

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REPORT ON MANAGEMENT
MEASURES FOR 2007-2008 FISHERIES

The current Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA) boundaries and restrictions will be maintained for all vessels not required to employ vessel monitoring systems (VMS) as part of their commercial fishery. Vessels employing VMS will be allowed access to the four new fishing areas within the existing CCA. Fishing in these areas will be restricted to depths greater than 175 fathoms to protect cowcod populations within the CCA. This alternative provides additional commercial fishing opportunity outside 175 fathoms within the CCA, while limiting potential impacts to cowcod outside the proposed new fishing areas.

Fishing areas within the CCA will be defined by a series of three to four waypoints for each area. The 175 fathom line within each area will be defined by a series of waypoints that approximate the 175 fathom line.

Some additional considerations would be necessary to provide effective enforcement for this alternative.

- Only vessels with VMS would be eligible to fish in the new fishing areas within the CCA.
- Enforcement would rely on timely access to VMS information from NMFS for prosecution of violations.
- Defined fishing areas within the CCA help California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Coast Guard locate vessels and direct resources in their direction.

PFMC
04/07/06

Cowcod West, Alternative 4, with 175 fm Fishing Areas

