

PROPOSED FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT LANGUAGE TO THE  
GROUNDFISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Based on the proposed action outlined in Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1, the following is the proposed amendment language to the groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). If the proposed action as described changes, the proposed language would also change and be brought forth in June 2024 for final action. Council staff propose removing the listing of all groundfish exclusion areas (GEAs) in the FMP and reference the Federal regulations or the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document for active GEAs.

**6.8.10 Groundfish Exclusion Areas**

Groundfish Exclusion Areas (GEAs) are intended to mitigate impacts to sensitive environments from certain groundfish fishing activity. GEAs may be established or revised through either a specifications-and-management-measures rulemaking (Section 6.2 C) or a full rulemaking (Section 6.2 D). Amendment 32 to the Groundfish FMP established eight GEAs within the Southern California Bight to protect sensitive environments from non-trawl groundfish fishing. Amendment 3X established GEAs within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary for coral restoration and research for commercial groundfish bottom contact gear. Coordinates for GEAs can be found in the Federal Regulations. ~~6.26.2 Current GEAs are:~~

- ~~1. Hidden Reef~~
- ~~2. West of Santa Barbara Island~~
- ~~3. Potato Bank~~
- ~~4. 107/118 Bank~~
- ~~5. Cherry Bank~~
- ~~6. Seamount 109~~
- ~~7. Northeast Bank~~
- ~~8. The 43 Fathom Spot~~

[Amendment 32, Amendment 3X]

PFMC  
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