

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON GREATER  
FARALLONES AND MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES  
CORAL RESTORATION AND RESEARCH PLAN-SCOPING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) is concerned that this action could lead to unnecessary fishing restrictions in areas that the CPS fleet fishes, particularly areas near Monterey Bay (Ascension Canyon/Ano Nuevo Canyon and Cochrane Bank/Fanny Shoals).

The purse seine gear used by the CPS fleet is not intended to contact bottom. In relatively shallow areas (30 fathoms or less), the gear can incidentally contact the bottom. No bottom contact is thought to occur below that depth. The fleet works to avoid any areas with structure or hard bottom suitable for the proposed coral restoration, as contact with hard bottom and net hangs can result in costly net damage and safety issues. Given these circumstances and the footprint of the fishery relative to the proposed areas for coral restoration, the potential for the fleet to impact these efforts is *de minimis*. As such, we believe that no restrictions on CPS fleet fisheries are necessary to protect any of the proposed coral restoration work.

PFMC  
09/08/23