

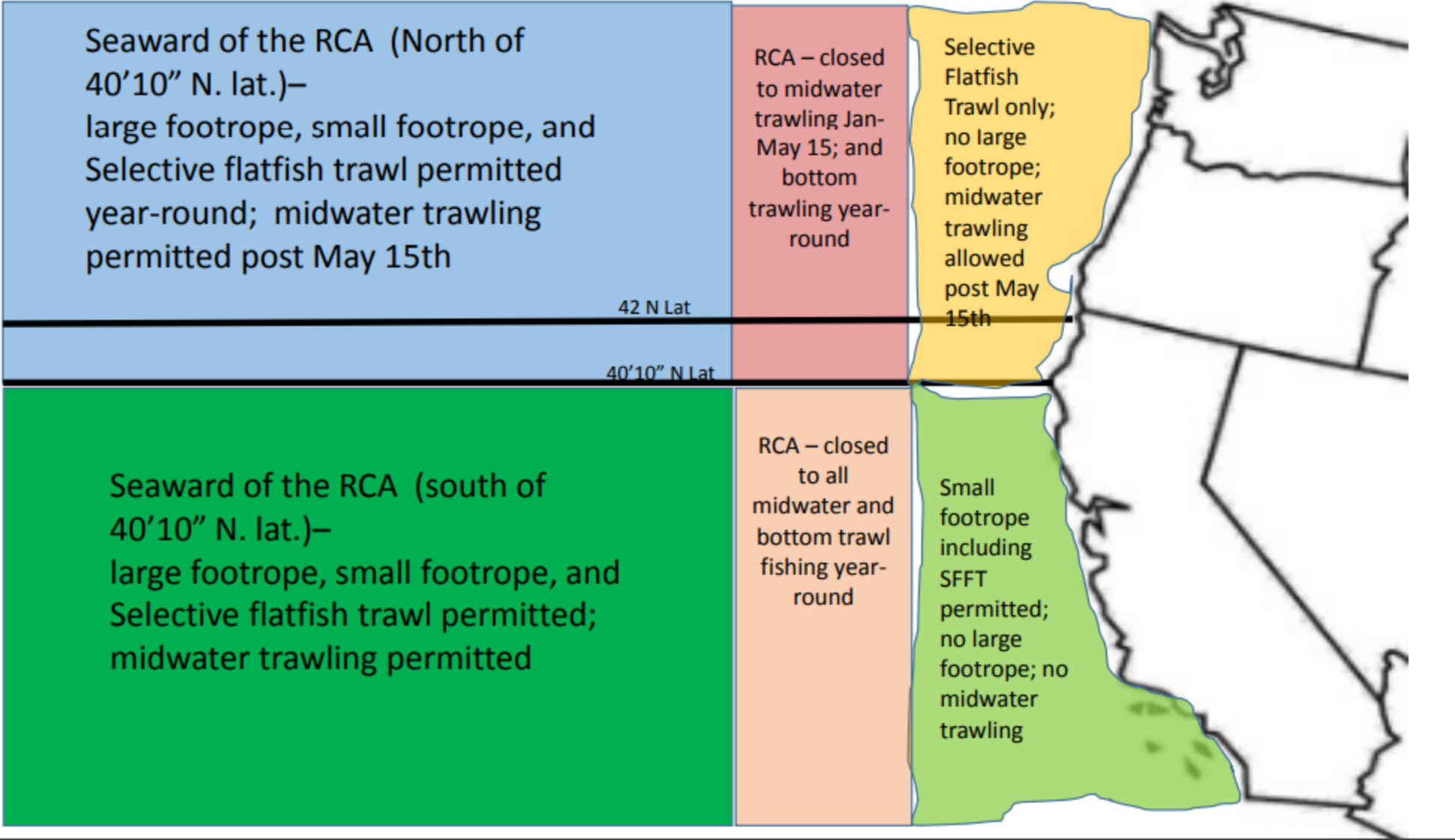
# Agenda Item H.8. NMFS Supplemental Presentation on the 2018 Trawl Gear EFP

