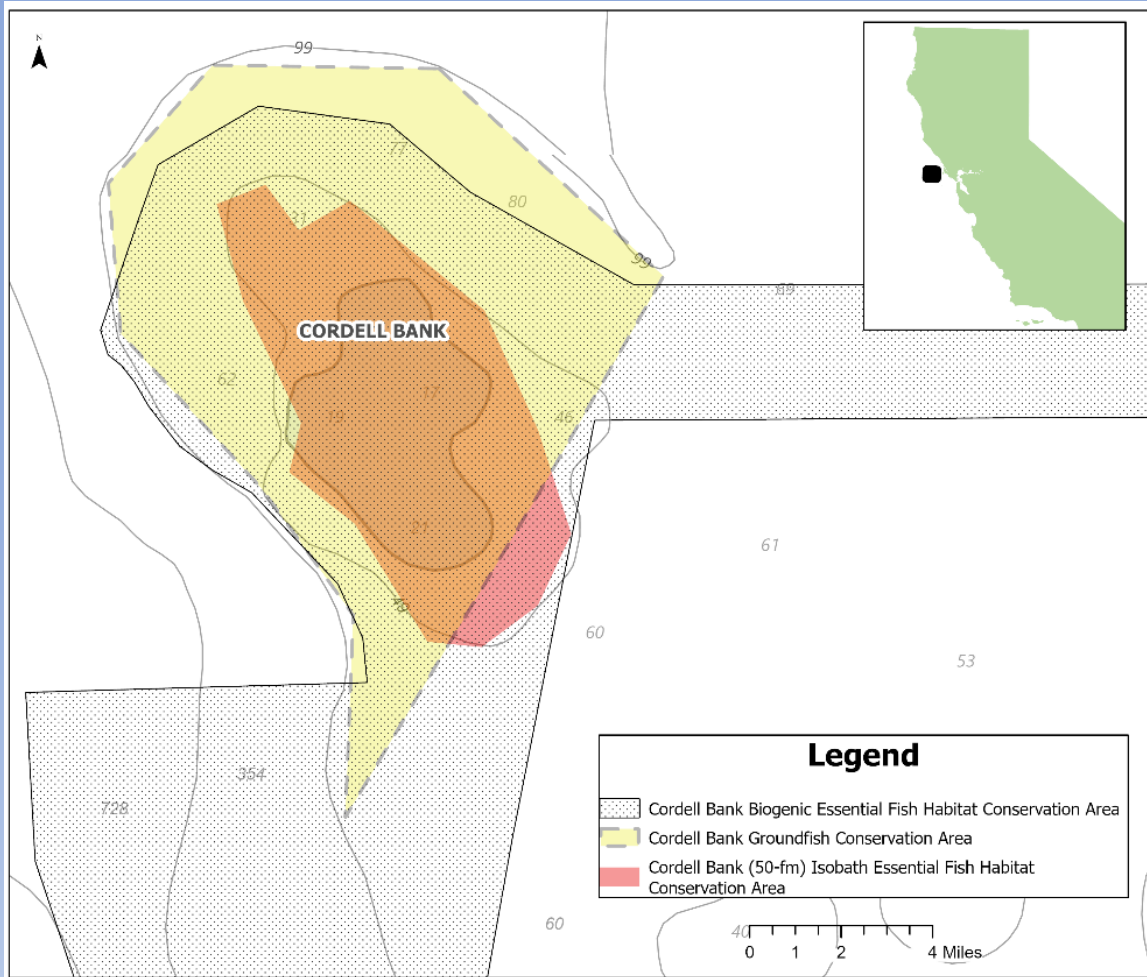


CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON CORDELL BANK CONSERVATION AREA REVISIONS

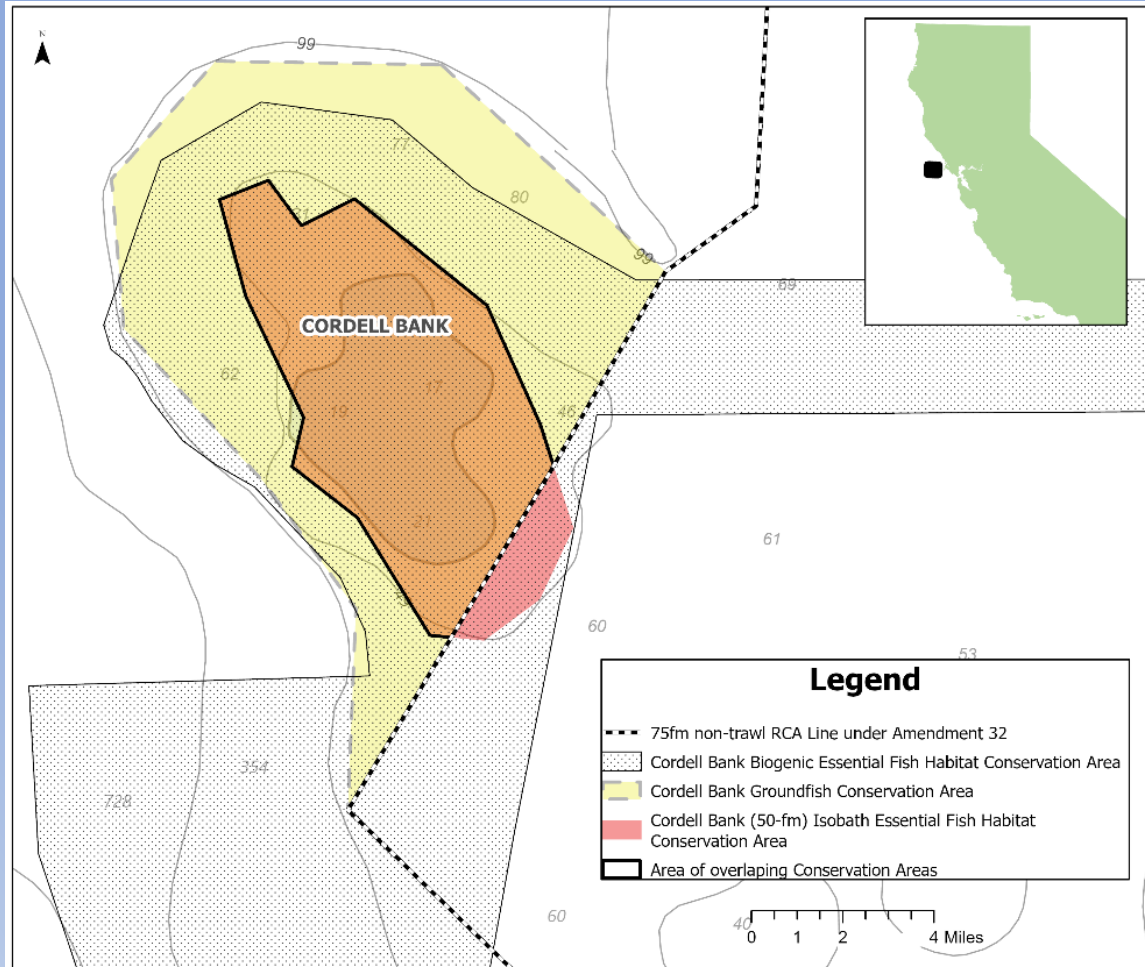


