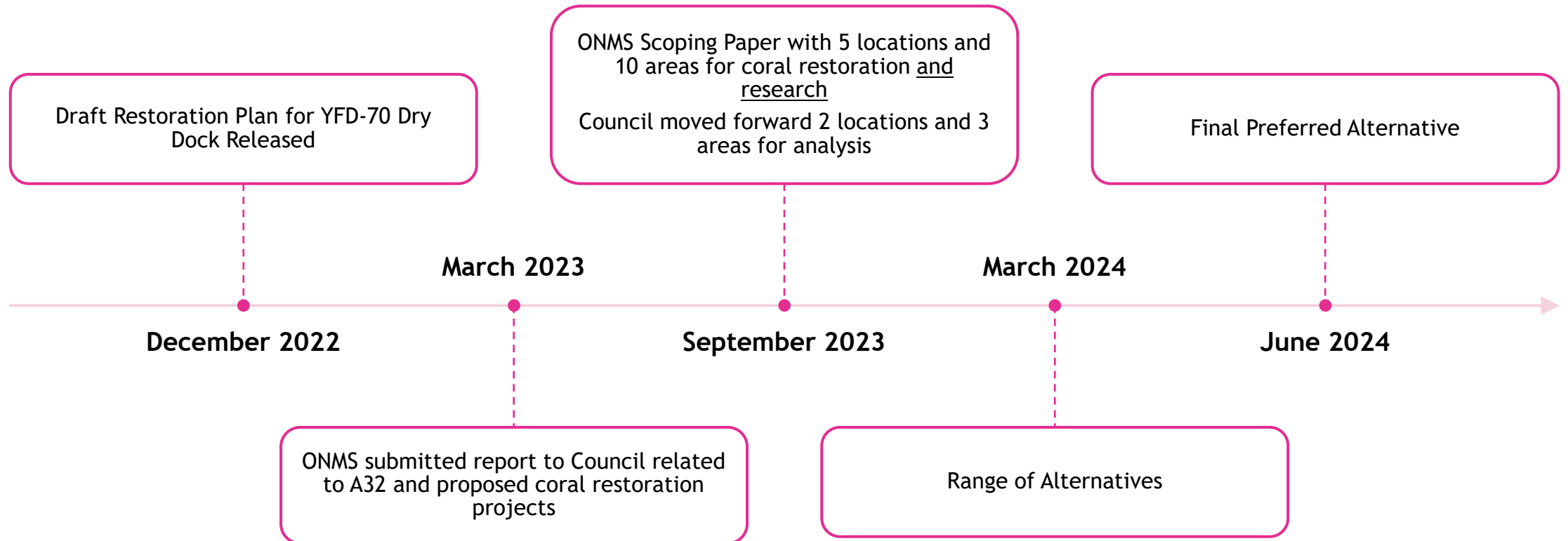


Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Coral Research and Restoration Closures- FMP Amendment Final Action

Agenda Item F.2
June 2024

History of Action



Council Action



Adopt a final preferred alternative.

