

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON CORRECTIONS TO THE 125 FATHOM RCA LINE BETWEEN 40°10' AND 34°27' N LATITUDE

At the March Council meeting, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) identified errors in the 125 fm line that is now used to define the shoreward boundary of the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for the non-trawl fishery between 40°10' and 34°27' N Latitude (Agenda Item C.5.a, Supplemental GAP Report, March 2017). The waypoints used to define the 125 fm line creates crossovers with the 150 fm line and now closes areas that were previously open when the depth restriction was 150 fm.

As part of the 2017-2018 biennial specifications process, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommended a change to the RCA line from 150 fm to 125 fm, after analyzing expected impacts to both target catch and expected bycatch, and concluding the change could be accommodated within allowable limits and harvest guidelines. Although the 125 fm line was previously defined in regulations and available for use in management, it had never been implemented and never been field tested until now (Agenda Item C.5.a, Supplemental CDFW Report, March 2017). Although CDFW recommended modifications to waypoints defining other depth contours as part of the 2017-2018 biennial specification process, we were unaware of the errors in the 125 fm line and therefore did not recommend any changes at that time.

Given the concerns raised by the GAP, CDFW staff reviewed the 125 fm line between 40°10' and 34°27' N Latitude and found several errors resulting in crossovers. The areas affected include Delgada Canyon, Usal Canyon, Noyo Canyon, Cordell Bank, and Point Ano Nuevo. CDFW proposes corrections to these areas (Table 1; Figures 1-5) to eliminate crossovers with the 150 fm line and allow access to fishing grounds consistent with decisions made in the 2017-2018 specifications process and approved by National Marine Fisheries Service.

CDFW used GIS software to evaluate the proposed waypoint corrections. At Delgada Canyon, the corrections would increase the allowable fishing area by 5.22 km² (Figure 1); at Usal Canyon 4.52km² (Figure 2); Noyo Canyon 0.28 km² (Figure 3); and Point Ano Nuevo 1.13km² (Figure 5). Allowable fishing area would decrease at Cordell Bank by 1.76 km² (Figure 4).

Table 1. Coordinates for proposed modifications to 125 fm RCA line between 40°10' and 34°27' N latitude.

Waypoint Number	Action	LatDeg Old	LatMin Old	LongDeg Old	LongMin Old	LatDeg New	LatMin New	LongDeg New	LongMin New
DELGADA CANYON									
204	No change	40	2	124	12.97				
New #1	Add					40	2.67	124	11.83
205	No change	40	2.6	124	10.61				
New #2	Add					40	4.08	124	10.09
206	Move	40	3.63	124	9.12	40	4.08	124	9.1
207	Move	40	2.18	124	9.07	40	1.29	124	8.99
208	No change	40	1.26	124	9.86				
USAL CANYON									
213	No change	39	52.42	124	8.18				
New #1	Add					39	49.64	124	6.05
New #2	Add					39	49.30	124	4.60
New #3	Add					39	48.49	124	3.86
New #4	Add					39	47.73	124	4.59
214	No change	39	42.50	124	0.60				
NOYO CANYON									
217	No change	39	30.96	123	56.00				
New #1	Add					39	31.34	123	56.71
218	No change	39	32.03	123	57.44				
CORDELL BANK									
234	No change	38	6.95	123	28.03				
235	Move	38	6.34	123	29.80	38	6.25	123	29.70
236	Move	38	4.57	123	31.24	38	4.57	123	31.37
237	Move	38	2.33	123	31.02	38	2.32	123	31.09
238	Move	38	0.00	123	28.23	37	59.97	123	28.43
239	No change	37	58.10	123	26.69				

Table 1 cont.

