

Nathan Perez
F/V Bear Flag 2

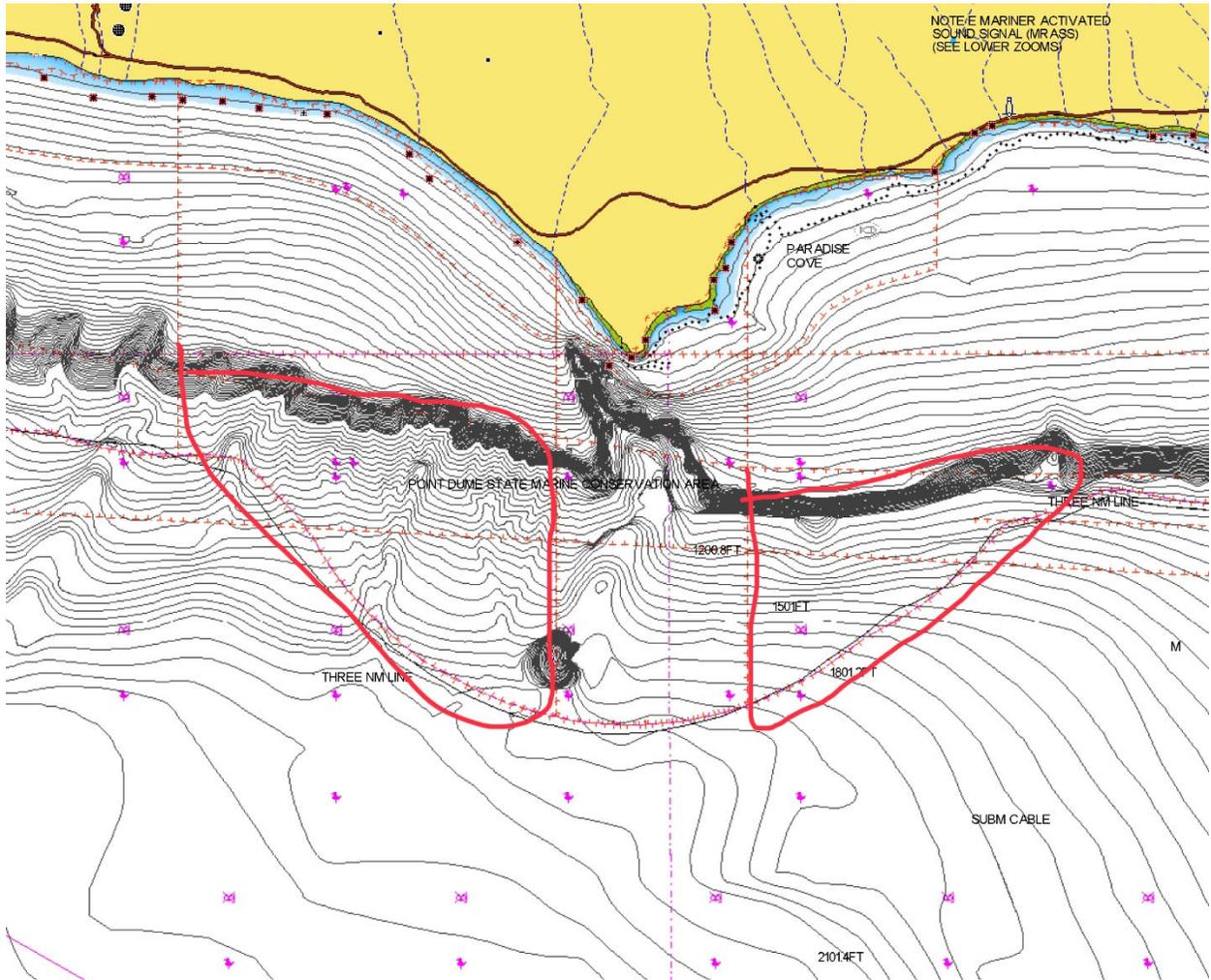
DSBG and NSBG Amendment Request to Fish Within 3 miles

Since testing deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) starting in 2017 and testing night-set buoy gear (NSBG) during the 2020 season, I would like to request the Council allow me to fish DSBG and NSBG in state waters around the Channel Islands and mainland. The goal would be to see the productivity of the gear in these areas and fish in waters where this gear has not been tested.

