

**ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON GROUND FISH ESSENTIAL FISH
HABITAT AMENDMENT SCOPING, INCLUDING ROCKFISH**

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) met and discussed Agenda Item E.5, Scoping for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Area Modification Actions. The EC has the following suggestions in the event that groundfish conservation area modifications are considered by the Council (item #14 in Attachment 1).

As the EC has been on record in the past, during development of the existing Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) and EFH, stating conservation areas defined by geographic coordinates can be enforced far more effectively than areas defined by depth alone. For example, current RCA boundaries are defined by latitude and longitude coordinates approximating fathom curves in straight lines, which has proven over the past 14 years to facilitate effective enforcement and increased ability for compliance in this region. Furthermore, the EC feels that complexity of the regulations would be mitigated if coordinates defining conservation area boundaries are expressed in degrees of latitude and longitude with a maximum of two decimal places. The size of the area should also be large enough for a patrol vessel or aircraft to be able to visually identify an incursion, as well as to allow for detection by required electronic monitoring.

PFMC
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