Waypoint Number	Action	LatDeg Old	LatMin Old	LongDeg Old	LongMin Old	LatDeg New	LatMin New	LongDeg New	LongMin New
POINT ANO NUEVO									
249	No change	37	0.99	122	35.51				
250	Move	36	58.23	122	27.36	36	58.31	122	27.56
251	No change	37	0.54	122	24.74				

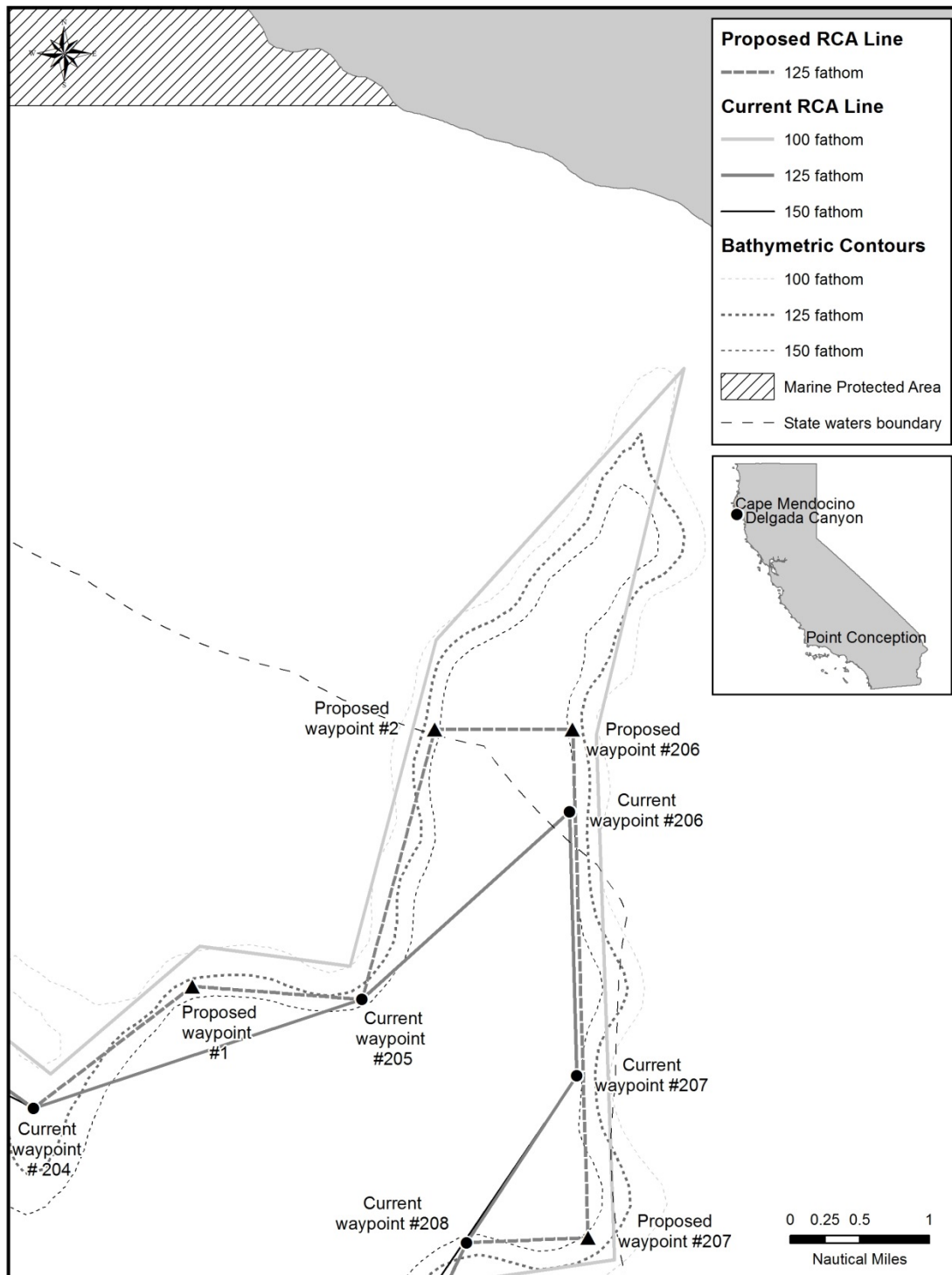


Figure 1. Proposed modification to 125 fm RCA line at Delgada Canyon. The proposed change would increase the allowable fishing area by 5.22 km².

