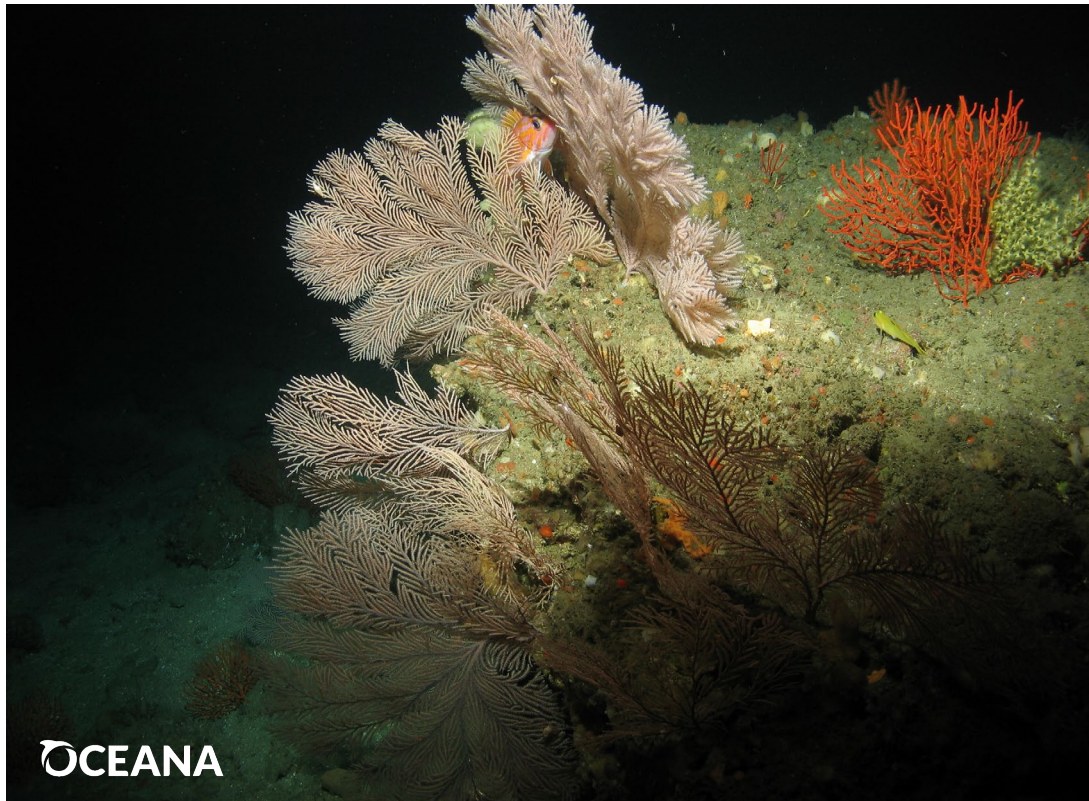


Scoping Non-trawl Groundfish Area Management Modifications

Agenda Item F.3.b
Supplemental Public Presentation 1
April 2021

Ben Enticknap, Oceana