# What do we know about the haul?

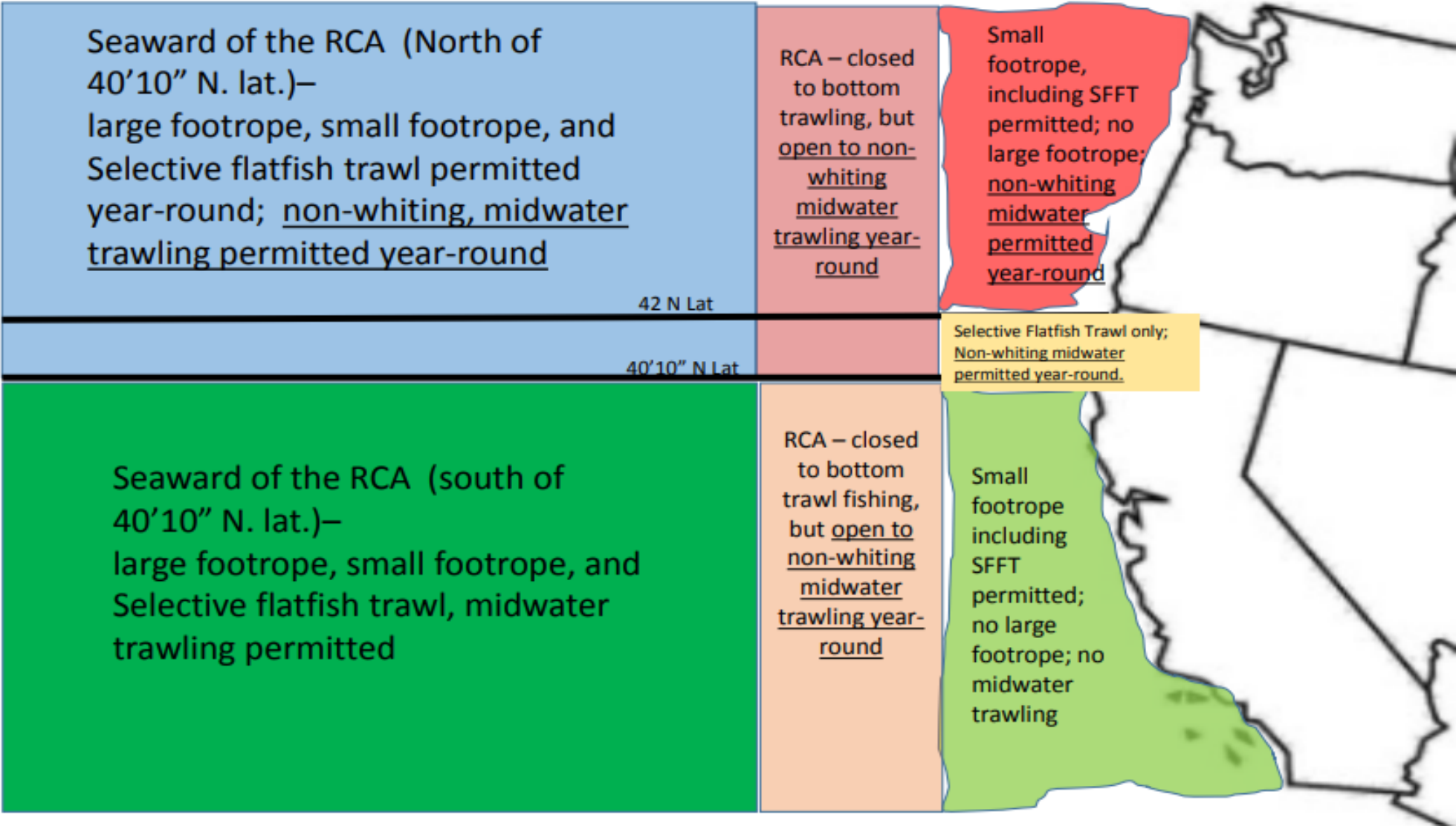
- The vessel was fishing seaward of the RCA with a legal bottom trawl net (large footrope, >8 rollers).
- The area where the salmon were caught is towed regularly by the Eureka fleet.
- The salmon caught were all small, most were around 12" in length (none above 20", wouldn't trigger CA's large salmon move rule).