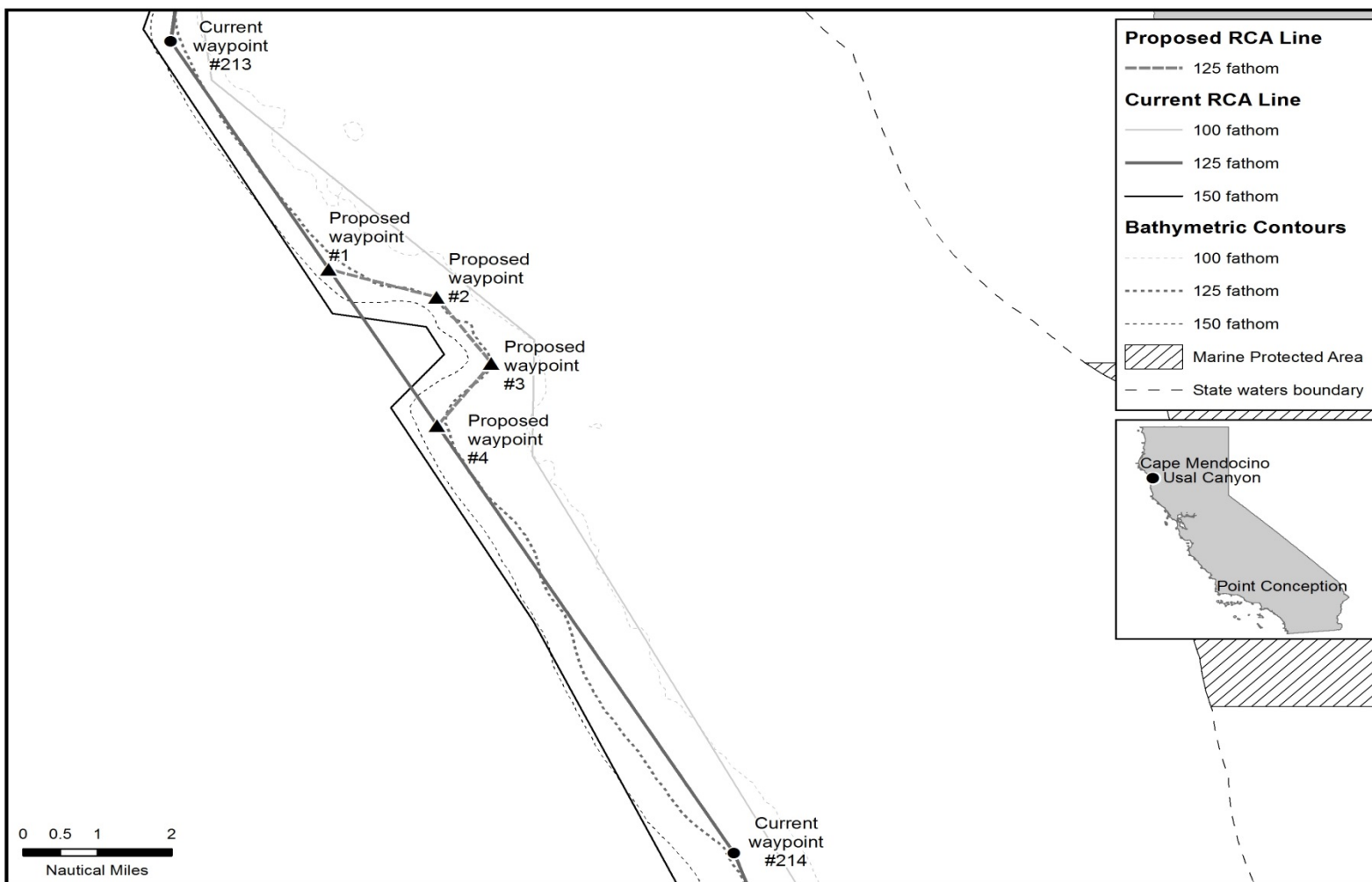


Figure 2. Proposed modification to 125 fm RCA line at Usal Canyon. The proposed change would increase the allowable fishing area by 4.52 km².