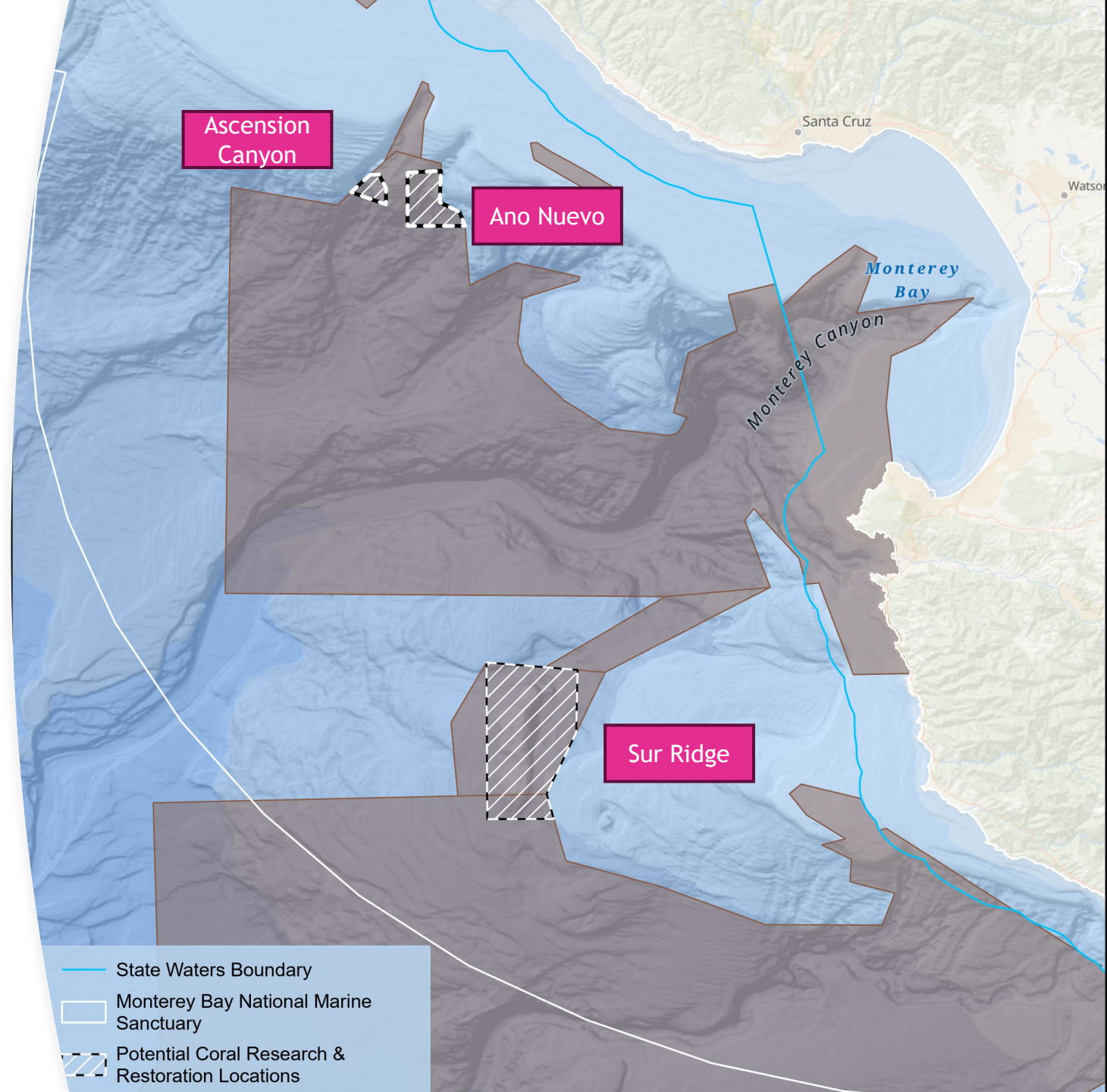


Adopt FMP amendment language.

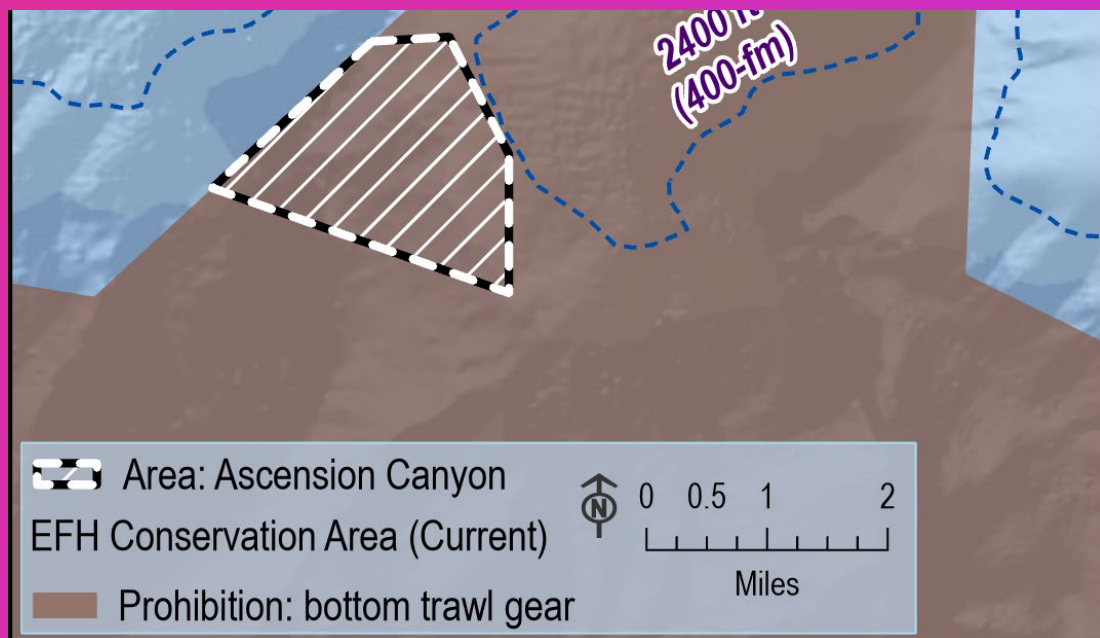
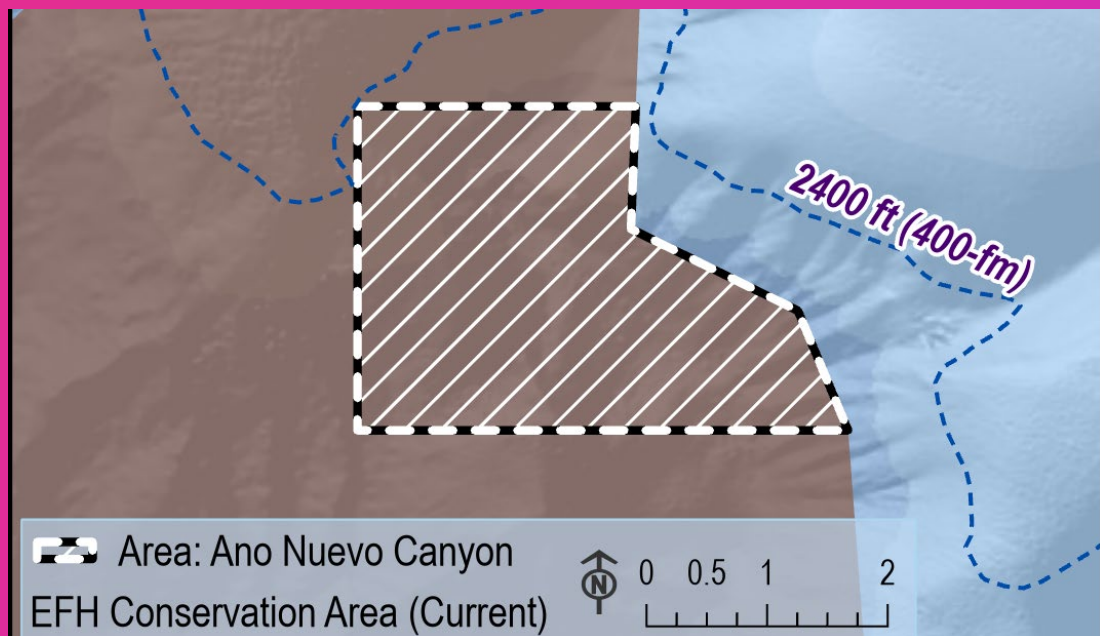
Range of Alternatives

