

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CALIFORNIA CURRENT ECOSYSTEM AND INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM
ASSESSMENT REPORT AND SCIENCE REVIEW TOPICS

The Habitat Committee (HC) heard a presentation on the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment from Toby Garfield and Chris Harvey, and commends them on the quality of their report. The HC was particularly interested in the information presented on fishing gear contact with the seafloor due to the habitat implications.

In addition to the information on total annual bottom trawl miles in Appendix L, the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team is exploring spatial variation in trawl bottom contact. Maps reveal areas of interest off central and southern Washington, central Oregon, and northern California that may represent shifts in trawl effort, or may be more representative of inter-annual variability (the term “anomaly” may provoke confusion here).

The HC is intrigued by this information, and supports the proposed review by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Issues worth reviewing include the utilization of trawl start and end points (compared to Vessel Monitoring Systems data), and the ability of analyses to capture upcoming changes in fishing area closures brought about by Amendment 28.

PFMC
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