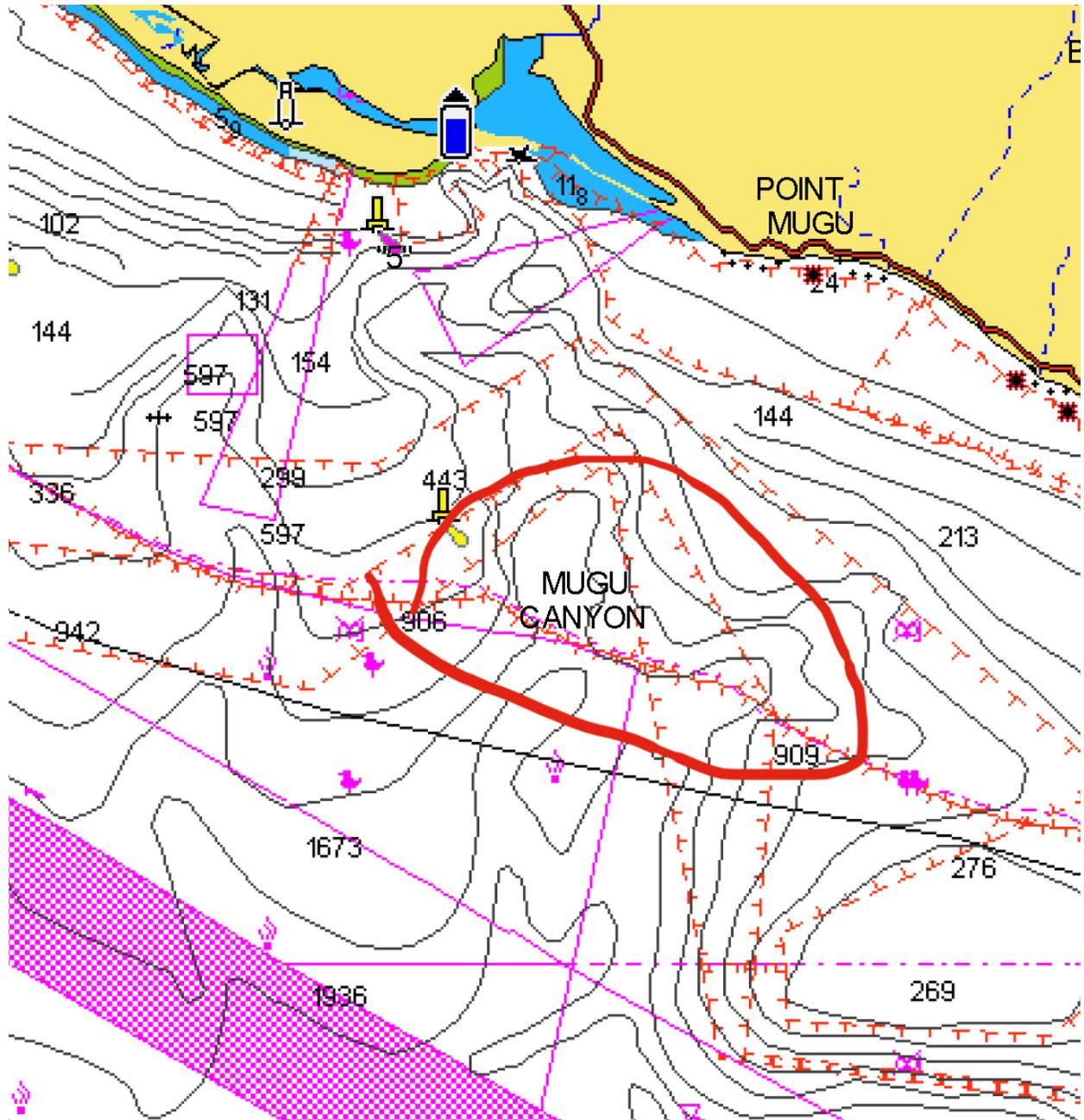
So far, we have fished in federal waters outside three miles of any island or mainland, but we saw areas to fish that looked more productive within three miles of the islands and mainland where the drift gill net (DGN) and harpoon fleet have been very productive in years past. The conditions around the islands and a few areas off the mainland have some of the best bottom contour and temperature breaks for fishing swordfish. I would like to fish between 1-3 miles in areas of a minimum depth of 1200 ft along the mainland where we are currently allowed to harpoon swordfish. There are only a few areas near the mainland where this is possible in the Southern California bight. The areas I've found are Mugu Canyon, Point Dume, Palos Verdes, and Newport Beach to Dana Point. I have marked them out in my photos below. I would like to be able to fish between 1 and 3 miles around the Channel Islands, except for one area that is closer than 1 mile on the lee of San Clemente island (Pyramid Head to Northwest Harbor). Here the depth is plenty deep to catch swordfish with DSBG and NSBG and we're currently harpooning swordfish there. I plan on keeping the hook 200ft above the sea floor which should prevent any rockfish bycatch. This gear poses less of an interaction problem than DGN because of active tending, the thin vertical line that is used and the minimal amount of gear in the water.