Overview of Conservation Areas around Cordell Bank



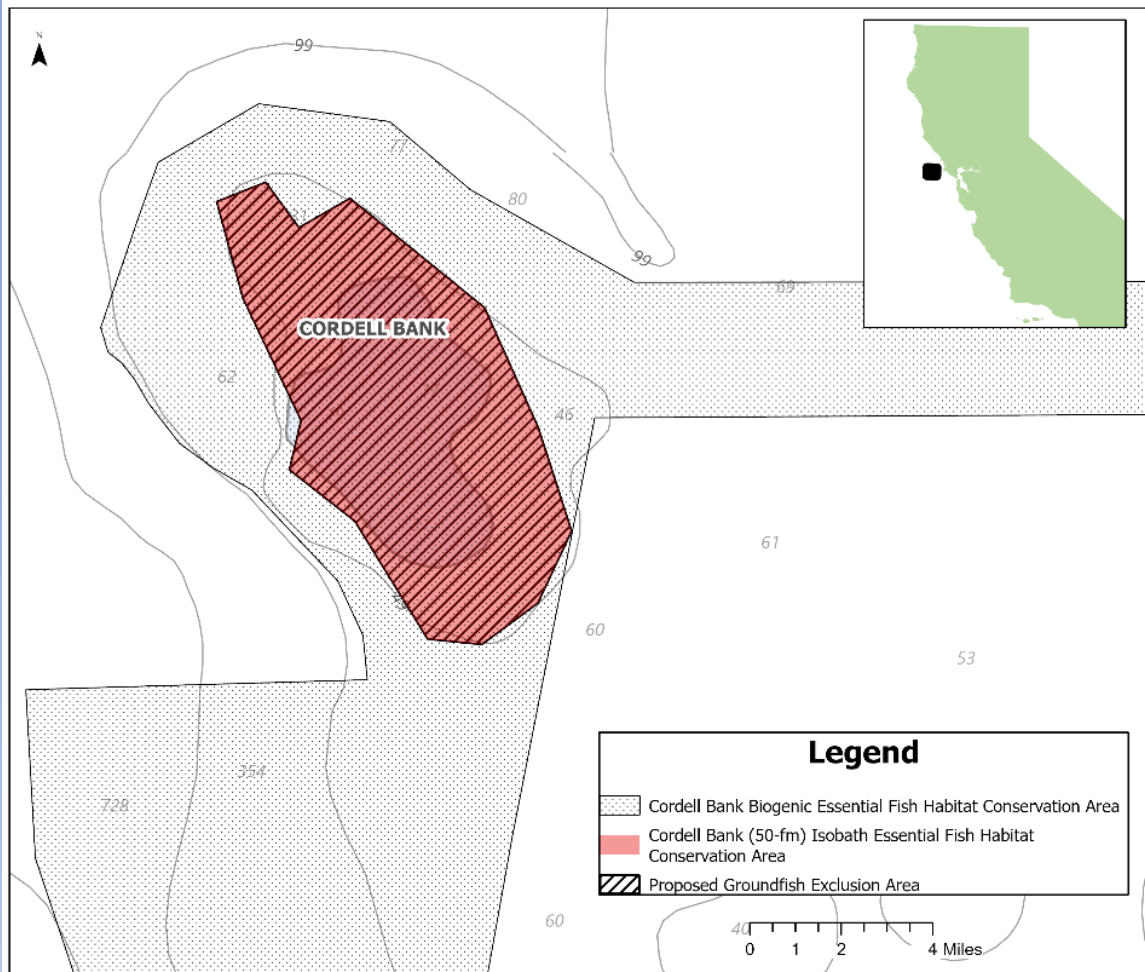
- Groundfish Conservation Area (GCA) – Established 2004/2005
- Bottom trawl Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area (EFHCA) – Established 2009/Modified 2020
- Bottom contact EFHCA – Established 2009
- Each conservation area has differing regulations
- Note – boundary edges do not align with each other