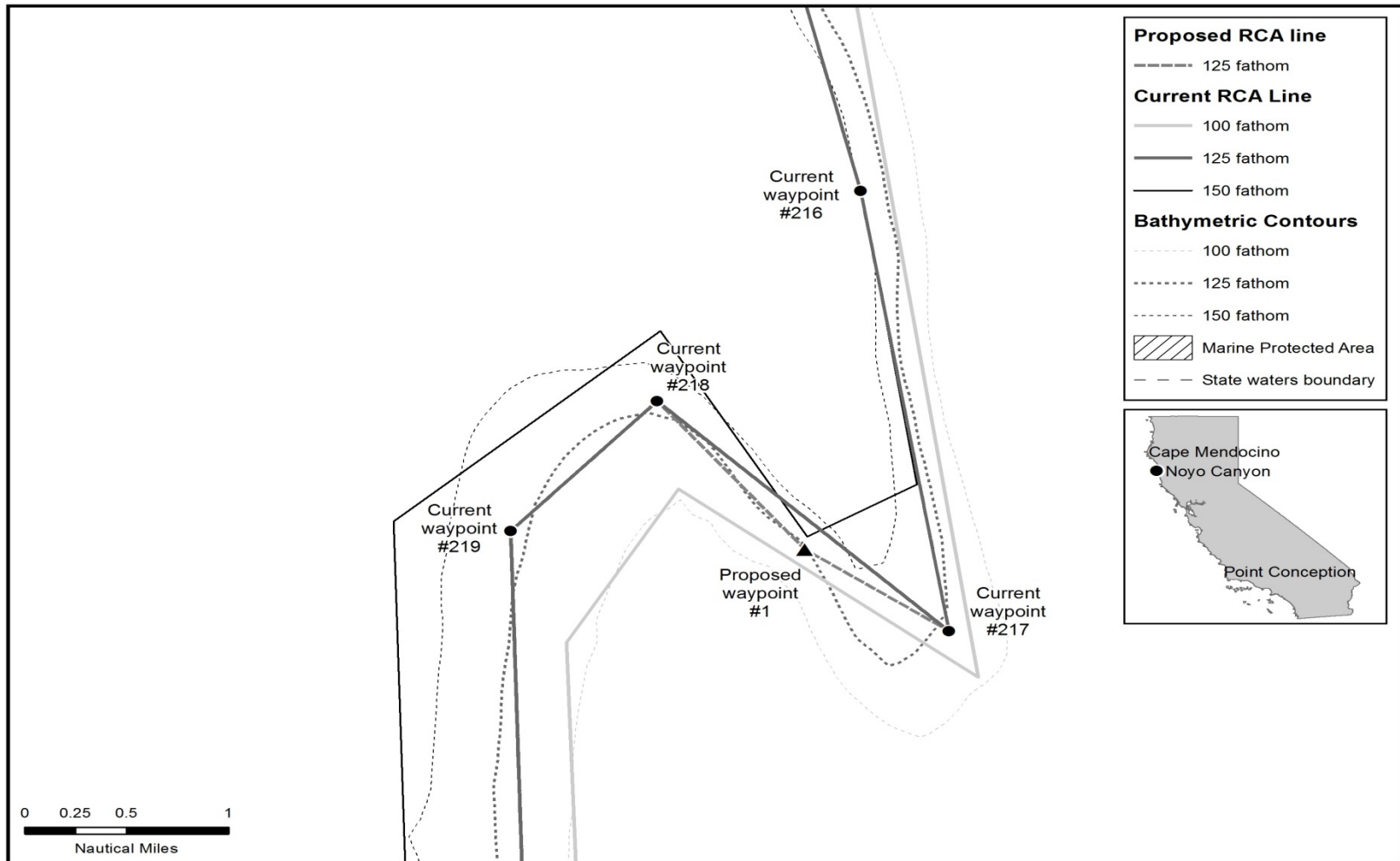


Figure 3. Proposed modification to 125 fm RCA line at Noyo Canyon. The proposed change would increase the allowable fishing area by 0.28 km².

