

Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat & Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area Alternatives



Presentation to the
Pacific Fishery
Management Council

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Sustainable Fisheries Act

- Describe and identify essential fish habitat
- Minimize to the extent *practicable* adverse effects on essential fish habitat caused by fishing

“waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.”

16 U.S.C. 1802(10)

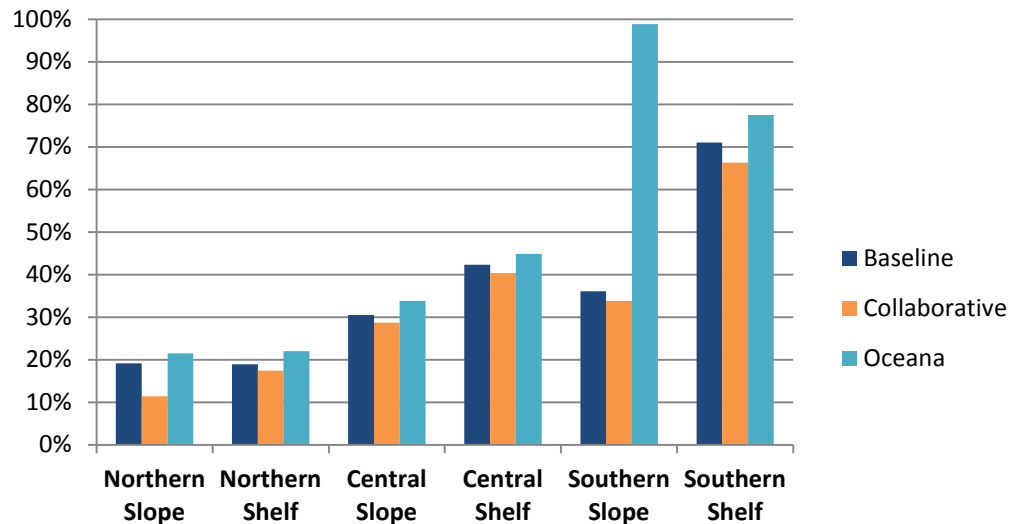


Key Principles

- Consider EFH/RCA changes together: RCAs serving to minimize adverse habitat impacts *regardless of their purpose*
- Win-win: achieve net increase in habitat protections (priority habitat) and bottom trawling opportunity
- Focus on newly identified data from 5-year review EFHRC/Council developed best available science
- Minimize adverse impacts: coral/sponge bycatch
- Maintain priority habitats in EFHCAs/RCA as closed
- Build on PFMC/NOAA precautionary approach

Biogeographic Regions and Depth Zones

Percent of Total Area Closed to Bottom Trawling



“slope” = upper slope depth zone
(~200 m to 1,280 m)

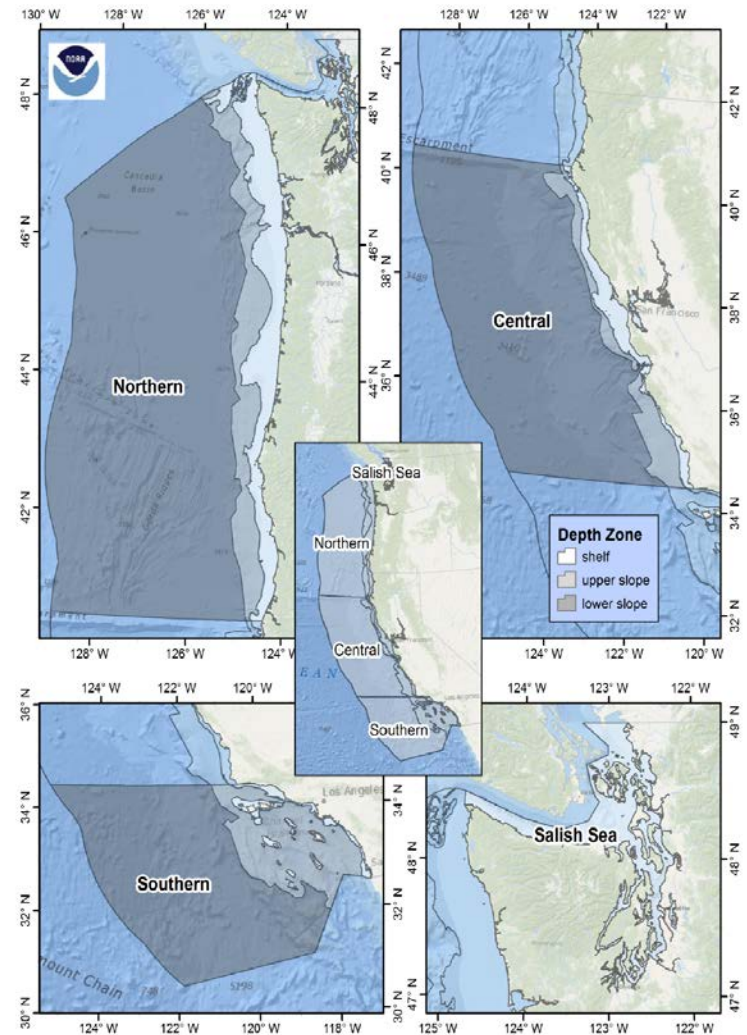
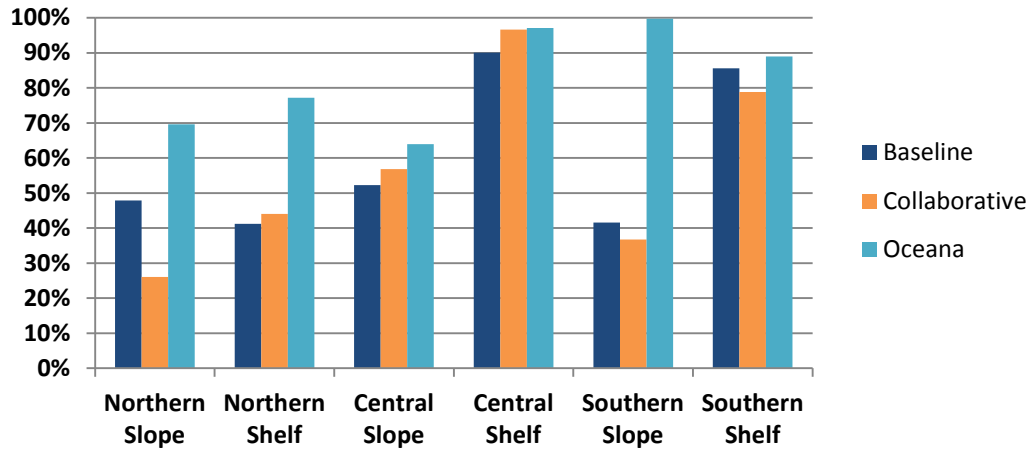