Recent and Anticipated Actions have “Exposed” Cordell Bank



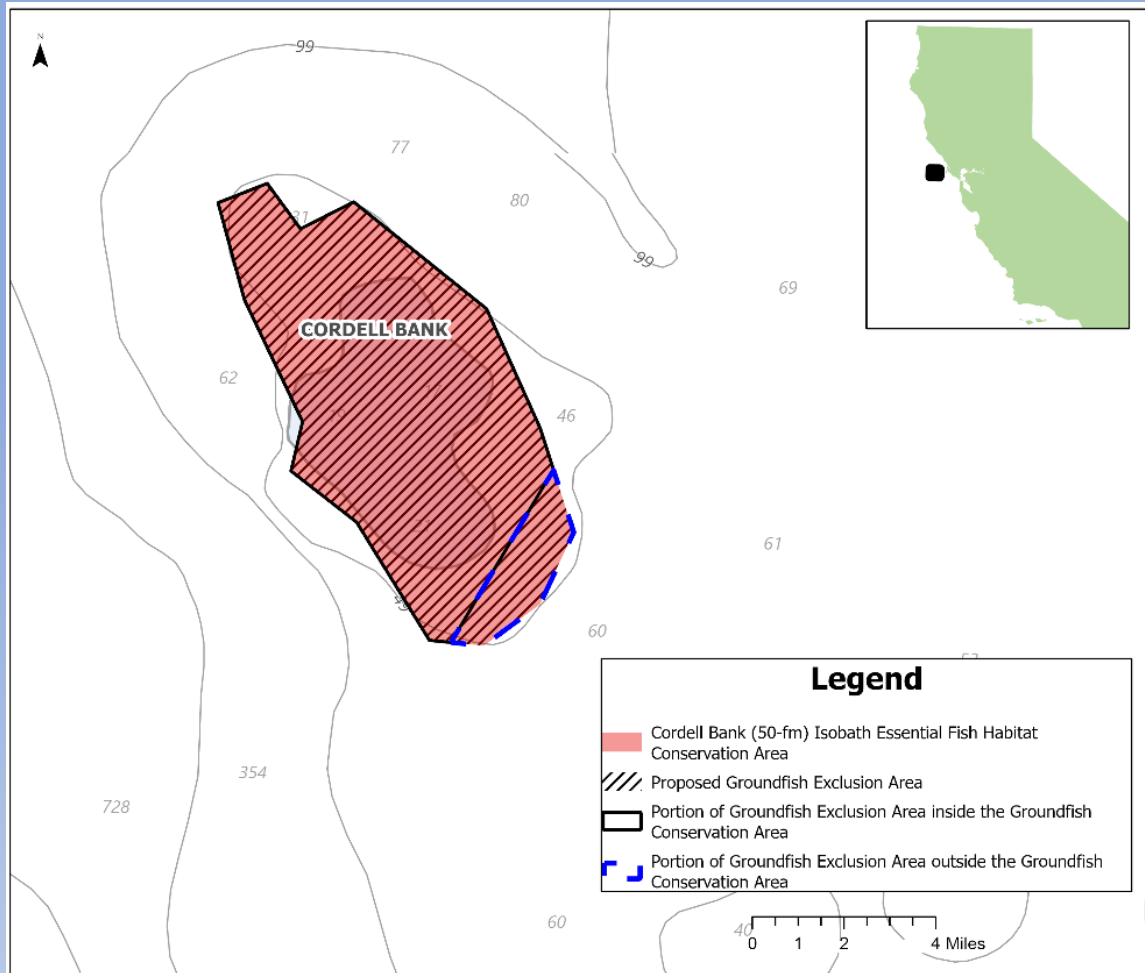
- Beginning in 2023, the recreational fishery operates seaward of the 50-fathom Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundary line or “All Depth”
- Amendment 32 (anticipated implementation 2024), modifies the seaward non-trawl RCA boundary to 75-fathoms (nautical hashed line)

