

## NON-TRAWL SECTOR AREA MANAGEMENT MEASURES

In [April](#) and [November 2021](#), the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) developed several management measure alternatives to revise certain closed areas that restrict groundfish fishing activity. During the November 2021 meeting, the Council adopted a revised purpose and need statement and a range of alternatives (ROA) to provide fishing access to the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (NT\_RCA), modify allowed gear types and the existing boundaries of the NT\_RCA, repeal Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs), and potentially modify certain Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas (EFHCAs).

Council staff provide a discussion and preliminary analysis of the current ROA to assist the Council in continued refinement of those alternatives or for further development of additional alternatives that would meet the purpose and need statement (Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1). Additionally, throughout the analysis and in Chapter 5 (“Summary of Questions for Council Consideration”), staff pose questions to clarify the intent of Council’s the proposed actions and to advance the development of the alternatives. Finally, the analysis includes detailed maps of the current area management measures and highlights tools available for implementation (e.g., NT\_RCA, yelloweye rockfish conservation areas, EFHCAs, and CCAs) as well as proposed areas that would be opened under all alternatives. We provide maps and some statistics that illustrate areas where the NT\_RCA and the CCA overlap with EFHCAs and habitat substrate that may be opened to fishing if portions of or all of the NT\_RCA and CCA are removed.

During the November Council meeting, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) indicated it would continue to develop additional measures regarding their proposed repeal of the CCAs. For this meeting, CDFW submitted a report that discusses potential changes to the CCAs off California, including establishment of new “discrete area closures” to recreational and commercial fishing within the current boundaries of the CCAs (Agenda Item F.6.a, CDFW Report 1, April 2022). This information could be added to the ROA and future analyses, as appropriate.

The Council is scheduled to review the draft analysis and potentially revise the current range of alternatives (ROAs) that continue to meet the purpose and need statement adopted by the Council. The Council is anticipated to provide further guidance on the development of the alternatives and analyses and to schedule the selection of preliminary preferred alternatives, currently slated for September 2022.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Review and potentially revise the range of alternatives, as appropriate.**
- 2. Provide guidance on the development of analyses and schedule, as needed.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. F.6, Attachment 1 (***Electronic Only***): Non-Trawl Sector Management Measures: Analysis To Support The Development Of A Range Of Alternatives.
2. F.6.a., CDFW Report 1: Propose Protection Areas within the Cowcod Conservation Areas.
3. If Received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.6 Non-trawl Sector Area Management Measures                      Brett Wiedoff/Jessi Doerpinghaus
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Review and Potentially Revise the Range of Alternatives, As Appropriate

PFMC  
03/23/22