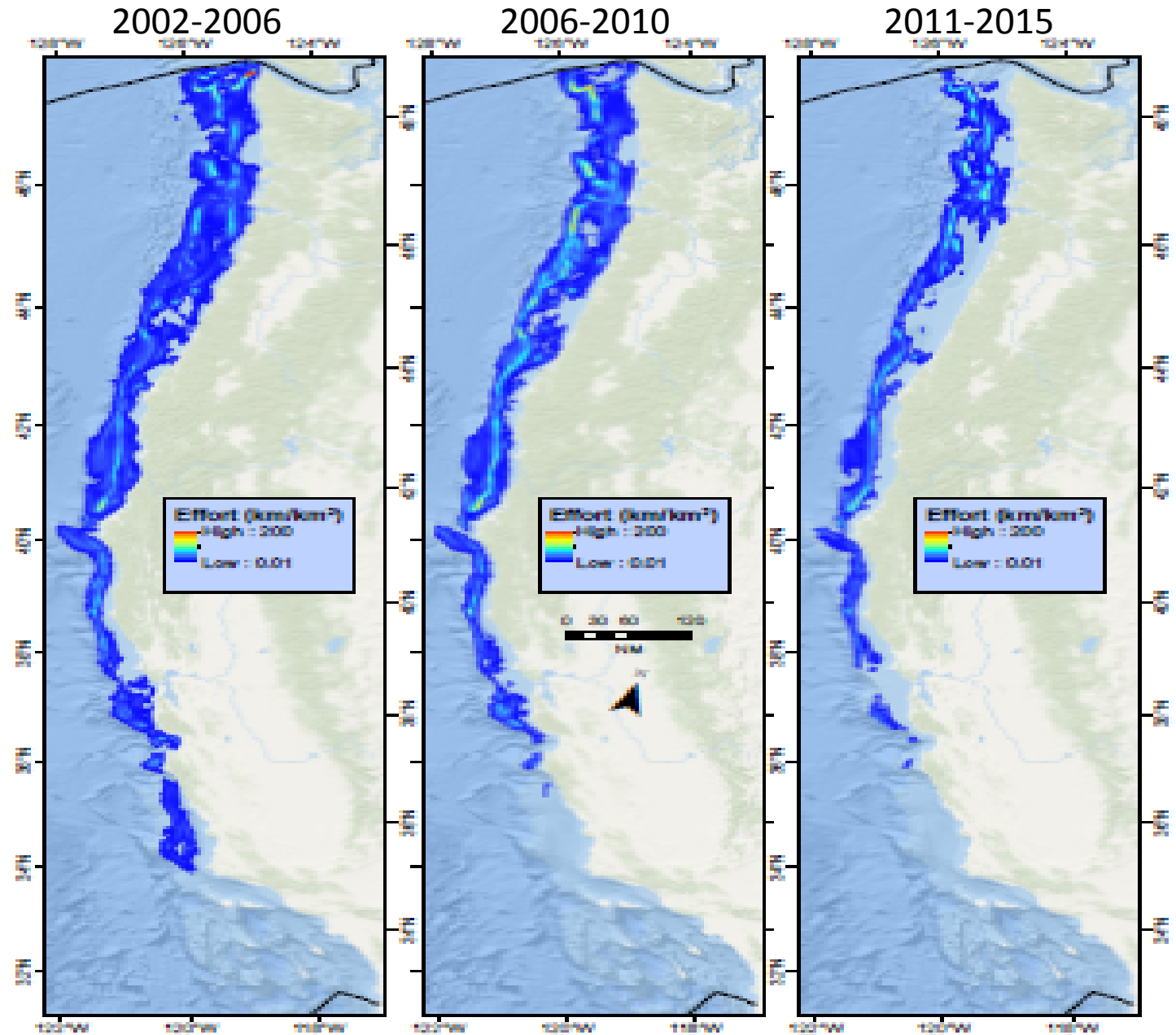
Current Federal Regulations



Trawl Gear EFP – 2018 – differences from 2017 are underlined



