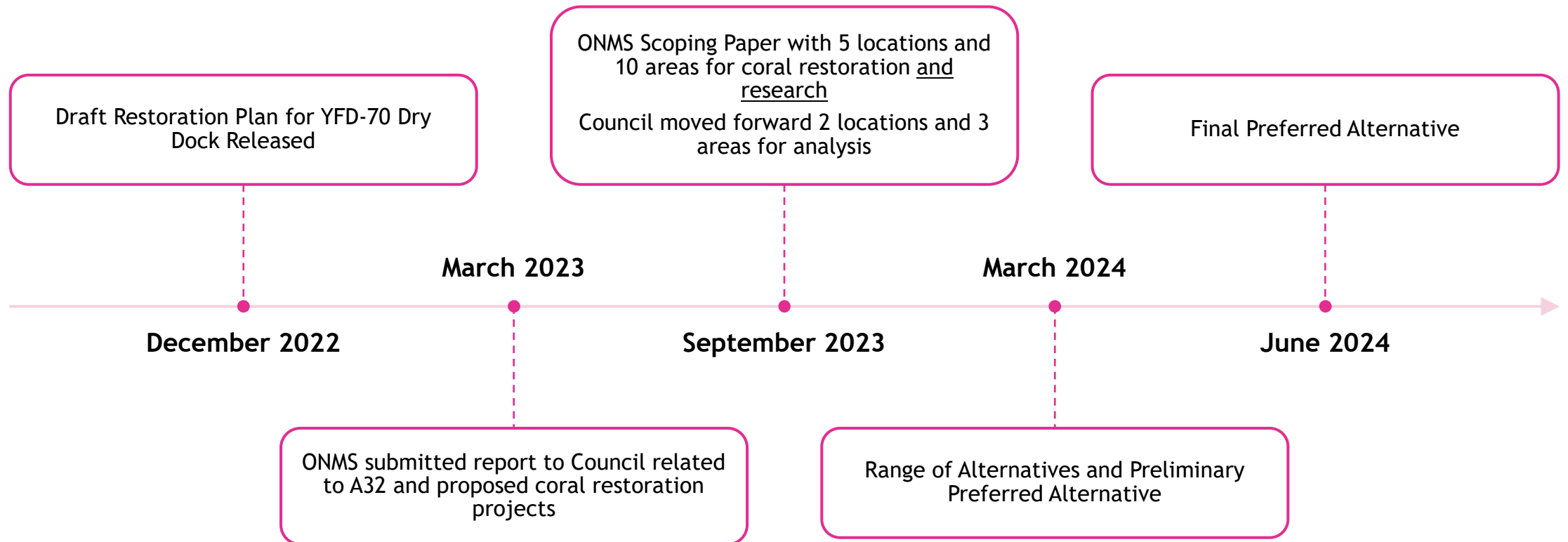


Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Coral Restoration and Research Plan- Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternatives

Agenda Item E.2

March 2024

History of Action



Council Action



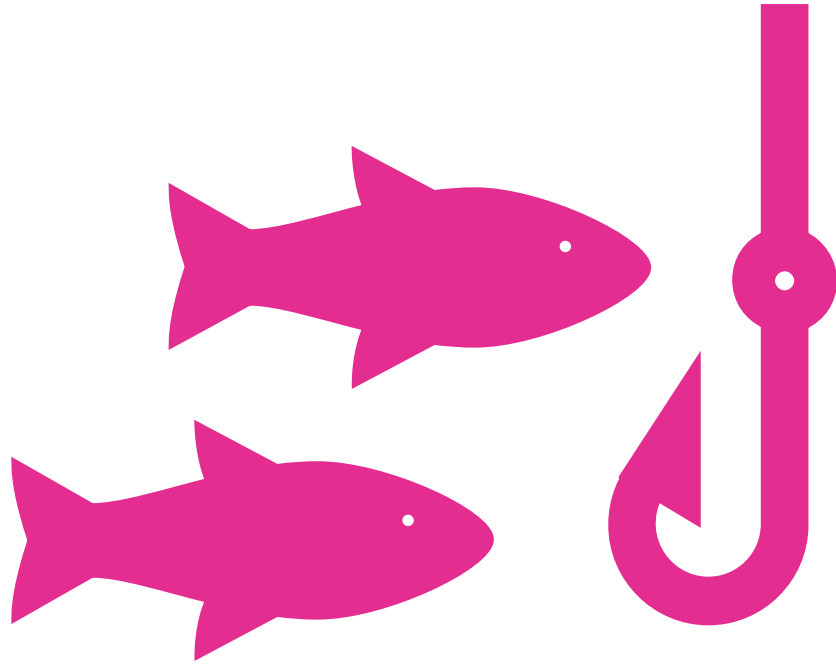
Adopt a range of alternatives.



Adopt a preliminary preferred alternative, if possible.



Provide any guidance on FMP proposed language.

