

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

Under Agenda Item I.3 (Inseason), it was brought to the Council's attention that there was an error in the waypoints defining the 125 fm line that was adopted for use in management for the non-trawl fishery south of 40°10' N latitude as part of the 2017-2018 harvest specifications. This error causes crossovers near Usal Rock and potentially Kibesillan Rock.

When the Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) were first implemented in the early 2000s the seaward boundary for the non-trawl sector south of 40°10' N latitude was established at 150 fm and remained at that depth until 2017. Meanwhile, the trawl RCA in this same area has never utilized the 125 fm line (Tables 6 and 7, Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 2).

Given that the 125 fm line south of 40°10' N latitude has never been used in management, it had yet to be field tested until now. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) requests that the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service undertake a process to address and correct this error as expeditiously as possible. CDFW intended to reduce - not increase - the size of the RCA in moving the seaward boundary line to a shallower depth. Fixing the waypoints to allow access to these new fishing grounds consistent with decisions made in the 2017-2018 specifications process should be implemented as soon as possible, to minimize economic impacts and allow for harvest opportunities that were intended.

PFMC
03/13/17