

## G.6 Non-Trawl Area Management

### Council Action:

1. Review and potentially revise the purpose and need and range of alternatives, as appropriate.
2. Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternatives, As Appropriate.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

G.6 Non-Trawl Area Management ODFW Motion (Watson/Yaremko) Motion passed unanimously.

I move the Council

Adopt the following proposed Purpose and Need from G.6 Attachment 1 (edits are bolded and underlined and strikethrough shows deletion)

“The purpose of the proposed actions ~~is~~ are to provide additional access to additional in some areas that are currently closed to groundfish fishing inside the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA). In doing so, measures were developed to address ~~In addition, the proposed actions minimize adverse effects on designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and sensitive benthic habitats areas exposed to fishing activity under the proposed actions and;~~ mitigate for bycatch of groundfish and protected and prohibited species, and continue to protect fishery resources and their habitats.

The non-trawl sector is presently unable to access many target species where they are most abundant. The actions are needed to provide increased access to non-overfished shelf rockfish stocks and other important target stocks that can be found in the existing non-trawl groundfish conservation areas (GCAs), thereby increasing the overall potential economic value of the groundfish and non-tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery. The actions are also needed to help diversify fishing strategies in light of restrictive opportunities in other groundfish and non-groundfish fisheries, and to provide more stable, year-round fishing opportunity, expand opportunities to supply seafood, and increase potential financial benefit to fishermen, communities, and the infrastructures they support. The proposed actions include moving or modifying the existing NT\_RCA, allowing groundfish fishing inside the NT\_RCA using only select gears that minimize bottom contact, removal of the CCAs, the development of new closed areas that may restrict some fishing activity, and the development of a block area closure tool for preseason or inseason bycatch management. The discretionary authorities under Section 303(b)(2)(A)&(B) of the Magnuson/Stevens Act may be used to protect species and habitats, including deep-sea corals and overfished species.”

## Alternative 1

I move the Council adopt Alternative 1 as a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, which would allow non-trawl fishery vessels (directed open access, limited entry fixed gear, and IFQ gear switchers) to use legal non-bottom contact hook-and-line gear in the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area between 46°16' (the Oregon/Washington border) and the border of Mexico, as described in Section 2.2 of the Agenda Item G.6., Attachment 1, with the following additions and modifications:

- 1) Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) vessels targeting groundfish in the NT\_RCA using approved hook-and-line gear may fish up to LEFG trip limits (Suboption 1).
- 2) Only those vessels using vertical stationary midwater gear may use natural bait.
- 3) Add analysis of an option where the stationary vertical midwater jig gear be suspended no less than 30 feet from the bottom (as opposed to the current 50-foot requirement), as requested by the GAP in Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1.

Moved by Marci Yaremko

Second by Jessica Watson Motion passed unan.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

G.6 Non-Trawl Area Management ODFW Alternative 2 Motion (Watson/Ridings) Motion passed unan.

I move the Council adopt Alternative 2 as a Preliminary Preferred Alternative off Oregon - Adjust the seaward boundary of the NT\_RCA to 75 fathoms off Oregon for both commercial groundfish and nontribal directed halibut fishing activity as described in Section 2.3 of the Agenda Item G.6., Attachment 1, and include the following Suboptions:

1. Suboption 1a: Create a groundfish and non tribal directed halibut bottom contact EFHCA in bottom trawl EFHCAs that would otherwise be reopened under this action for Nehalem Bank, and Bandon High Spot;
  2. Suboption 1c: Create a groundfish and non tribal directed halibut bottom contact EFHCA over the entire bottom trawl EFHCA for Garibaldi Reef North, Garibaldi Reef South, and Arago Reef;
  3. Suboption 2: Prohibit groundfish and non tribal directed halibut bottom contact gear in the area west of the Heceta Bank EFHCA as a Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area and would be implemented immediately;
  4. Suboption 3: Develop the Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas for groundfish and non tribal directed halibut presented by staff in Attachment 1, Alternative 2, Suboption 3 that could be used to mitigate impacts to yelloweye rockfish resulting from this action, which could be implemented in biennial management measures or inseason action.

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## Alternative 2, California

I move the Council adopt Alternative 2 as a Preliminary Preferred Alternative for the Oregon/California Border (42°) to Pt. Conception (34° 27'): Adjust the seaward boundary of the NT\_RCA to 75 fathoms off California for both commercial groundfish and nontribal directed halibut fishing activity as described in Section 2.3 of Agenda Item G.6., Attachment 1.

- For this area, include no suboptions that would be intended to create new groundfish bottom contact prohibitions.

Moved by Marci Yaremko

Second by Marc Gorelnik

Motion passed unan.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

### Alternative 3, Repeal CCAs

I move the Council adopt Alternative 3 as a Preliminary Preferred Alternative - Repeal the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCA) for Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Fisheries, and include the following:

- 1) Proposed new NT\_RCA lines around islands and banks for management within the current boundaries of the CCA;
- 2) ) Eight proposed closed areas that prohibit fishing for groundfish: a) Hidden Reef, b) West of Santa Barbara Island c) Potato Bank, d) 107/118 Bank, e) Cherry Bank, f) Seamount 109, g) Northeast Bank, and h) the 43-Fathom Spot.

As recommended by the Enforcement Consultants in Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental EC Report, and the GAP in Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, include the following provisions for these closed areas:

- Allow continuous transit through the proposed closed areas with groundfish onboard provided gear is stowed (commercial) or not deployed (recreational).
- Maintain the ability to fish for non-groundfish species in these closed areas without groundfish aboard the vessel.

Moved by Marci Yaremko

Seconded by Bob Dooley

Motion passed unan.

G.6 WDFW Motion 1 – NT RCA (Hall/Anderson) Motion passed unan.

I move the Council

- 1) Remove Alternative 4 - NTRCA adjustments off WA for pot gear as described in Section 2.5 of Agenda Item G.6., Attachment 1, from further consideration under this action and,
- 2) Adopt Alternative 5 - Develop Block Area Closure Management Tool as described in section 2.6 of Agenda Item G.6., Attachment 1 as a Preliminary Preferred Alternative

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