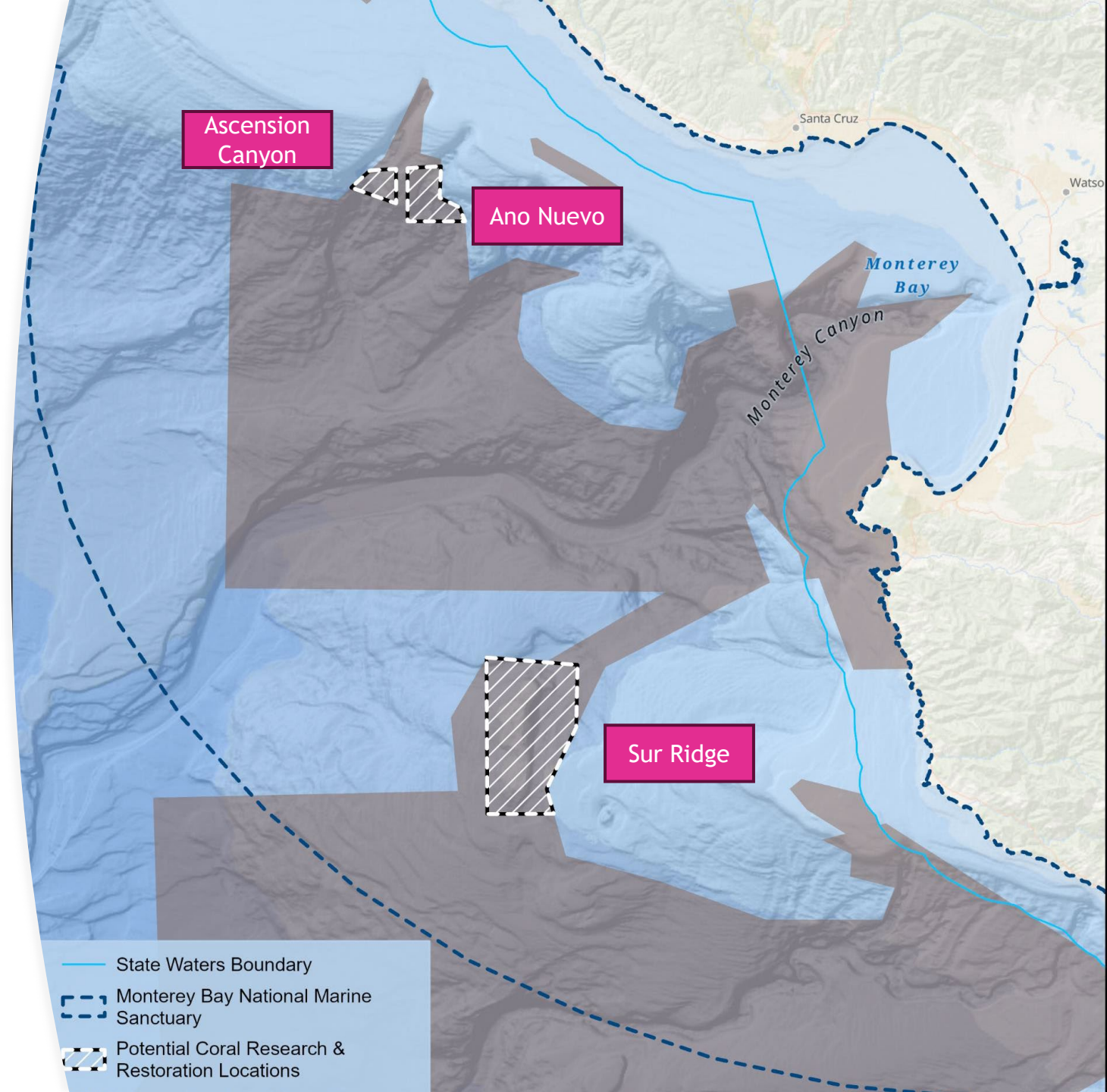


Bottom Contact Fisheries

- Council motion: “Bottom contact fisheries”
- In evaluating the depth and fisheries overlap, staff is proposing that the closures would apply to commercial groundfish bottom contact gear.
 - Section 1.4 on page 5 has discussion of federal fisheries and gear types

Alternatives

- Alternative 1- Two options
 - Option a: Ano Nuevo (6.5 sq. mi, 273-798 fm)
 - Option b: Ascension Canyon (2.96 sq. mi, 262-776 fm)
- Alternative 2- Sur Ridge (36.64 sq. mi, 448-853 fm)
- All alts/options can be selected as PPA
- Would create Groundfish Exclusion Areas (GEAs) at final areas