# Where do vessels historically bottom trawl for groundfish?

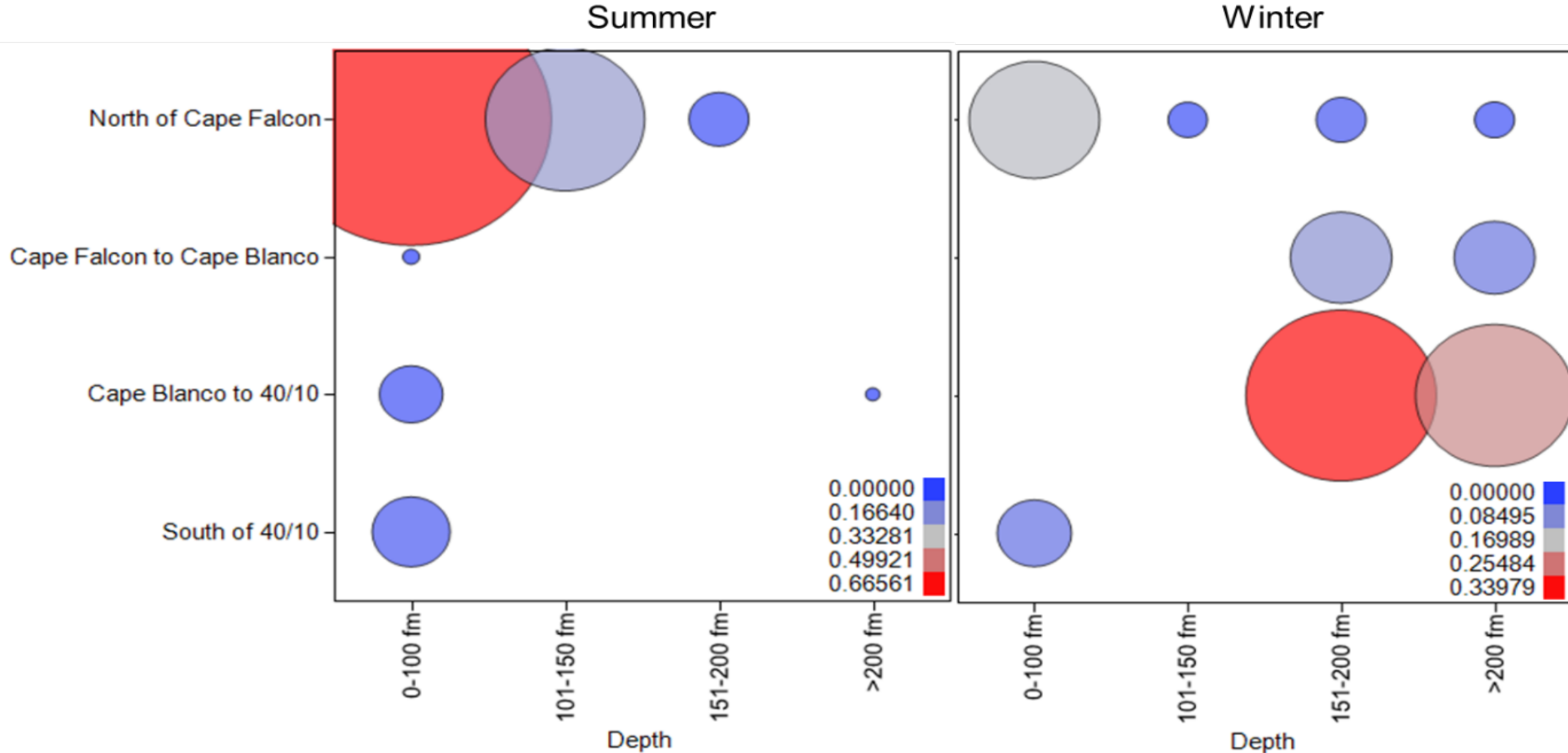


What has been the historical Bottom Trawl Chinook Bycatch?