Figure 2.1. Map showing the spatial stratification, including four biogeographic sub-regions and three depth zones.

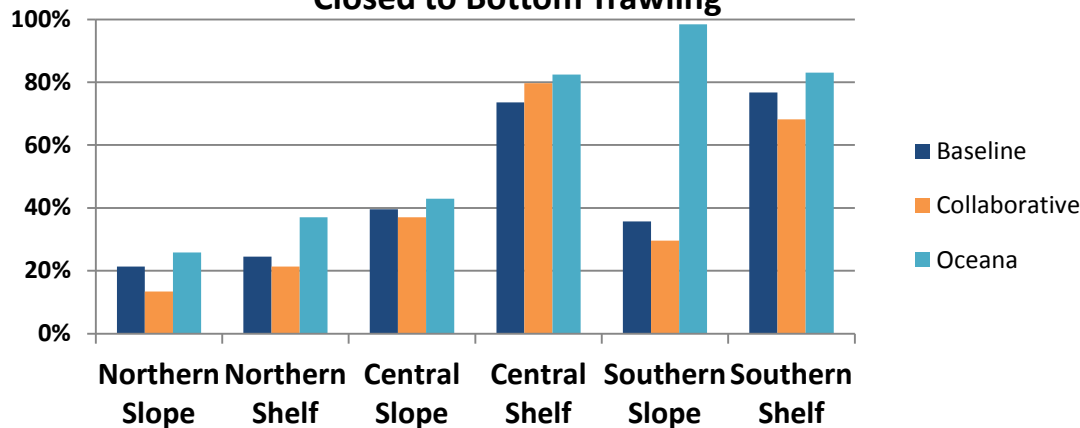
*As defined by NMFS in the April 2013 EFH
Synthesis Report to the PFMC*

