

Essential Fish Habitat Conservation and Management



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PFMC E.5 Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Amendment Scoping

April 2015



Proposal Overview

1. New and Modified EFH Conservation Areas

- Establish 66 new and/or modified EFH Conservation Areas prohibiting non-tribal bottom trawling
- Open 9 areas currently closed to bottom trawling off California

2. Enforcement

- Increase VMS ping rates, hydraulic sensors, depth sensors, and utilize electronic logbooks

3. Gear Regulation Changes

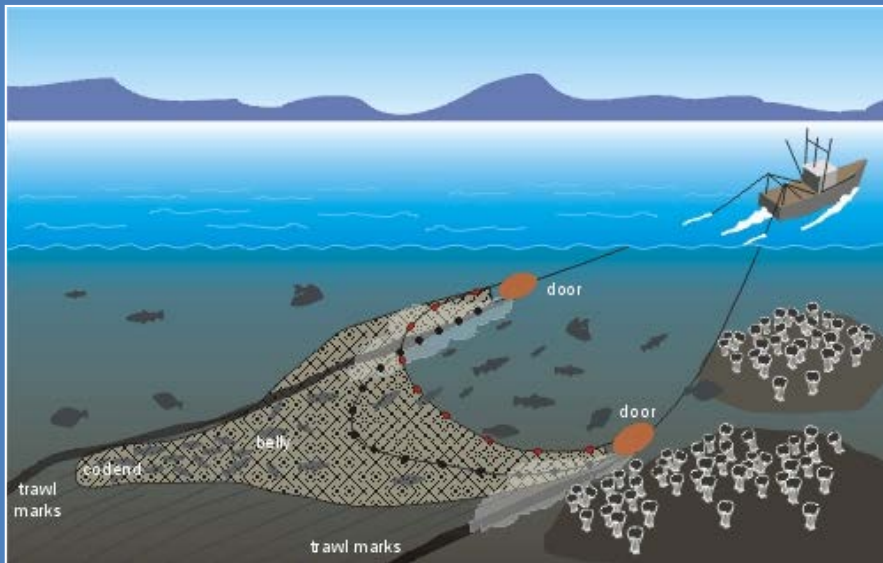
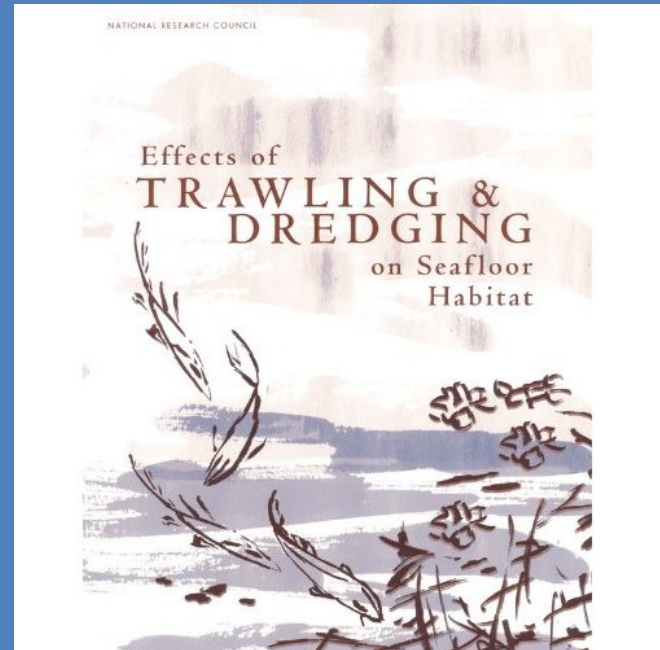
- Restrict bottom contact by midwater trawl gear when operating inside EFH Conservation Areas