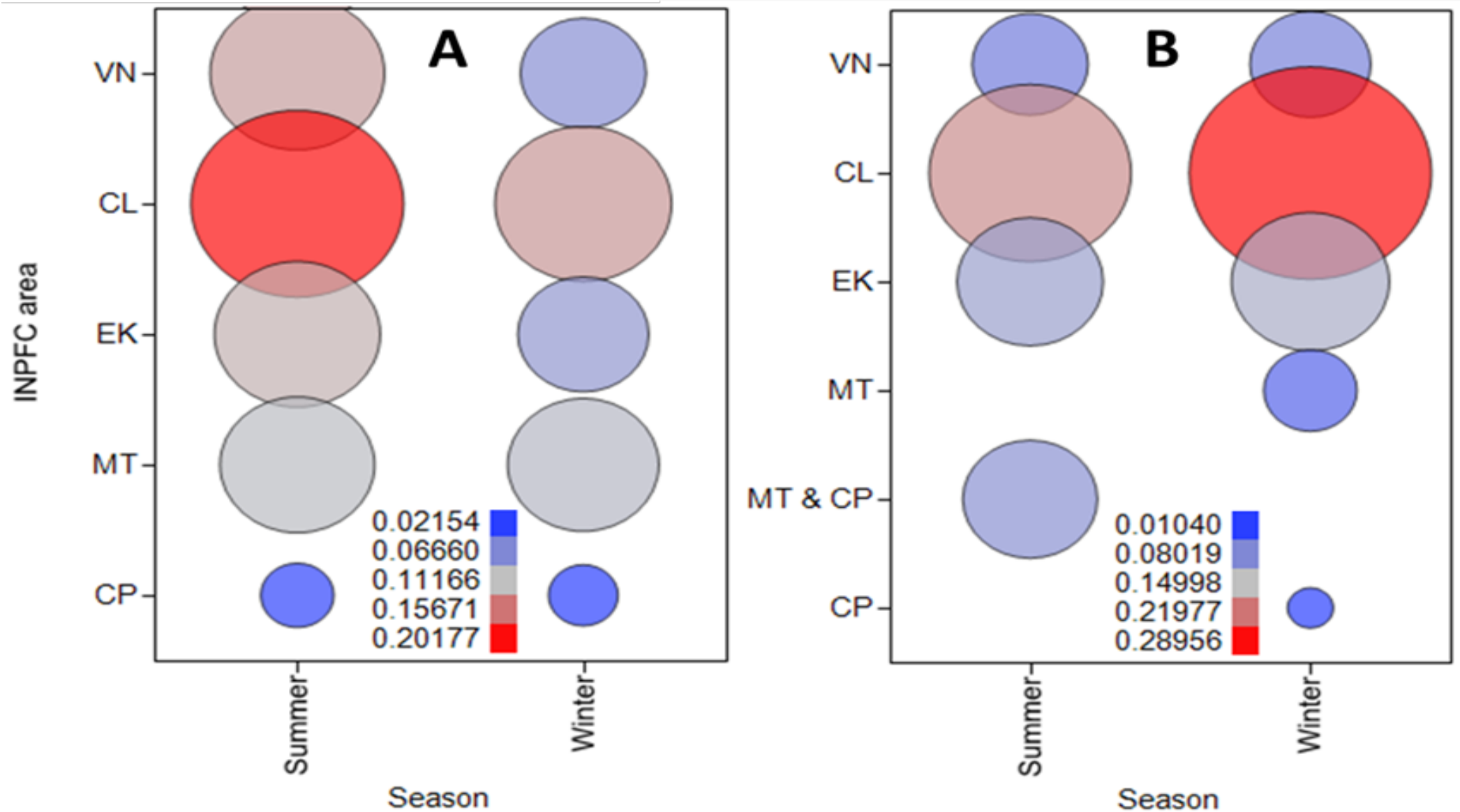
2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
14,501	16,433	1,758	808	67	194	449

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
304	282	175	304	323	984	996	371	190

# Where does Bottom Trawl Bycatch occur?



# What time of year does Bottom Trawl Bycatch occur?





# Conclusions based on historical context

- Larger tows of salmon bycatch by the BT fishery tend to happen in deeper water in the winter months
- While this tow was particularly large, it was not the largest we've seen during the TRAT years (since 2012) or the largest tow analyzed in the BiOp
- BT tends to have smaller, shallower tows during the summer months
- None of the EFP exemptions resulted in this high bycatch event

# How does this relate to the BiOp?

- BiOp included the 2017 and 2018 EFPs

- For the 2018 Trawl Gear EFP, the analysis of West Coast Groundfish Fisheries said,