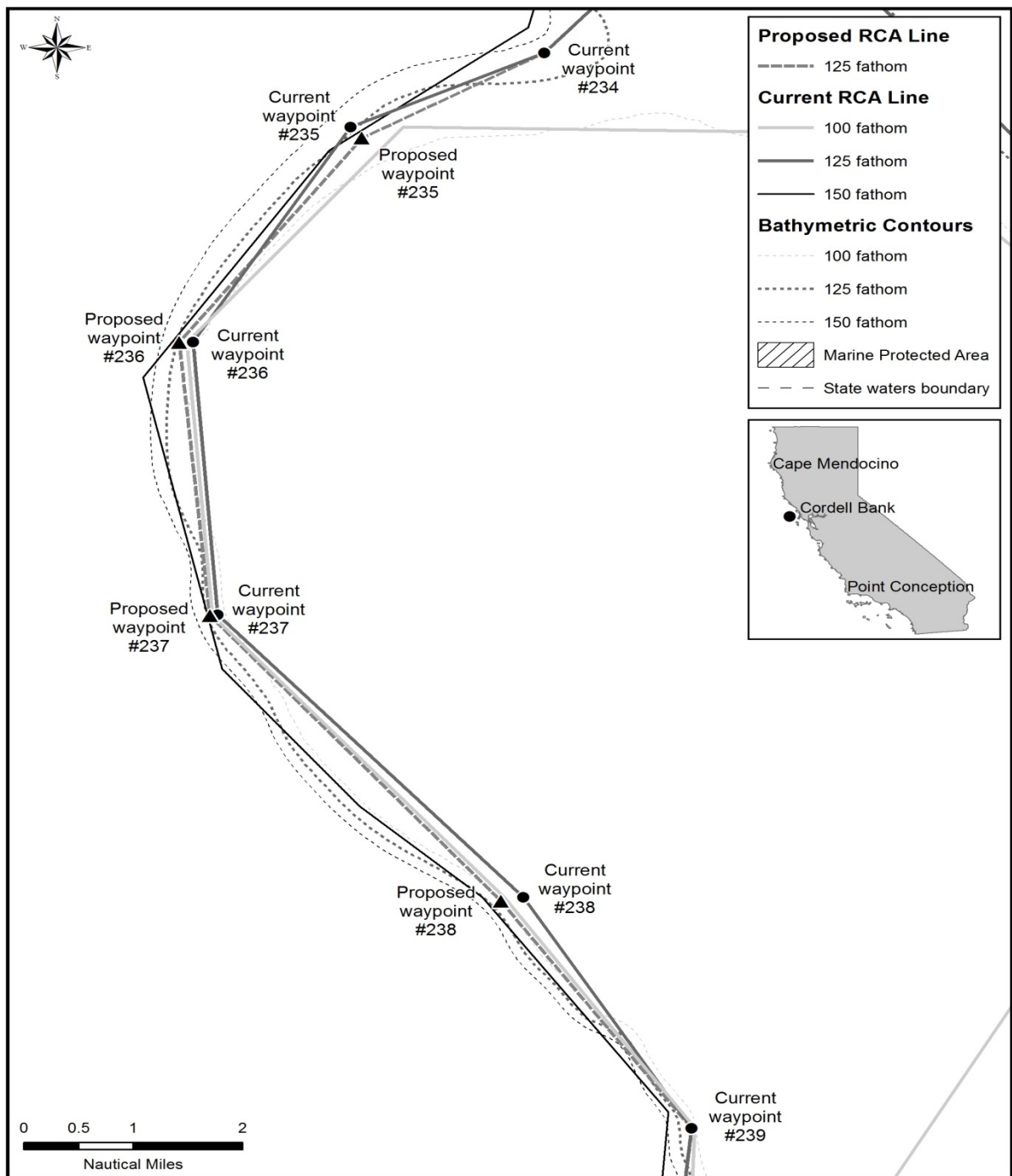


Figure 4. Proposed modification to 125 fm RCA line at Cordell Bank. The proposed change would decrease the allowable fishing area by 1.76 km².