Scoping – Proposal



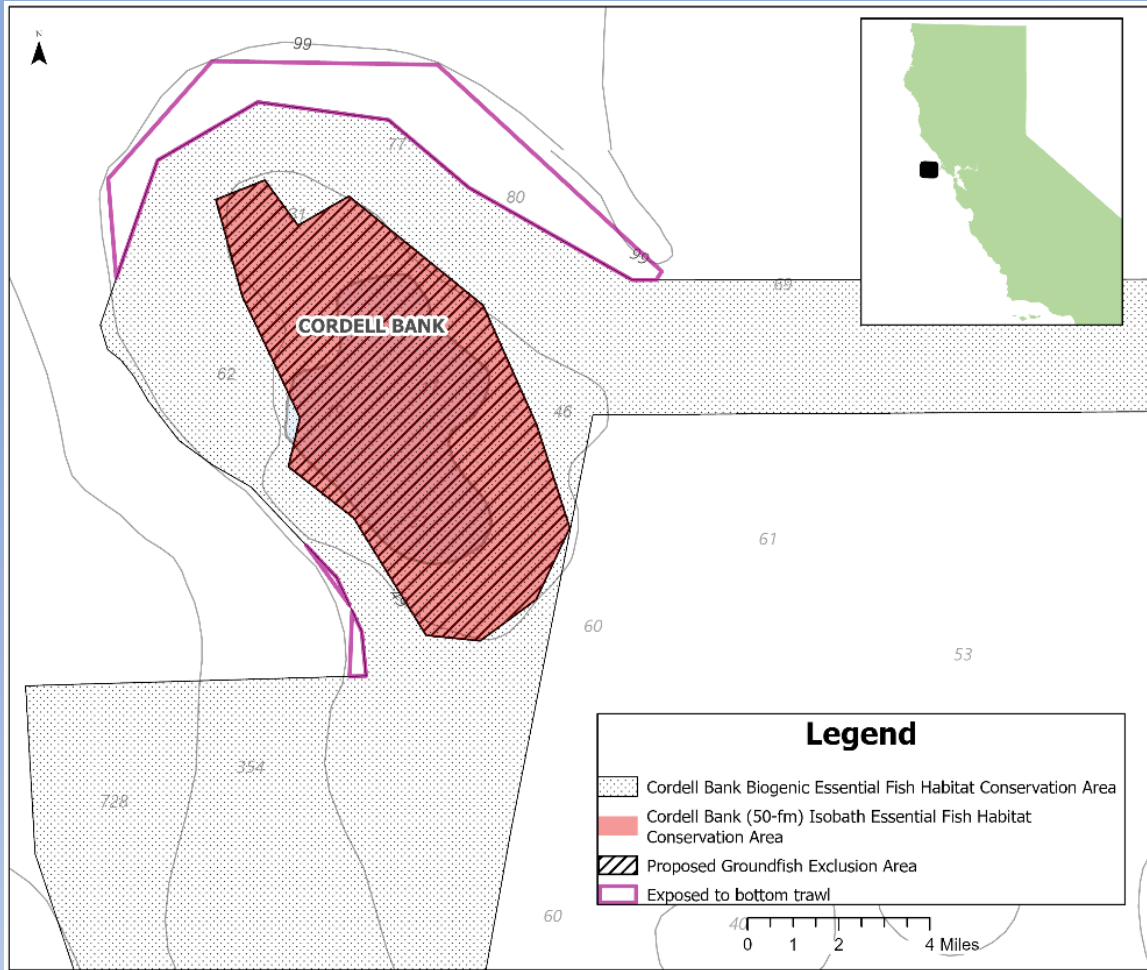
- Remove the GCA entirely
 - No modifications to EFHCAs proposed
- Overlay a new Groundfish Exclusion Area (diagonal barred polygon) with the bottom contact EFHCA
- Accomplishes:
 - ✓ Reduces regulatory complexity
 - ✓ Maintains sensitive environments protections
 - ✓ Allows access to areas where prohibitions are no longer needed

