

Highlights by Phil Anderson

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
REPORT ON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ALTERNATIVE C.12

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed and analyzed Alternative C.12, which includes a proposal to close specific areas to bottom trawling as a measure to minimize adverse impacts to essential fish habitat (EFH). WDFW staff used coastal groundfish trawl logbook tow location and catch data from 2003 and 2004 to analyze the effects of closing the proposed areas in waters adjacent to the Washington consistent with the approach described in Exhibit C.3.b, WDFW Report.

WDFW staff analyzed the proposed closed areas off Washington which were contained in the original Oceana alternative, the trawl industry proposal, the revised Oceana alternative, and a WDFW proposal. The results of this analysis are presented in Attachment 1.

As Council is well aware, it is not easy to determine which choices to make that provide adequate habitat protection while minimizing impacts to the fishing industry. We realize the importance of setting aside areas that represent a diversity of habitat types, areas that are particularly susceptible to human disturbance, and areas that are currently undisturbed. We recognize the National Marine Fisheries Service's effort to collate and present the available information to aid this decision-making process; however, we struggled with the sparseness of the information with which to identify all of the areas needing protection and evaluate the impacts to the trawl fishery resulting from closing those areas.

Essentially, the WDFW proposal includes those areas contained in the revised Oceana alternative that have < 5% of the catch of any target species category (e.g., DTS, petrale, dogfish). These areas are: Olympic 2, and Biogenic Areas 1, 2, and 3. The WDFW proposal also includes a modified Grays Canyon area, which closes the majority of the canyon between 100 and 200 fms (see attached map).

We believe our recommended closures represent an important first step in protecting the essential habitat of the groundfish resource while maintaining access for the Washington fishing industry to healthy groundfish stocks, and we offer the following rationale for our proposal:

Olympic 2

- EFH Protection – This proposed closed area contains the only known location in the Northwest Pacific of *Lophelia pertusa*, a reef-forming deep-sea coral. A total of 18 records of habitat-forming invertebrates have been recorded in the revised closed area by NOAA trawl surveys. These include *Alcyonacea* soft corals, other gorgonian corals, scleractinian corals, and Hexactinellid sponges.
- Impacts to Trawlers – The revised boundaries of Olympic 2 are similar to the trawl industry proposal, which avoid important arrowtooth flounder and petrale sole fishing grounds in the northern and southern ends of the original Oceana alternative.

Biogenic 1

- EFH Protection – Every NOAA trawl survey haul performed in the proposed area has recorded the presence of habitat-forming invertebrates, including black corals, scleractinian corals, Hexactinellid sponges, bamboo corals, and sea whips.
- Impacts to Trawlers – The revised boundaries exclude a heavily fished area in the eastern portion of the previously proposed closure, which accounted for much of the estimated economic impact to the trawl industry.

Biogenic 2

- EFH Protection – Every NOAA trawl survey haul performed in the proposed area has documented the presence of habitat-forming invertebrates, including black corals, gorgonians, Hexactinellid sponges, and sea pens.
- Impacts to Trawlers – The revised boundaries exclude a small, but important, fishing area along the eastern edge, and extend the area north and south into unfished and lightly fished areas, as well as deeper waters.

Biogenic 3

- EFH Protection – Every NOAA trawl survey haul performed within the proposed area has documented habitat-forming invertebrates, including black corals, gorgonian corals, sea whips, and sponges.
- Impacts to Trawlers – The revised boundaries encompass the area proposed by the trawl industry (Willapa area), and also include area not recently trawled.

WDFW Grays Canyon

- EFH Protection – The proposed area contains underwater obstructions, trawl hangs and “untrawlable” areas. Most NOAA trawl survey hauls in the proposed closed area documented habitat-forming invertebrates, including records of black corals, gorgonian corals, scleractinian corals, and Hexactinellid sponges.
- Impacts to Trawlers – WDFW is specifically excluding portions of the Oceana revised Grays Canyon alternative because that larger area to the east is primarily soft bottom habitat and contains important pink shrimp grounds. The WDFW-proposed Grays Canyon falls within the boundaries of the current trawl rockfish conservation area (i.e., between 100 fms and 200 fms), so the impacts to the trawl industry are expected to be negligible.

WDFW Catch Analysis of EFH EIS C.12 Alternatives

Percent Catch Within Areas off WA

0.0% represents >.1% or no tows

DTS Area - Oceana (Trawler)	Oceana		Industry		Rev Oceana		WDFW	
	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA
Olympic 1	1.6%	20.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	7.9%	---	---
Olympic 2 (Olympic 2)	0.0%	12.7%	0.0%	5.7%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	4.2%
Olympic 3	---	---	---	---	0.2%	5.4%	---	---
Biogenic 1 (Deepwater 1)	1.4%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%
Biogenic 2	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Grays Canyon	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 3 (Willapa)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	3%	37%	0.0%	5.7%	1.7%	18.3%	0.6%	5.2%

Petrale Sole Area - Oceana (Trawler)	Oceana		Industry		Rev Oceana		WDFW	
	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA
Olympic 1	1.8%	48.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.8%	---	---
Olympic 2 (Olympic 2)	0.6%	4.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Olympic 3	---	---	---	---	0.1%	3.3%	---	---
Biogenic 1 (Deepwater 1)	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 2	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Grays Canyon	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 3 (Willapa)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	3%	53%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Arrowtooth Flounder Area - Oceana (Trawler)	Oceana		Industry		Rev Oceana		WDFW	
	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA
Olympic 1	1.3%	15.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	1.6%	---	---
Olympic 2 (Olympic 2)	0.0%	9.4%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	1.5%
Olympic 3	---	---	---	---	1.1%	16.9%	---	---
Biogenic 1 (Deepwater 1)	1.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 2	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Grays Canyon	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 3 (Willapa)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	3%	25%	0.0%	1.3%	1.9%	20.0%	0.3%	1.5%

Pacific Cod Area - Oceana (Trawler)	Oceana		Industry		Rev Oceana		WDFW	
	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA
Olympic 1	0.1%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	---	---
Olympic 2 (Olympic 2)	1.8%	4.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
Olympic 3	---	---	---	---	0.1%	7.9%	---	---
Biogenic 1 (Deepwater 1)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Grays Canyon	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 3 (Willapa)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	2%	7%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	8.5%	0.0%	0.3%

Spiny Dogfish Area - Oceana (Trawler)	Oceana		Industry		Rev Oceana		WDFW	
	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA
Olympic 1	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	---	---
Olympic 2 (Olympic 2)	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1.8%
Olympic 3	---	---	---	---	0.0%	4.8%	---	---
Biogenic 1 (Deepwater 1)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Grays Canyon	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 3 (Willapa)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	0%	14%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	10.1%	0.0%	1.8%

Rockfish Area - Oceana (Trawler)	Oceana		Industry		Rev Oceana		WDFW	
	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA	OR	WA
Olympic 1	4.8%	23.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	6.0%	---	---
Olympic 2 (Olympic 2)	0.5%	5.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%
Olympic 3	---	---	---	---	0.2%	9.5%	---	---
Biogenic 1 (Deepwater 1)	1.8%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 2	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
Grays Canyon	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Biogenic 3 (Willapa)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	7%	30%	0.0%	0.6%	2.0%	16.4%	0.0%	0.7%

Washington and Oregon Trawl Locations