With NSBG we made eight sets and caught five bluefin tuna with no catch of anything else. With low production of swordfish by the drift gillnet fleet this year, we were discouraged to fish in December and January with the NSBG when we planned to see productive fishing for swordfish. We tested NSBG in productive areas of DSBG with no catch. This wasn't surprising because we've seen the DGN fleet be unproductive in DSBG areas and vice versa. The goal for the future is to test NSBG next to the DGN fleet during a productive year, so I would also like to request another two more years on my EFPs to test the efficiency of NSBG and DSBG in state and federal waters.

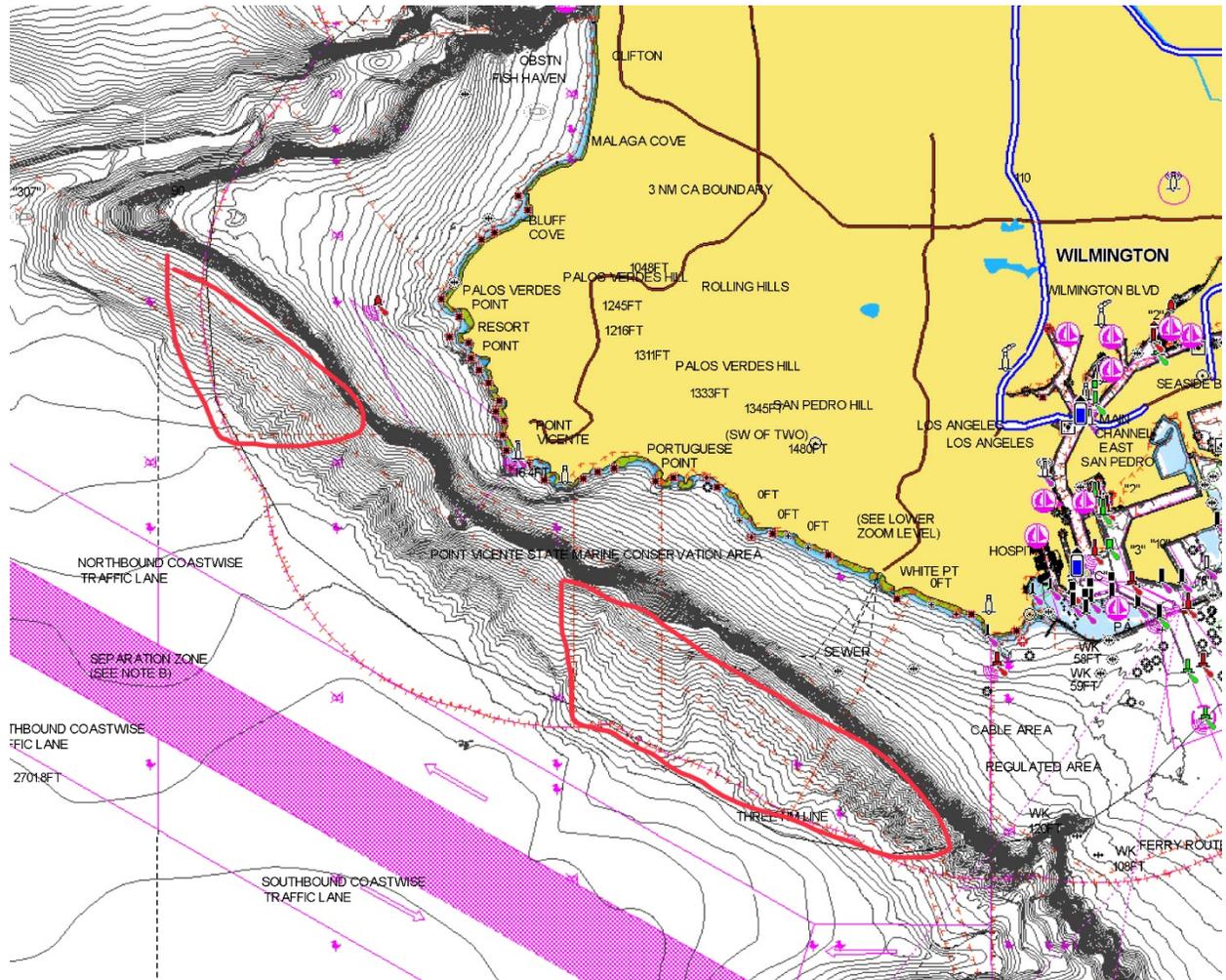
Point Dume



Point Mugu - Mugu Canyon



Palos Verdes



Newport to Dana Point