Proposed New Groundfish Exclusion Area



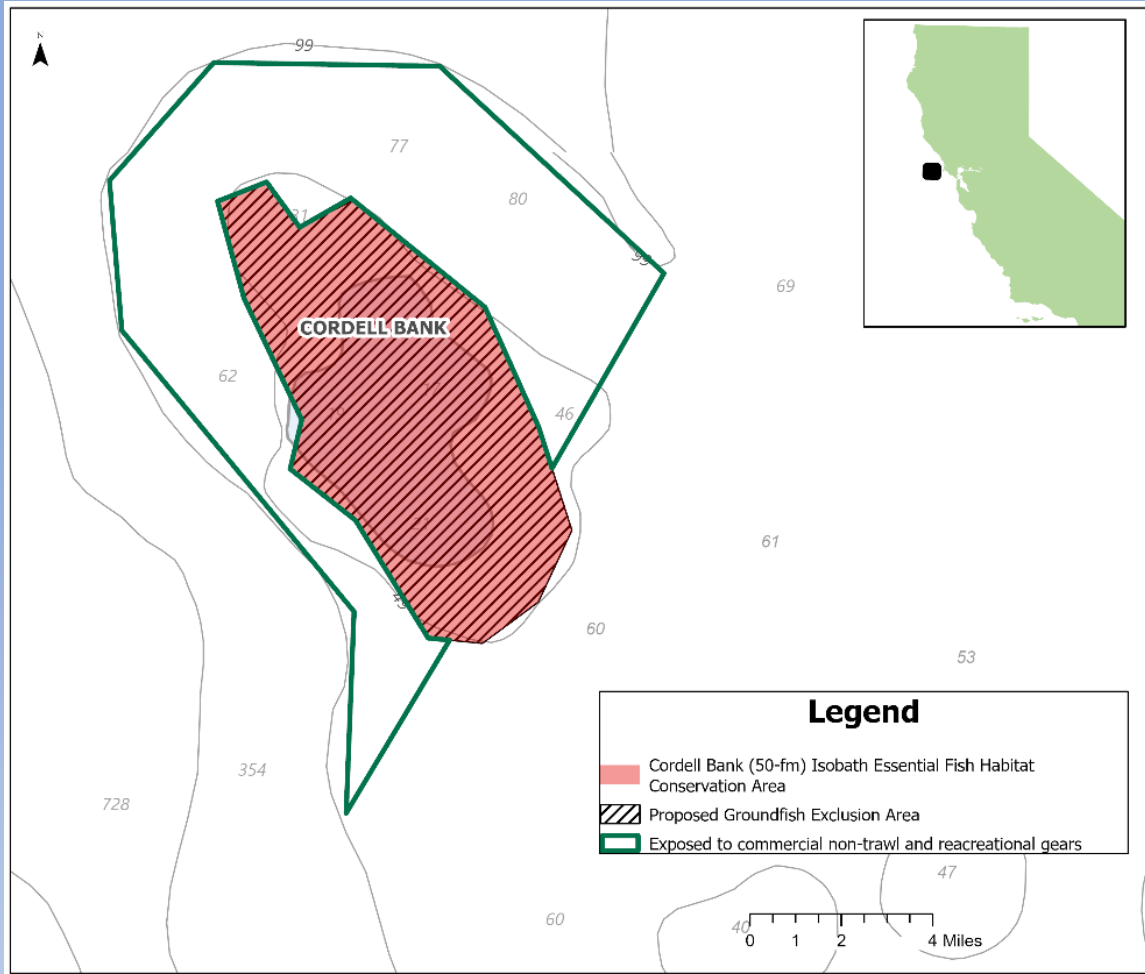
- Area of 42.5 square miles, protecting sensitive environments
 - Shallow pinnacles
 - Over 97 percent of observed corals and sponges
- Creates uniform regulatory regime

Proposed Removal of GCA – Trawl Commercial



- Creates three exposed and truncated areas (purple outlined polygon)
- 16.3 square miles would be exposed

Proposed Removal of GCA – non-Trawl Commercial and Recreational



- 64.5 square miles would no longer have differing groundfish retention regulations between the non-trawl commercial and recreational sectors (green outlined polygon)
- Reducing regulatory complexity for stakeholders and enforcement

Questions?