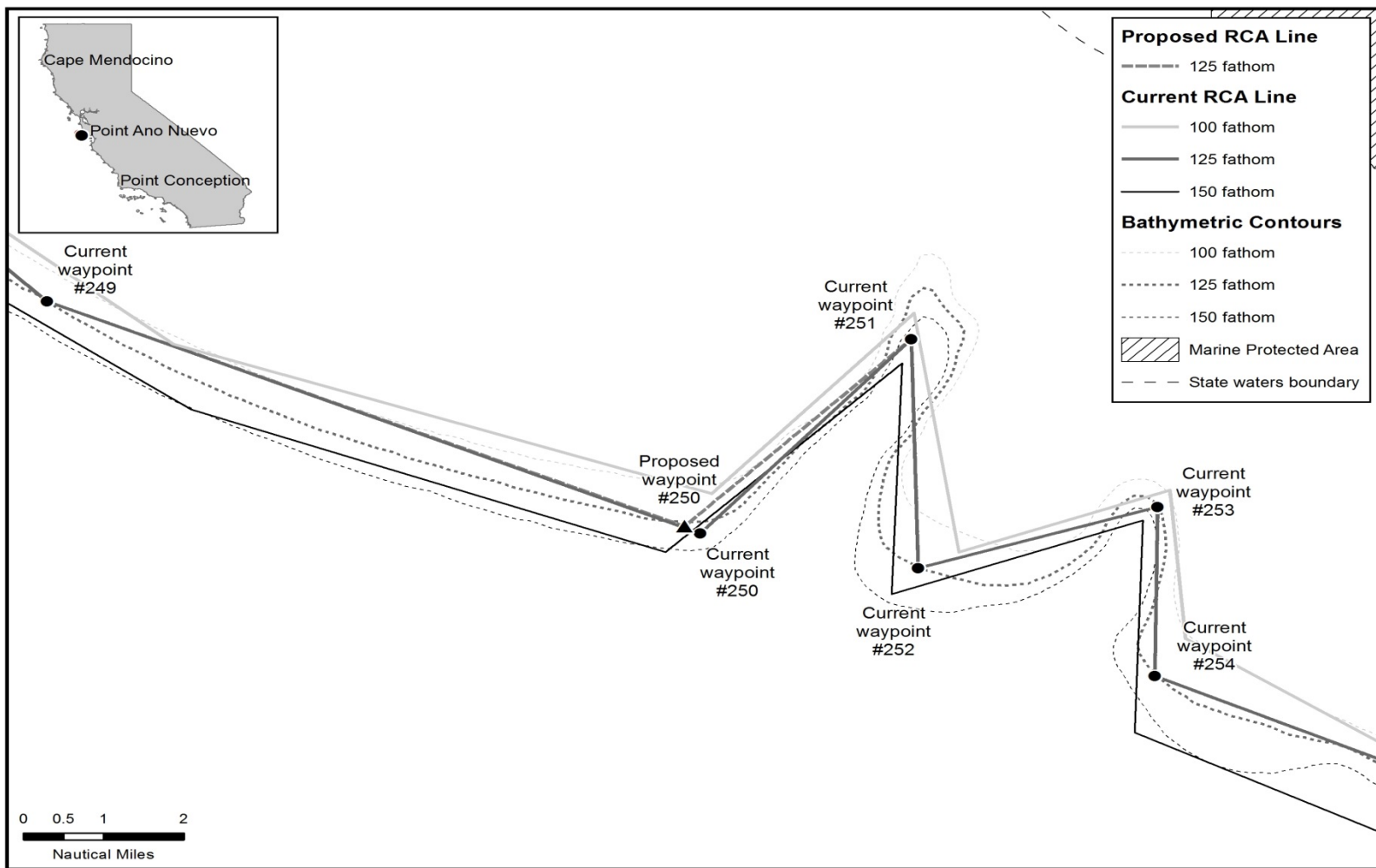


Figure 5. Proposed modification to 125 fm RCA line near Point Ano Nuevo. The proposed change would increase the allowable fishing area by 1.13 km².