Priority Habitats

Percent Hard Substrate Closed to Bottom Trawling

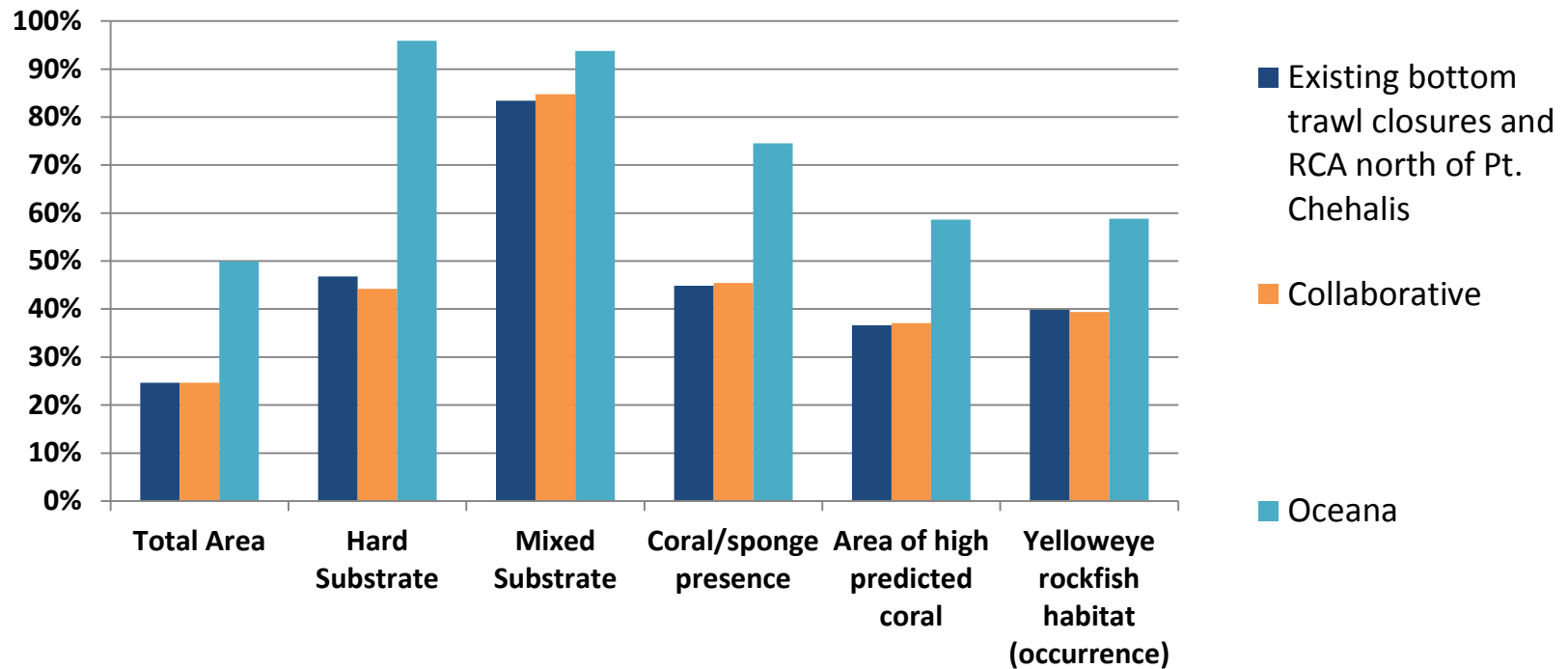


Percent Coral or Sponge Presence (1x1 km)
Closed to Bottom Trawling



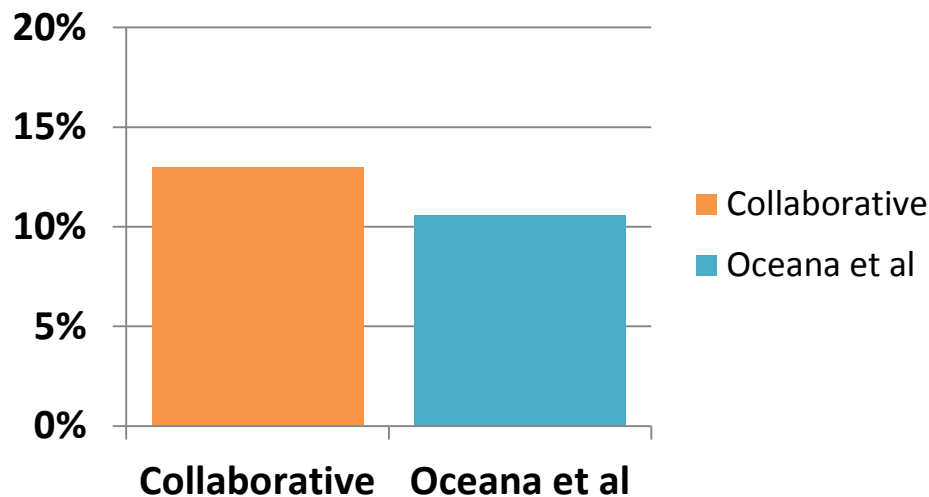
Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area

**Features within coastwide trawl RCA that would remain closed
if trawl RCA lifted S. of Point Chehalis, WA**



Net Restored Fishing Effort

Percent increase in fishing
opportunity



“Practicable” by definition

“[T]he combination of the Oceana, et al. alternative with elimination of the trawl RCA would result in an increase in [bottom trawl] fishing opportunity of 10.6%.” EFH Project Team Report at 101.

California

**Current Trawl Grounds
Remain Open**



Channel Islands

Los Angeles

Catalina Island

Southern
California
Bight

Del Mar
Seep

Tanner Bank

Cortes Bank

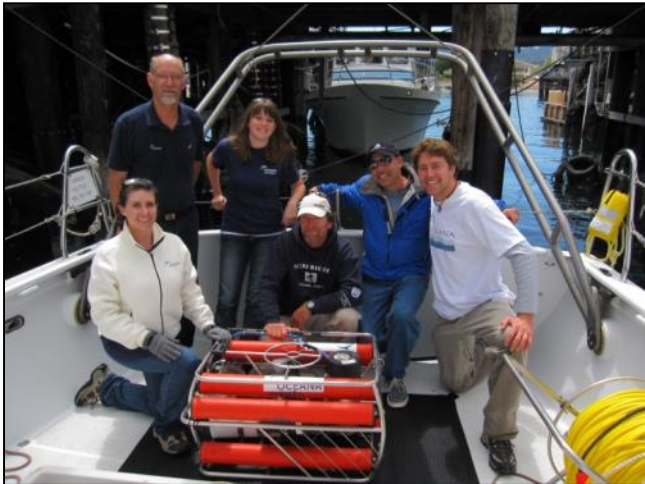
USA
Mexico



- Coral Observations
- Sponge Observations
- Existing Bottom Trawl Closures
- Proposed Bottom Trawl Closures