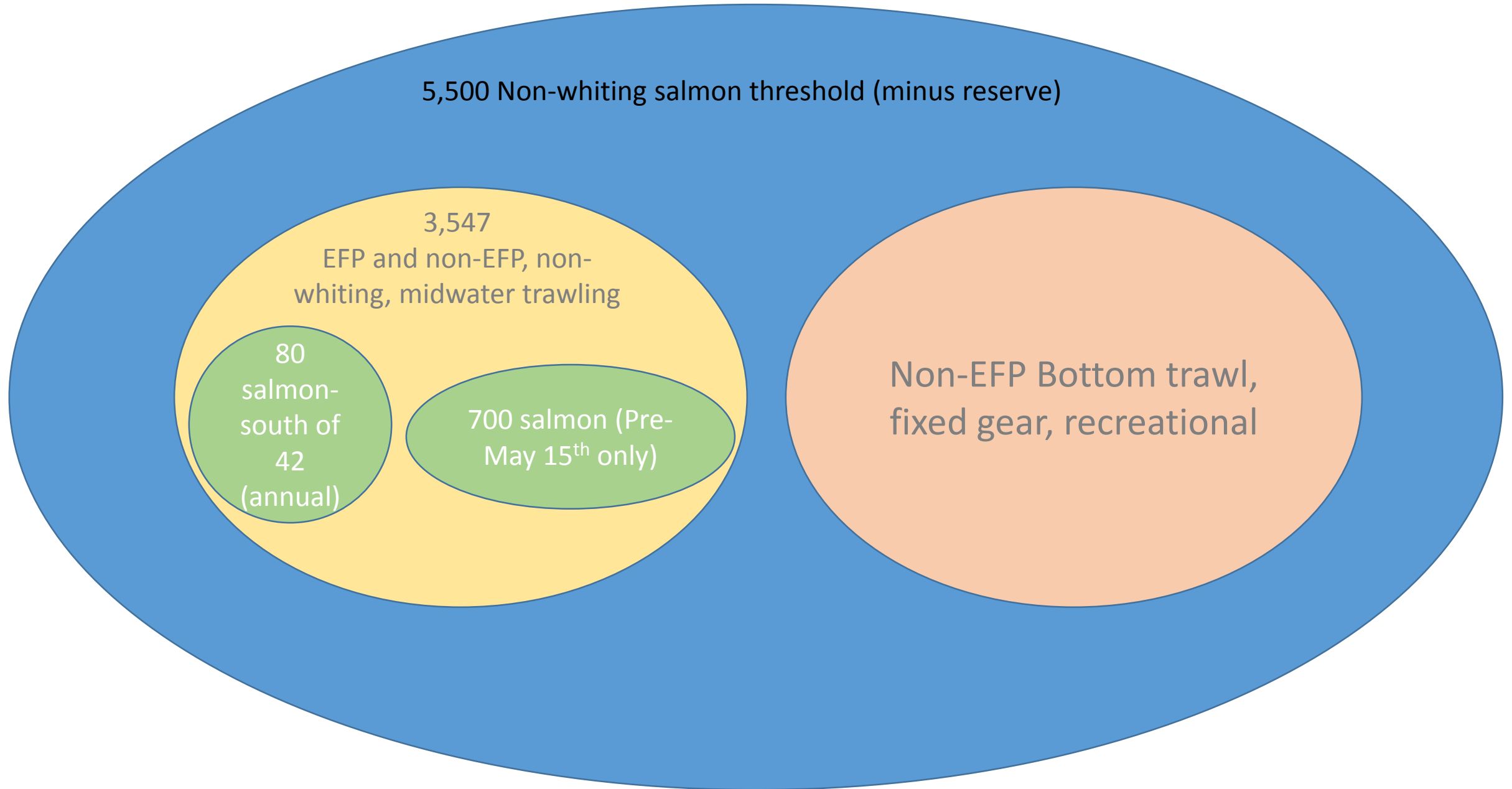
*“While this analysis was not able to directly predict the impact of the EFP on salmon bycatch in 2018, the impacts would be included within the estimates shown for the non-whiting fishery as provided by the provisions of the EFP (Table 3-3). These estimates assume that the full allocation of most non-whiting groundfish species (including midwater species) would be taken; therefore, the salmon impacts would*

*Chapter 4. Discussion*

*Analysis of the West Coast Groundfish Fisheries February 2018 for the 2017 Salmon ESA*

*Biological Opinion 4-3 shift from the primary midwater fishery to the EFP. Furthermore, by design, NMFS could modify or close the EFP if the midwater bycatch harvest guideline of 800 were exceeded prior to May 15th (and would then reopen at the start of the primary season), or if the total of 3,547 Chinook salmon were taken by the EFP and midwater fishery combined. Furthermore, NMFS may close the proposed EFP south of 42° N. latitude at any time should Chinook salmon catch exceed a harvest guideline of 80 fish.”*

# How is salmon bycatch accounted for within the groundfish fisheries?



## How does this relate to the EA?

- Currently, nine vessels have suggested that they could fish either both north and south or only south in the trawl gear EFP during the 2018 fishing year
- EA focused a lot on impacts of opening the area south of 40'10" to midwater and not as much on south of 42 for BT, because the concern for BT has usually been shoreward of the RCA
- However, the EA also assumed the overall salmon take would stay within the 3,547 and referred to the harvest guidelines as mitigation against exceeding the 3,547 limit

# What should NMFS do going forward?

- Decisions for this Council meeting....
  - Should NMFS close south of 42 based on the recent tow?
  - Should NMFS extend the southern boundary of the BT portion of the EFP that is shoreward of the RCA from 42 to 40'10"?
  - Should NMFS open enrollment again for additional vessels to join?  
(See Sea Storm letter)