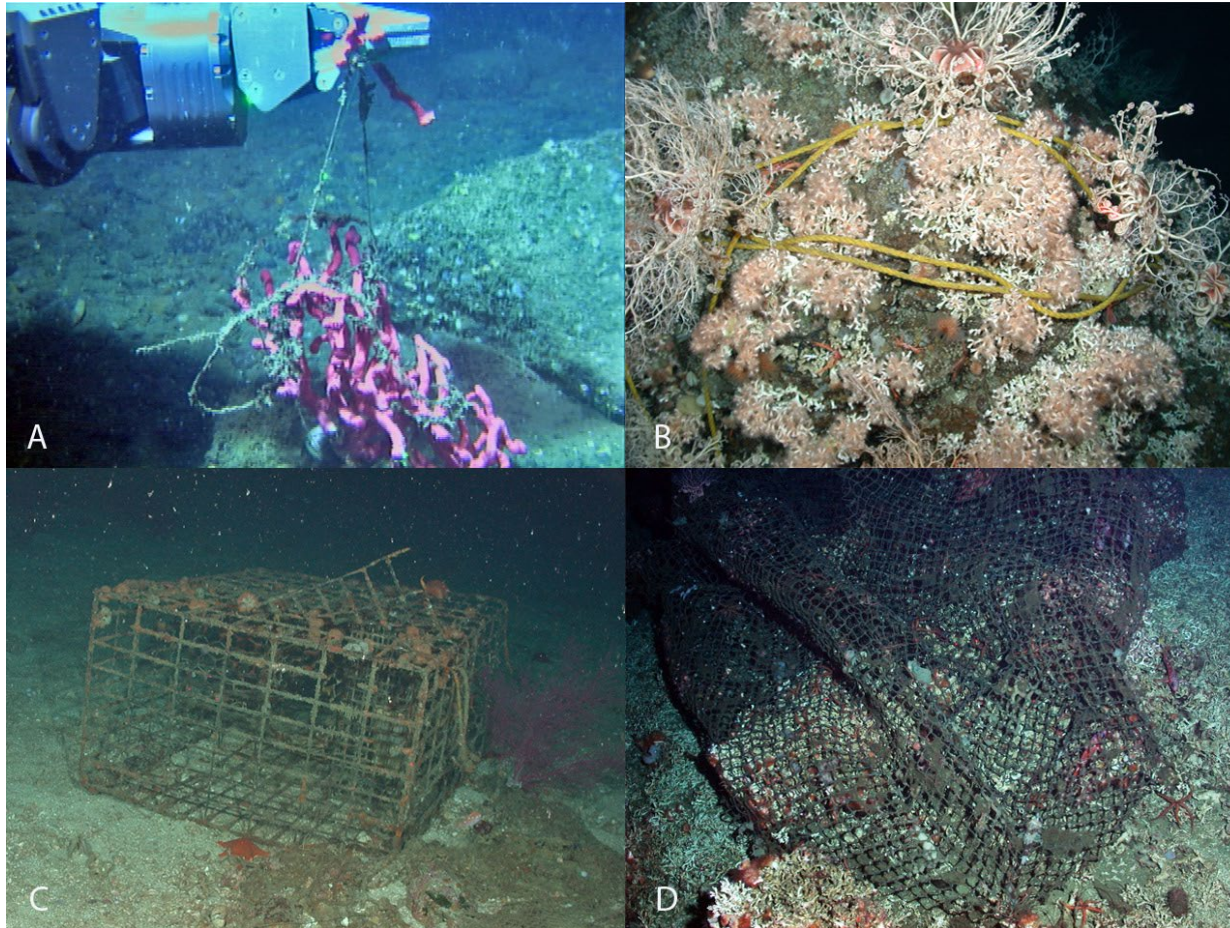


Gray gorgonian corals (*Plumarella* sp.) with rockfish and an orange gorgonian coral (*Adelogorgia phyllosclera*) offshore Santa Rosa Island, California.