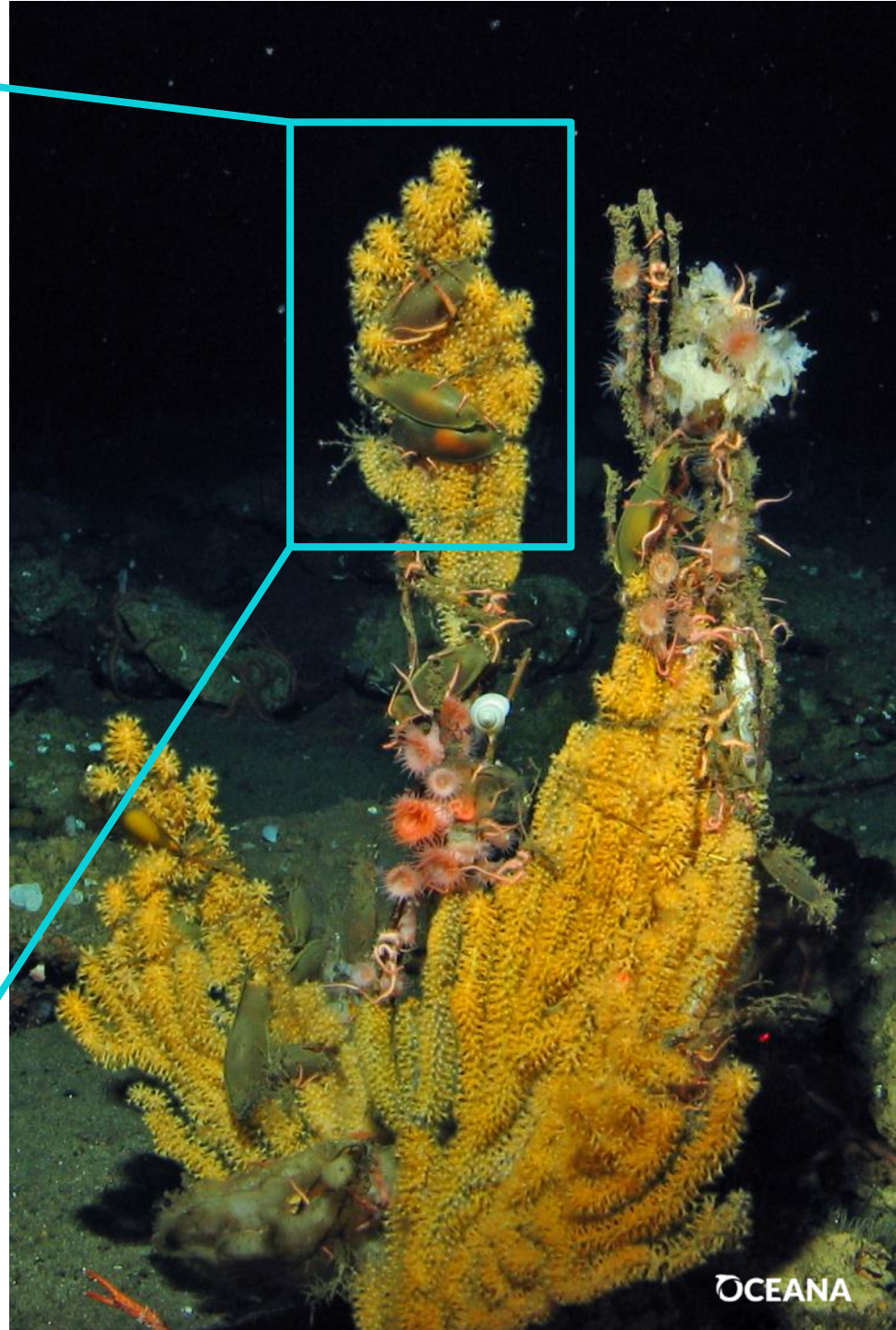
0 10 20 30 40
Miles

Oceana's Undersea Expeditions



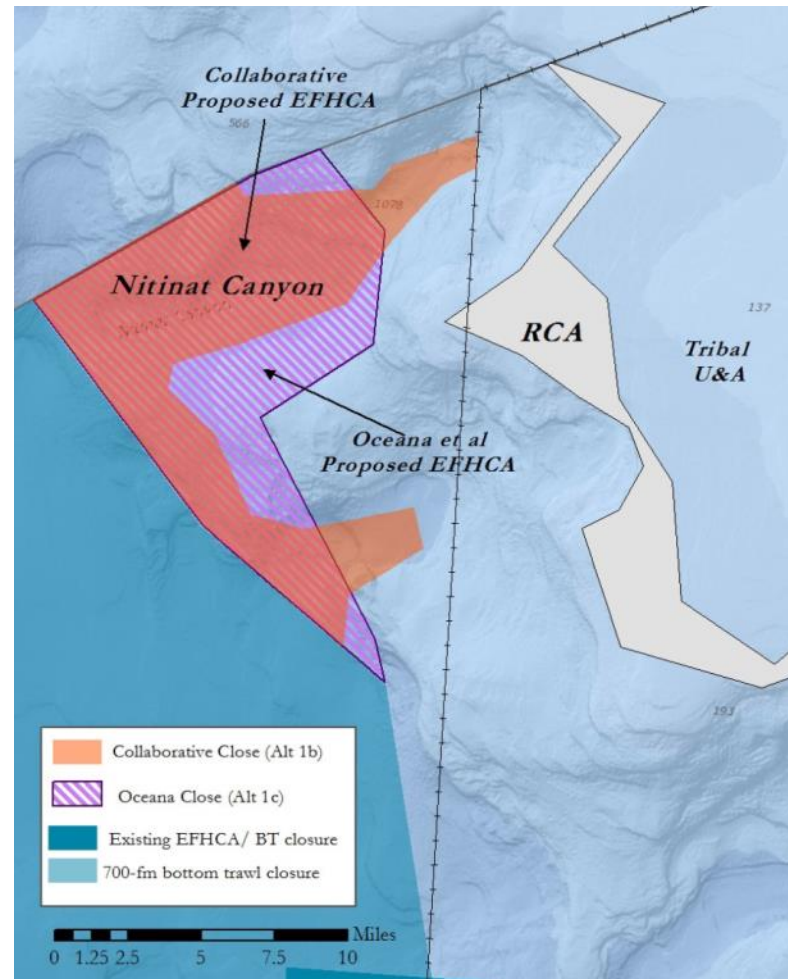






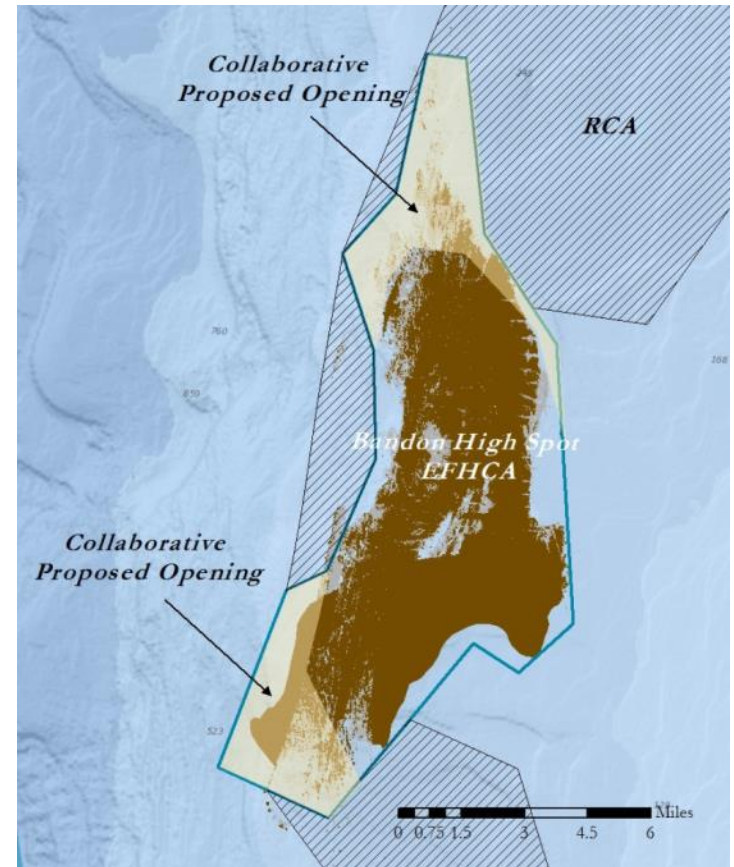
Oceana Supports Several Collaborative Proposal Concepts

- Nitinat Canyon
- Blunts Reef
- Trinidad Canyon
- Quinault Canyon
- Pescadero Reef
- Rogue River Reef
- Brush Patch
- Farallon Escarpment
- Cochrane Bank



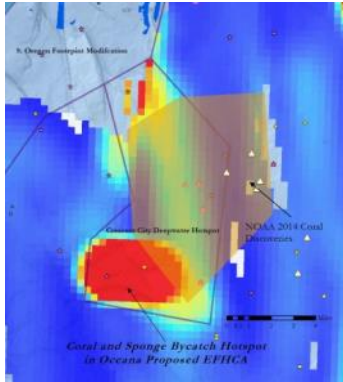
Concerns with Opening EFHCAs to Bottom Trawling

- EFHCAs put in place to minimize adverse impacts to the extent practicable
- Reopening requires either:
 - New data demonstrating absence of priority habitats (basis for protection no longer applies)
 - Reconfiguring closed areas to achieve net increase in habitat protection with analysis
- We oppose EFHCA openings at:
 - Grays Canyon
 - Bandon High Spot
 - Delgada Canyon
 - Cordell Bank

