed EFH Closure Modification



Grays Canyon Trawling Activity (2005) and Management Map