Gorgonian corals (*Swiftia pacifica*) at Arago Reef, offshore Southern Oregon

Effects of Fishing Gear on Deep Sea Coral and Sponge Ecosystems

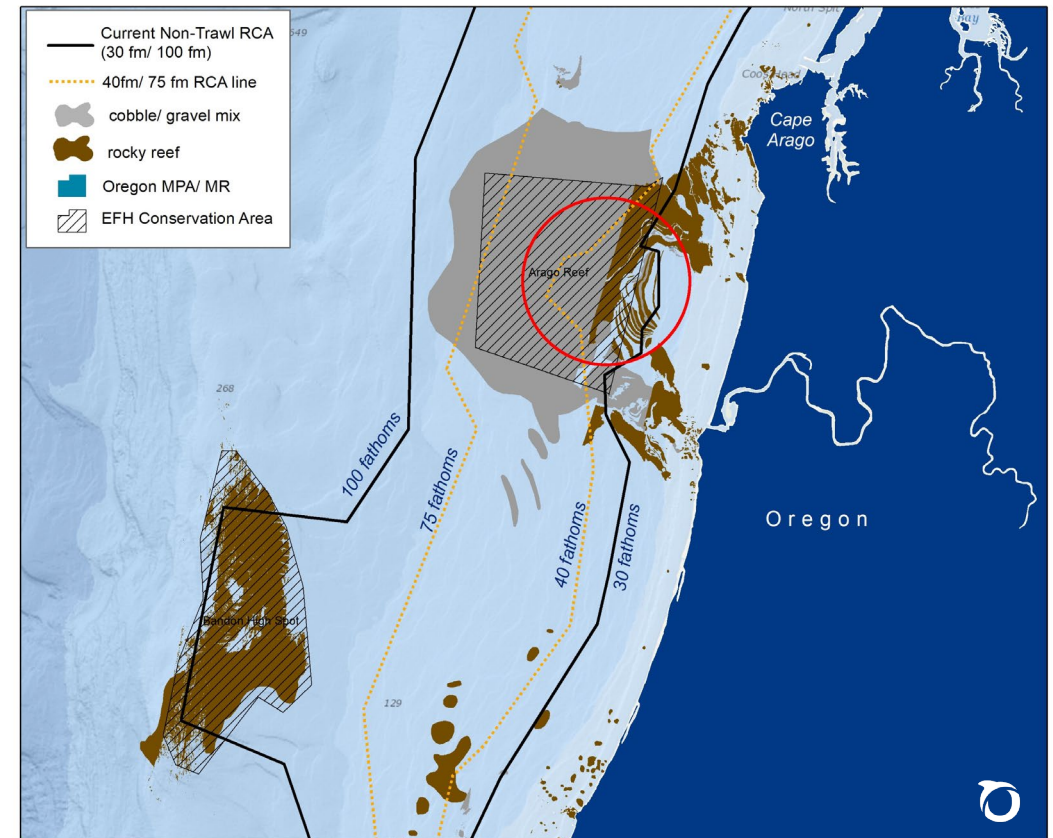
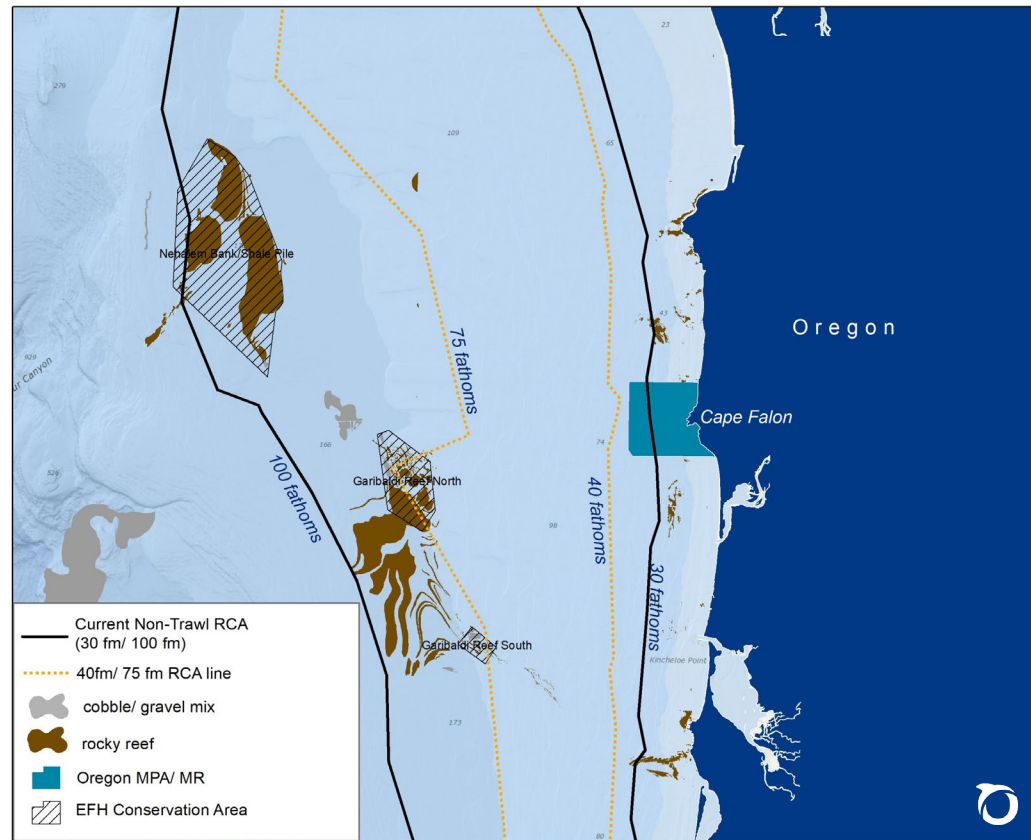