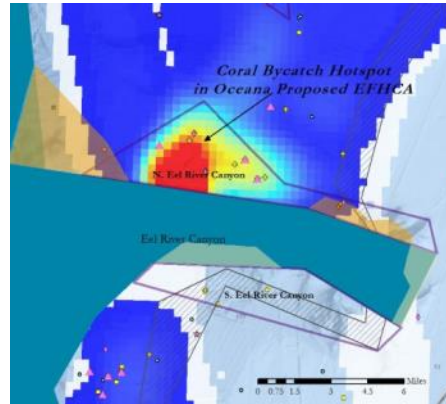


Showing rocky reef habitat in collaborative proposed EFHCA openings at Bandon High Spot, Southern Oregon

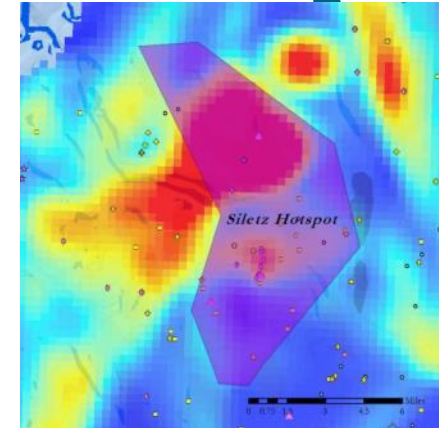
Coral and Sponge Bycatch Hotspots



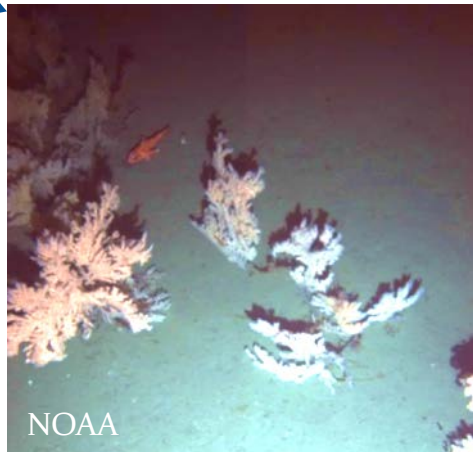
