

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES: CORAL RESTORATION AND RESEARCH PLAN - RANGE OF  
ALTERNATIVES AND PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed reports associated with [Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#) and met with Council and National Marine Sanctuary Staff to discuss proposed alternative areas, and have the following comments:

The EC reviewed the proposed alternative areas for Ano Nuevo and Ascension Canyons and are concerned with the size and shape changes proposed for Ascension Canyon. The EC provided feedback at the June 2023 and September 2023 Council meetings advising on the enforceability of the proposed areas. The length and width of the proposed areas are recommended to be greater than 1 nautical mile (nm) to ensure they can be effectively enforced with Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) using a 15-minute ping rate.

The EC is concerned with the ability to enforce the southeast corner of the triangular shape depicted in the Ascension Canyon redraw. The EC proposes squaring off this corner to improve enforceability using VMS (depicted in orange in the below graphic). This would help with the enforceability of both the eastern border of Ascension Canyon and the open area between the proposed redraw areas by making the distance between approximately 1 nm. Due to the remote location of the proposed areas, VMS would be the primary tool used to monitor fishing activity and detect potential violations. Any fishery that does not require VMS would be difficult to enforce since these fisheries could only be monitored with on-scene air and surface assets.

