

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered the documents under this agenda item and offers the following comments.

The Essential Fish Habitat/Rockfish Conservation Area (EFH/RCA) Project Team Progress Report, [Agenda C.5.a, EFH/RCA Project Team Report](#), suggests delaying final action on this item until September in order to accommodate additional analysis. The GAP supports this suggestion.

Salmon biological opinion (BiOp) reconsultation: The GAP notes we had a good discussion with the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) at this meeting and supports scheduling another joint meeting in April to discuss the salmon BiOp.

Limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) sablefish issues: The GAP suggests beginning discussion about this in the GAP in April, but keep it grayed out on year-at-a-glance documents pending the outcome of GAP discussion.

June meeting overlaps: The GAP notes the June PFMC meeting and North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) meeting overlap for most of the same days. This year, the NOAA Fish Fry also overlaps some of the time in Washington, D.C. The GAP may lose a few members to each of these events and suggests ensuring June NPFMC and PFMC meetings are at least a week apart and that scheduling the GAP to avoid the NOAA Fish Fry in June this year would be advantageous so we have maximum participation.

National Standard 1 (NS1) Guideline Carryover Provisions: The GAP suggests we schedule the NS1 Guideline Carryover Provision Scoping topic for the June, 2017 meeting to match the 2019-20 harvest specifications process.

Non-trawl RCA lines in California: When the Council moved the non-trawl RCA line in from 150 fathoms to 125 fathoms in California, the cut-outs for the canyons that had previously been implemented for the 150 fathom line were not included when the 125 fathom line was implemented. Therefore, fishermen lost areas around Noyo Canyon, Usal Canyon, and Delgado Canyon (see Fig. 1, Page 2, for an example of the issue at Usal Canyon). The GAP recommends this be fixed as soon as possible.

June agenda: In April, the GAP will provide further recommendations about the groundfish items proposed for the June agenda.

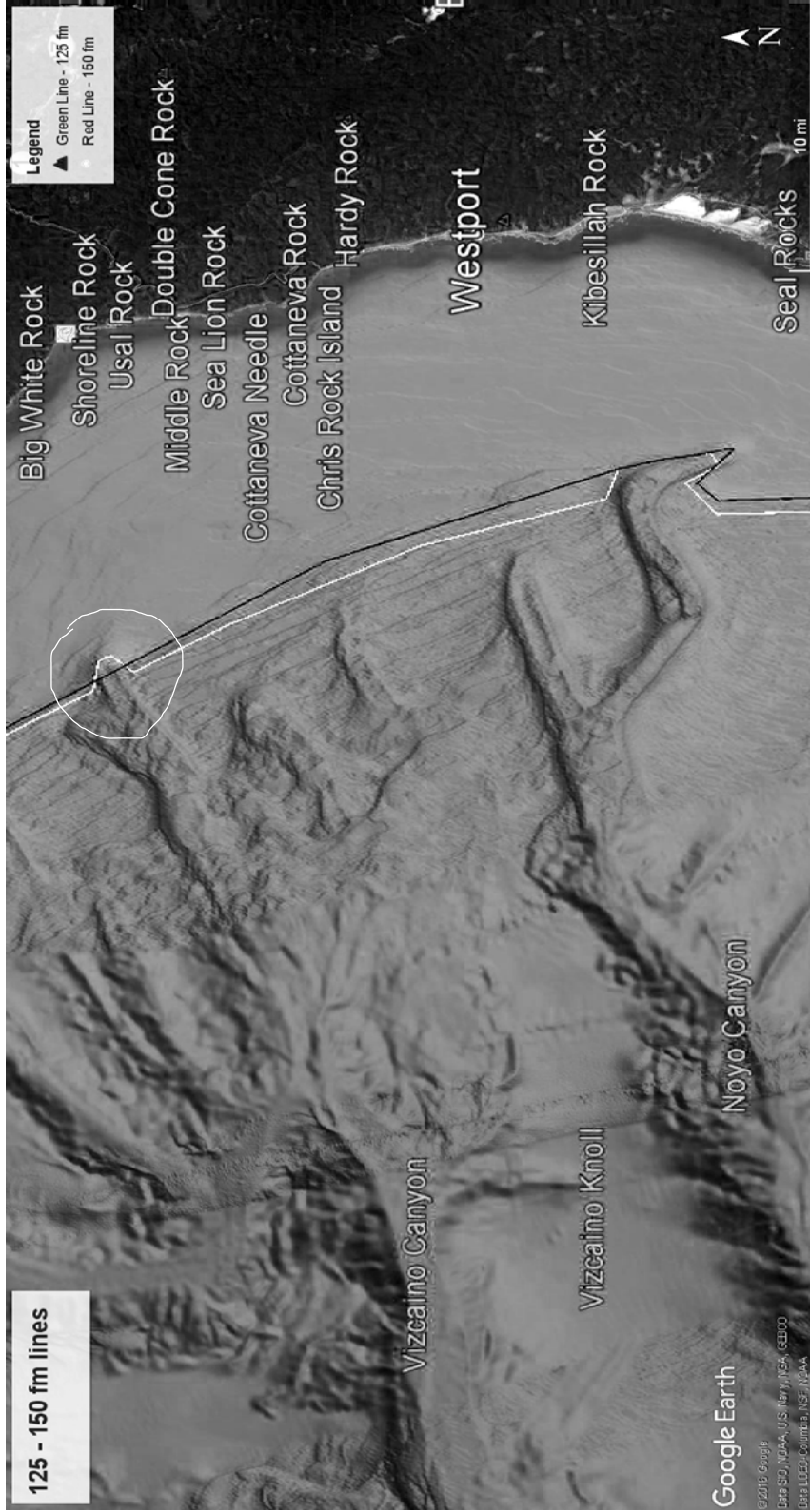


Fig. 1 Map is not to scale