Crescent City
Brush Patch



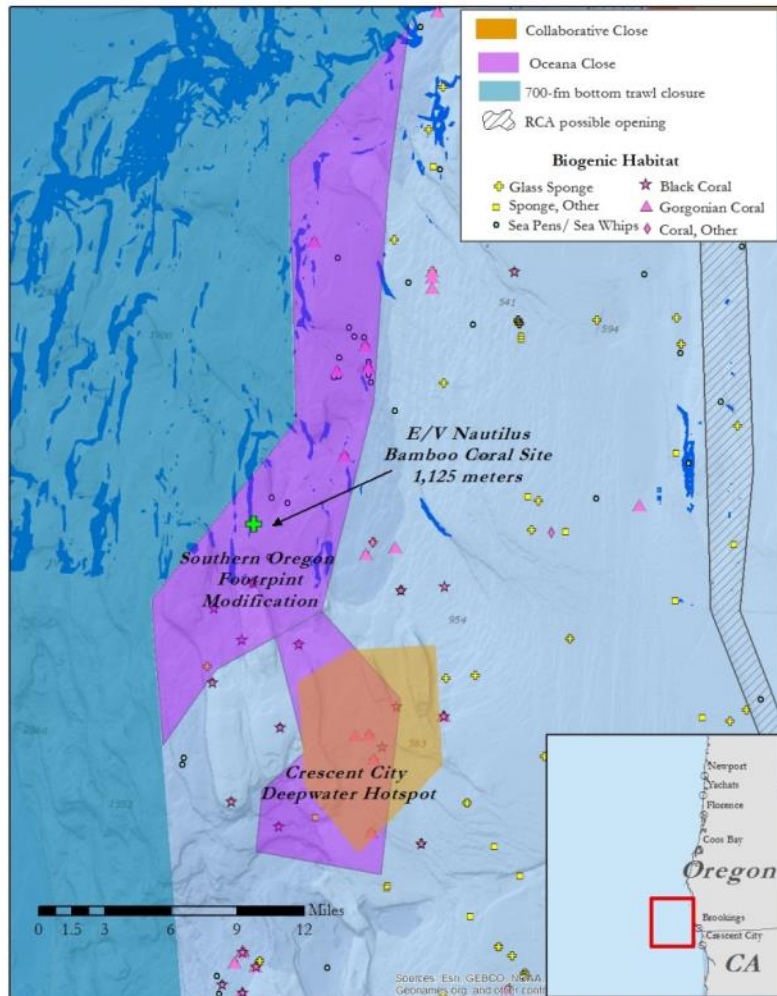
North Eel River Canyon



Siletz Hotspot

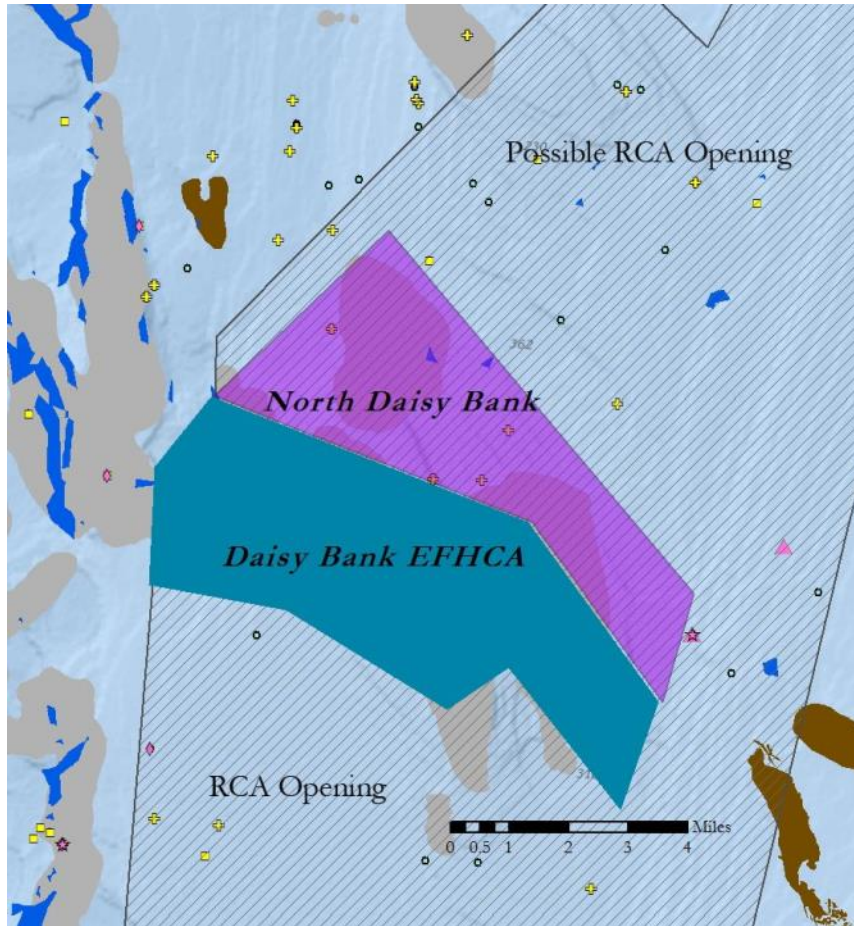


Southern Oregon Footprint



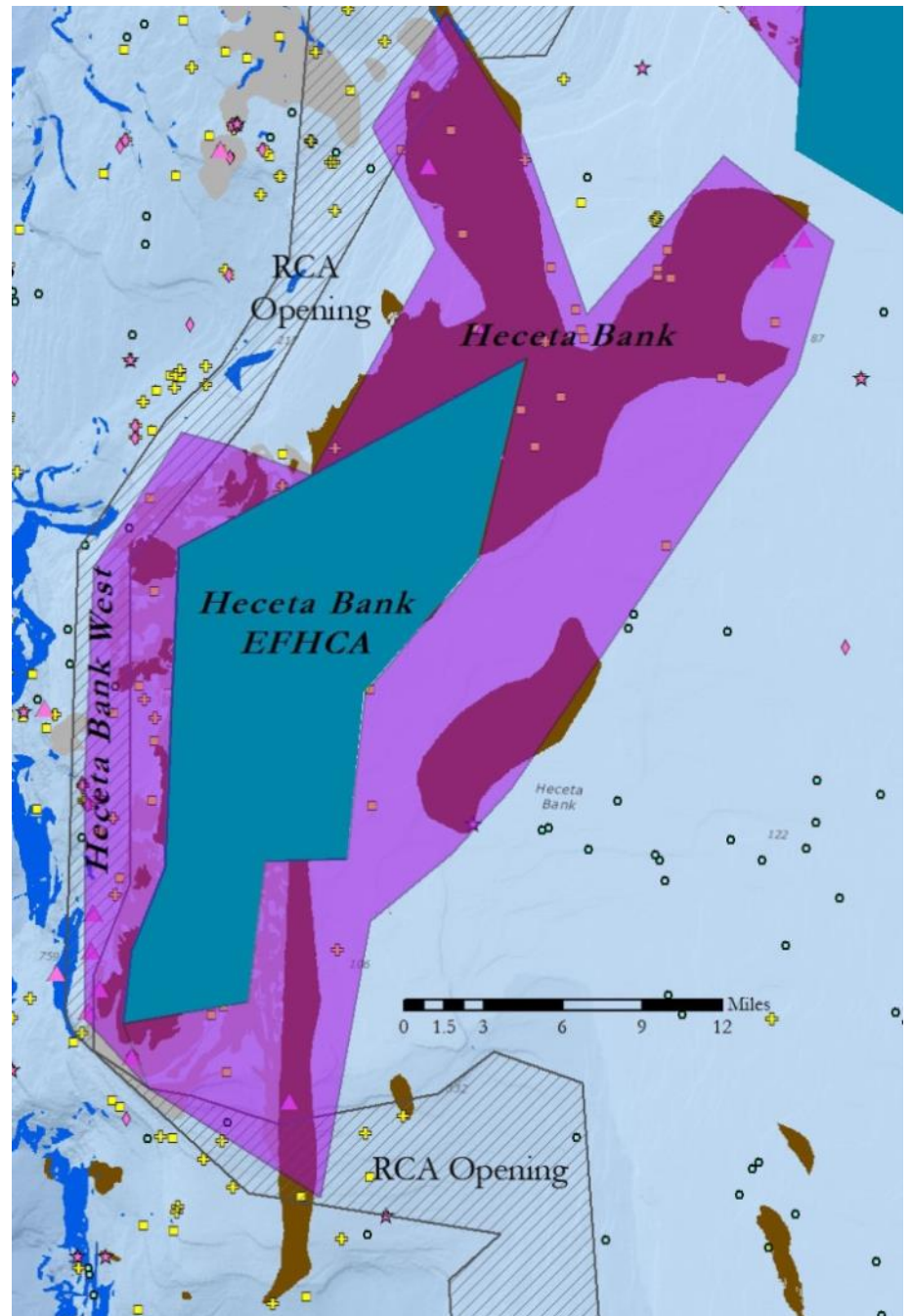
Rare Bamboo Corals discovered in 2016, E/V Nautilus