4. EFH Designation: Prey

- Identification of 31 major prey taxa as EFH components

5. Deepwater Habitats

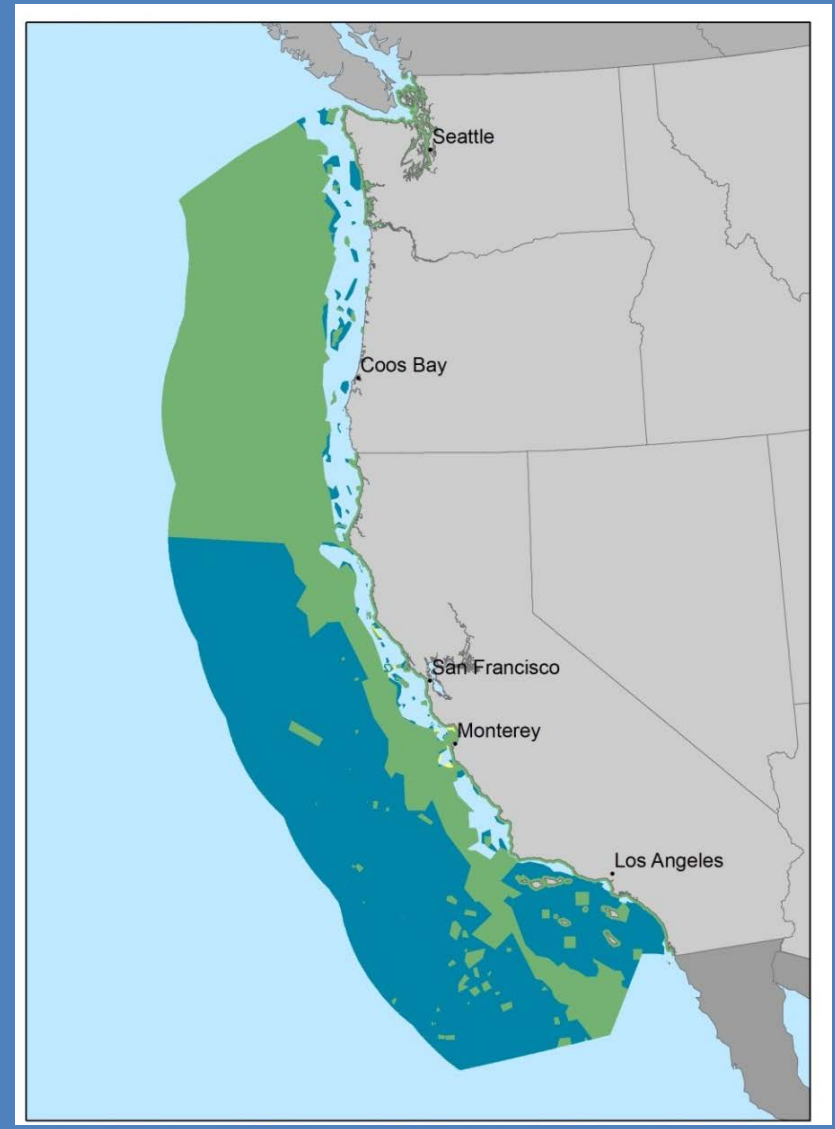
- Close all waters from 3,500 meter to EEZ boundary to bottom trawling using new MSA authorities



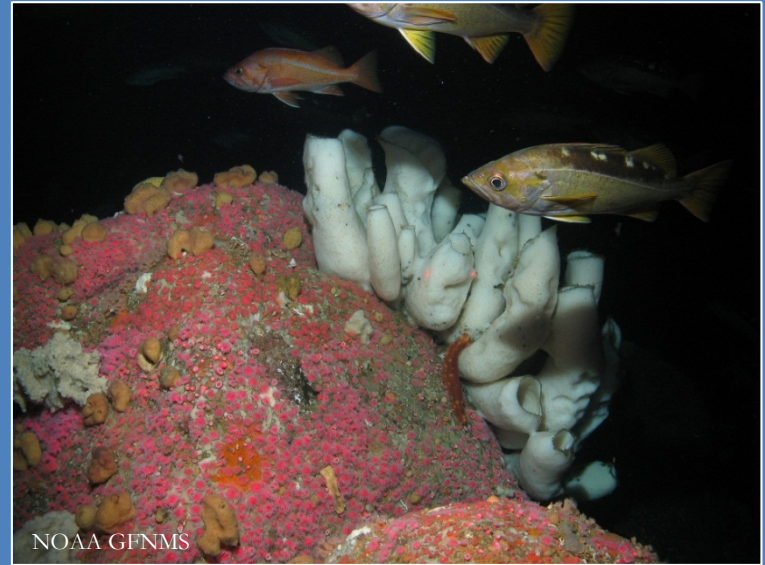
Existing Bottom Trawl Closures



Proposed Bottom Trawl Closures



Maximize Protections for Sensitive Habitats



Avoiding Significant Impacts to the Industry

NMFS Analysis of Proposals (Supplemental Informational Report 7 September 2014)