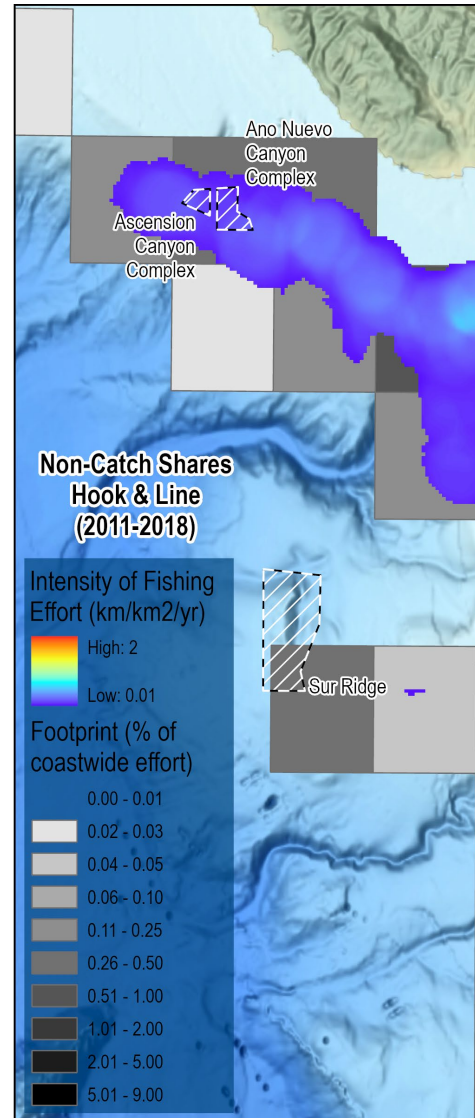
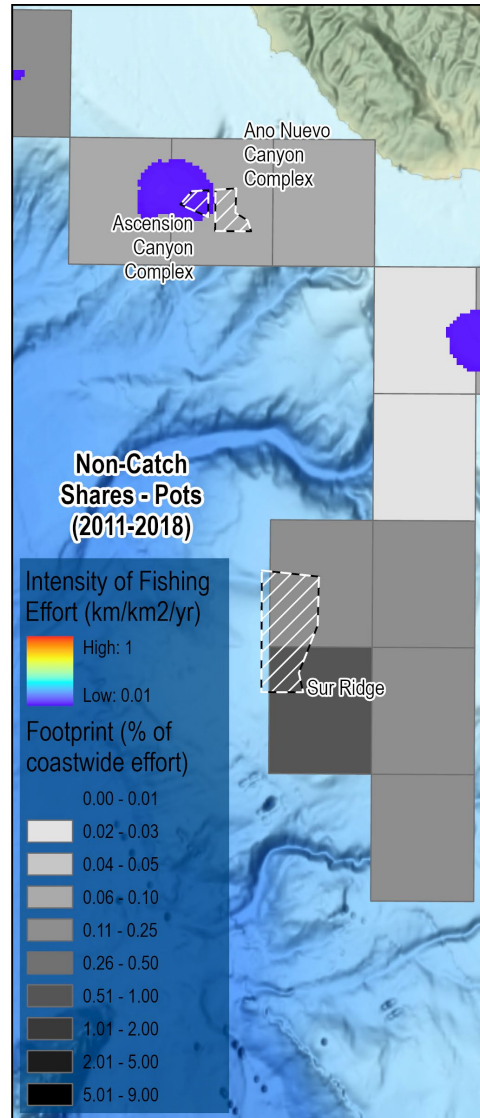
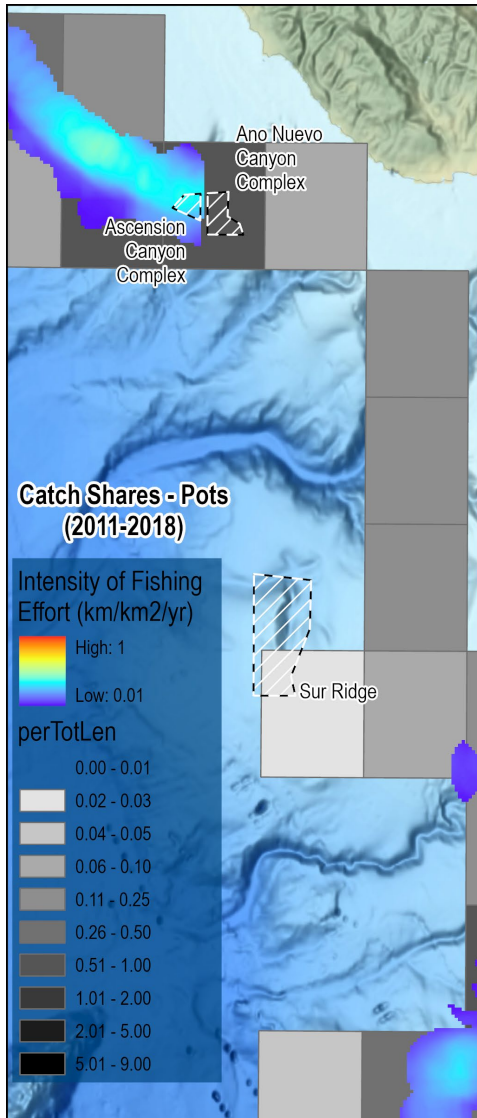


Biological Impacts

- Positive biological impacts under Alt 1 and 2
 - New coral habitat
 - Essential Fish Habitat protection



Source: NOAA Ocean Explorer



Impacts to Industry

- Potentially negative, but uncertain.
 - Observer coverage in sectors relatively low for non-catch shares fisheries
 - Some activity historically in area, but potentially able to move
 - Table 5 looks at GF sector revenue by port group
- Note that will likely be increase in offshore activity with nearshore restrictions

Council Action

Adopt a Range of
Alternatives,
including a
Preliminary Preferred
Alternative(s), if
Possible