- Alternative 1- Two options
 - Option a: Ano Nuevo (4.92 sq. mi, 416-776 fm)
 - Option b: Ascension Canyon (1.83 sq. mi, 399-798 fm)
- Alternative 2- Sur Ridge (36.64 sq. mi, 448-853 fm)

All alts/options can be selected as FPA



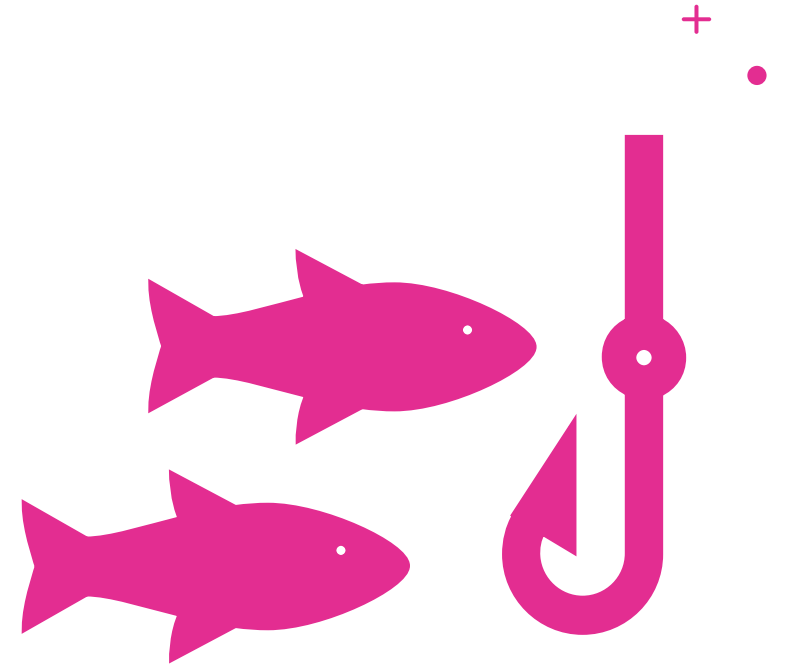
Ascension Canyon/Ano Nuevo Canyon



- Modified in March 2024 based on feedback from industry to ONMS
 - Further modifications proposed by EC
- Depths > 400 fm to limit impacts to sablefish grounds
- Reduced amount of proposed closed area by 2.71 sq. mi (~29%)