Proponent	Close	Re-open	Coast-wide Bottom Trawl Displacement	Fixed Gear Displacement	Restored Trawl Effort
FMA	0	791	0	0	0.0%
GFNMS	18,356	0	0.01%	0	
Greenpeace	1,777,141	0	21.81%	24%	
MBNMS	43,669	25,694	0.01%	0	0.1%
MCI	1,213,044	0	13.71%	0	
Oceana/ NRDC/ OC	37,340,227	52,128	2.22%	0	2.3%

Summary of area (ha) closed/ opened and proportion of coast-wide effort displaced/ restored

Northern Shelf

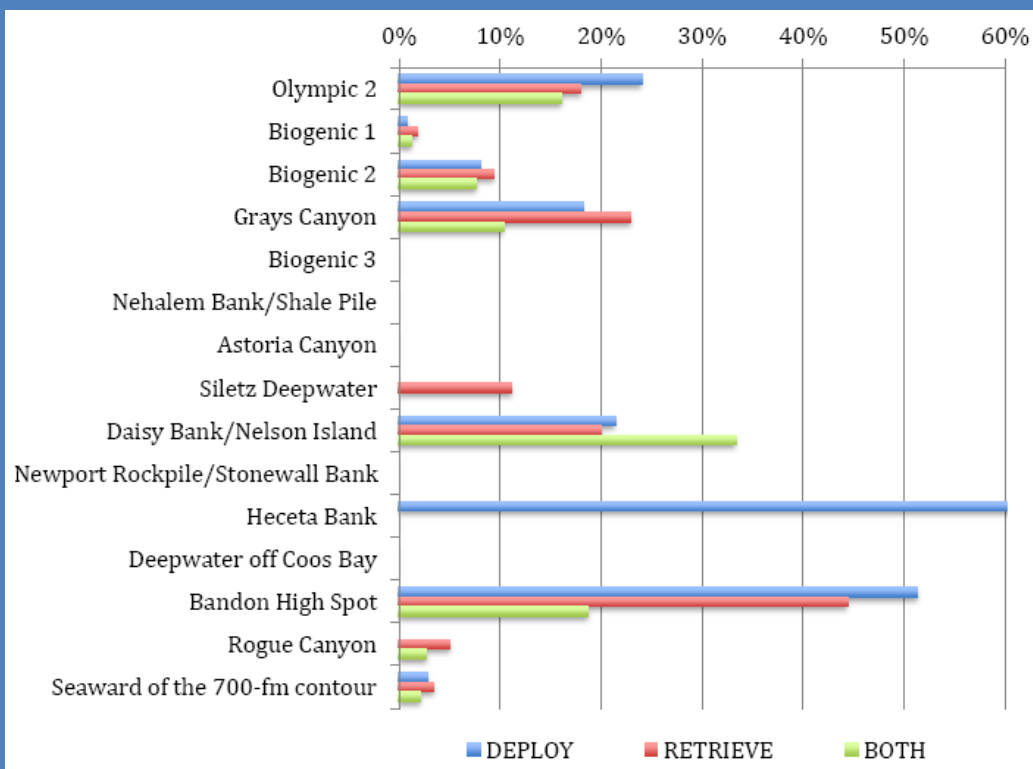


Enforcement Changes

- Increase VMS ping rates
- Require hydraulic sensors to determine precisely when trawl nets are retrieved and deployed
- Require depth sensors to record the active fishing depth of the trawl net in relationship to the seafloor
- Require the recording and reporting of these sensory data by means of an electronic logbooks

Gear Regulation Changes

Midwater Trawling



Proportion of Midwater Trawl Hauls with benthic indicator species in EFH Conservation Areas

SHORE-SIDE WHITING FISHERY

4,989 hauls from 2,574 trips

	Inside + Outside	
Trips (total)	2,574	
Trips with >=1 benthic taxa	1,808	70.2%
Trips with >=2 benthic taxa	955	37.1%
Trips with 1 benthic taxa	853	33.1%

Source: NMFS NWFSC
Informational Report 4

EFH Designation: Prey



Deepwater Habitat Conservation Area



**Council voted for this policy in
2005**

New MSA provisions (since 2006)
Several options that should be
analyzed:

- Designation of zones where gear types are not prohibited (Section 303(b)(2)(A))
- Authority to conserve non-target species and habitats (Section(b)(12))

Recommendations



- Identify a team to develop a range of alternatives for your review and approval in September.
- Direct the team to include each of the five elements of this proposal in the scope of the amendment and draft range of alternatives.
- Clarify the process for developing alternatives and opportunities for public involvement.
- Allow for collaborative stakeholder input into range of alternatives.