North Daisy Bank

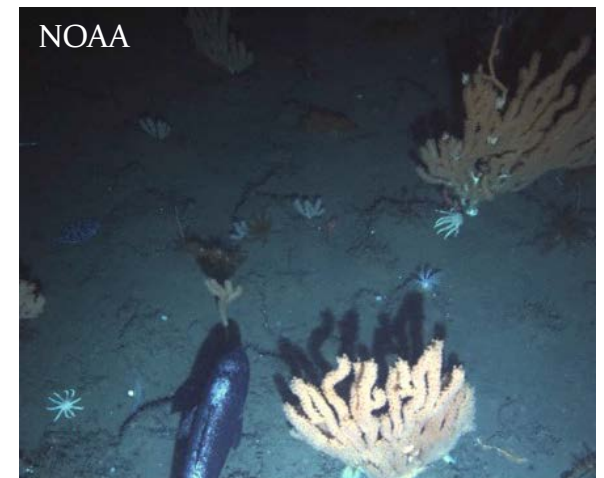
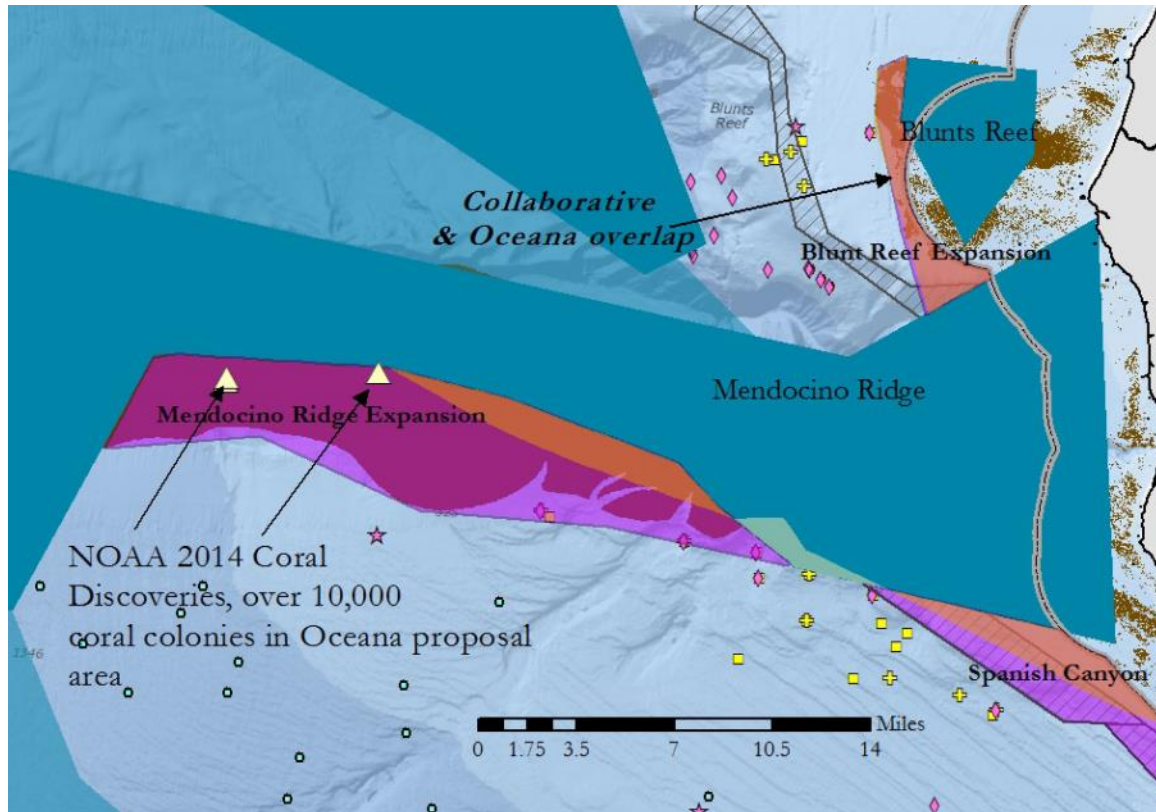


Images from Oceana 2013 Expedition

Heceta Bank



Mendocino Ridge



Thank you

