

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON CORDELL BANK CONSERVATION  
AREA REVISIONS

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the documents associated with Agenda Item I.5, Groundfish Management, Cordell Bank Groundfish Conservation Area Revisions. The EC met with representatives from the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oceana to discuss a variety of options related to the size and shape of the conservation area and simplification of regulatory complexity in and around the Cordell Bank, and have the following comments:

Regarding [I.5 Attachment 1](#), the EC is supportive of Alternative 1 which simplifies the enforceability of the Cordell Bank Conservation Area with the reduction of overlapping polygons with various regulations.

If further alternatives are developed, the EC requests that enforceability be taken into consideration. Polygons should be clearly defined, contain the minimum number of waypoints needed, and be large enough to effectively monitor and enforce. It is also important to reduce the complexity of the regulations. Allowing fishing or exemptions within a conservation area not only adds enforcement challenges but is also more difficult for fishers to understand and comply with.

PFMC  
11/16/24