Images of fishing gear from U.S. West Coast ROV surveys:

- A. Bubblegum coral entangled in longline gear
- B. Scleractinian coral (*Lophelia pertusa*) with yellow polypropylene line, possibly from an anchor line or a buoy line on fixed gear;
- C. Trap gear and netting (adjacent to a purple sea fan; and
- D. A section of a trawl net wrapped around coral rubble.

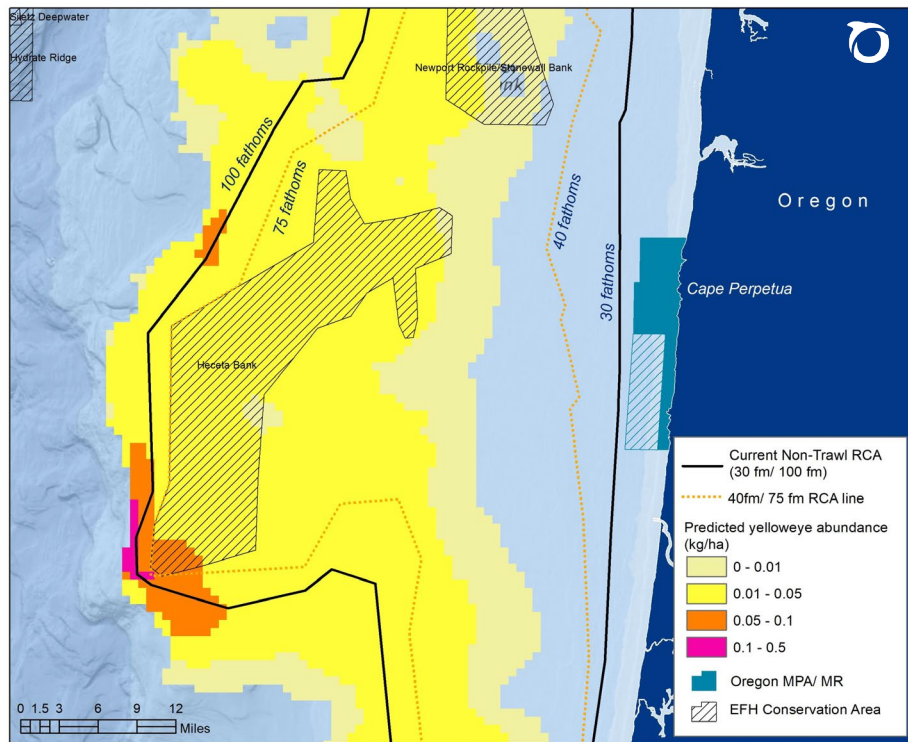
Source: Rooper et al. (2017) Effects of Fishing Gear on Deep-Sea Corals and Sponges in U.S. Waters. Available online: <http://deepseacoraldata.noaa.gov/library>.

Non-trawl RCA boundary changes may result in gear impacts to priority habitat features and areas



Non-trawl RCA changes may increase impacts to long-lived rockfishes

Consider impacts to yelloweye and cowcod rockfishes



Yelloweye rockfish predicted mean abundance. NCCOS model projection. PFMC Agenda Item D.6.b NMFS Synthesis. April 2013



Yelloweye rockfish. Grays Canyon Sponge Reef. Ocean Exploration Trust



Recommendations

- Consider RCA modification alternatives that exclude bottom-contact gear from areas where coral and sponge habitats are located.
- Include alternatives that keep EFH Conservation Areas closed to bottom contact fishing gears where they overlap with current non-trawl RCA.
- Develop alternatives to keep areas closed that have high yelloweye & cowcod abundance.
- Adopt a purpose and need statement that includes minimizing impacts to structure-forming invertebrates, sensitive habitats, and long-lived rockfishes like yelloweye and cowcod.
- Consider long-term area management changes for habitat protection at next groundfish EFH review