Scope of Action

- Would create Groundfish Exclusion Areas (GEAs) at final areas
- Apply to all Commercial Groundfish Bottom Contact gears
 - Includes bottom trawl if EFHCAs were to be removed in future
 - Non-bottom contact gears (troll, stationary vertical jig gear) allowed

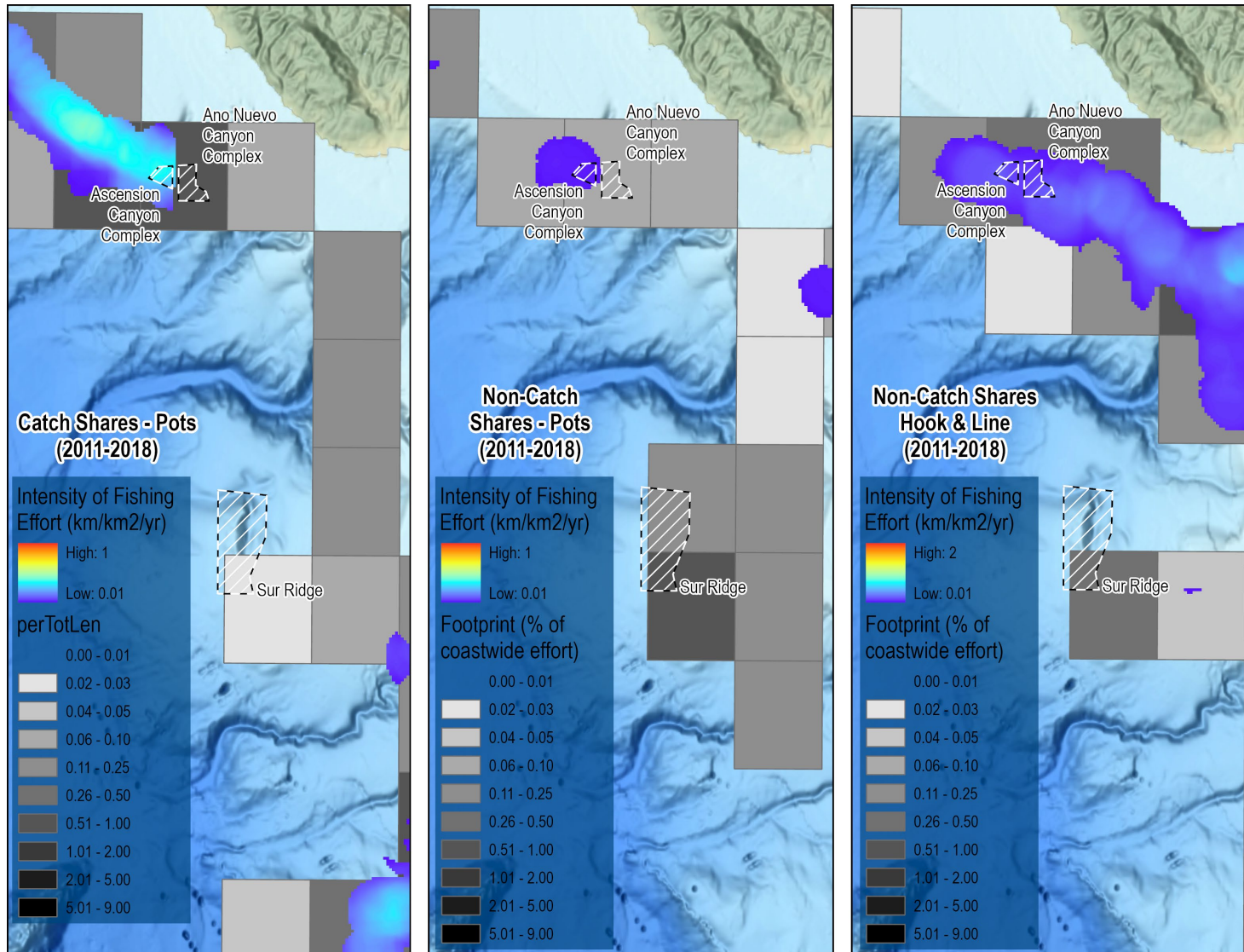


Biological Impacts

- 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 other fishing restrictions

VMS Analysis (New)

- Shows similar patterns as WCGOP
- Historical fishing activity at Ano Nuevo/Ascension Canyon, but limited at Sur Ridge
- Impacts uncertain



FMP Amendment Language

- Removes all GEA names from the FMP
 - List in regulation and potentially SAFE document
- Requires fewer updates to FMP in future



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Council Action

Adopt a Final
Preferred Alternative
and FMP Language