

Agenda Item H.5
Supplemental Staff PPT
March 2025

CORDELL BANK CONSERVATION AREA REVISIONS

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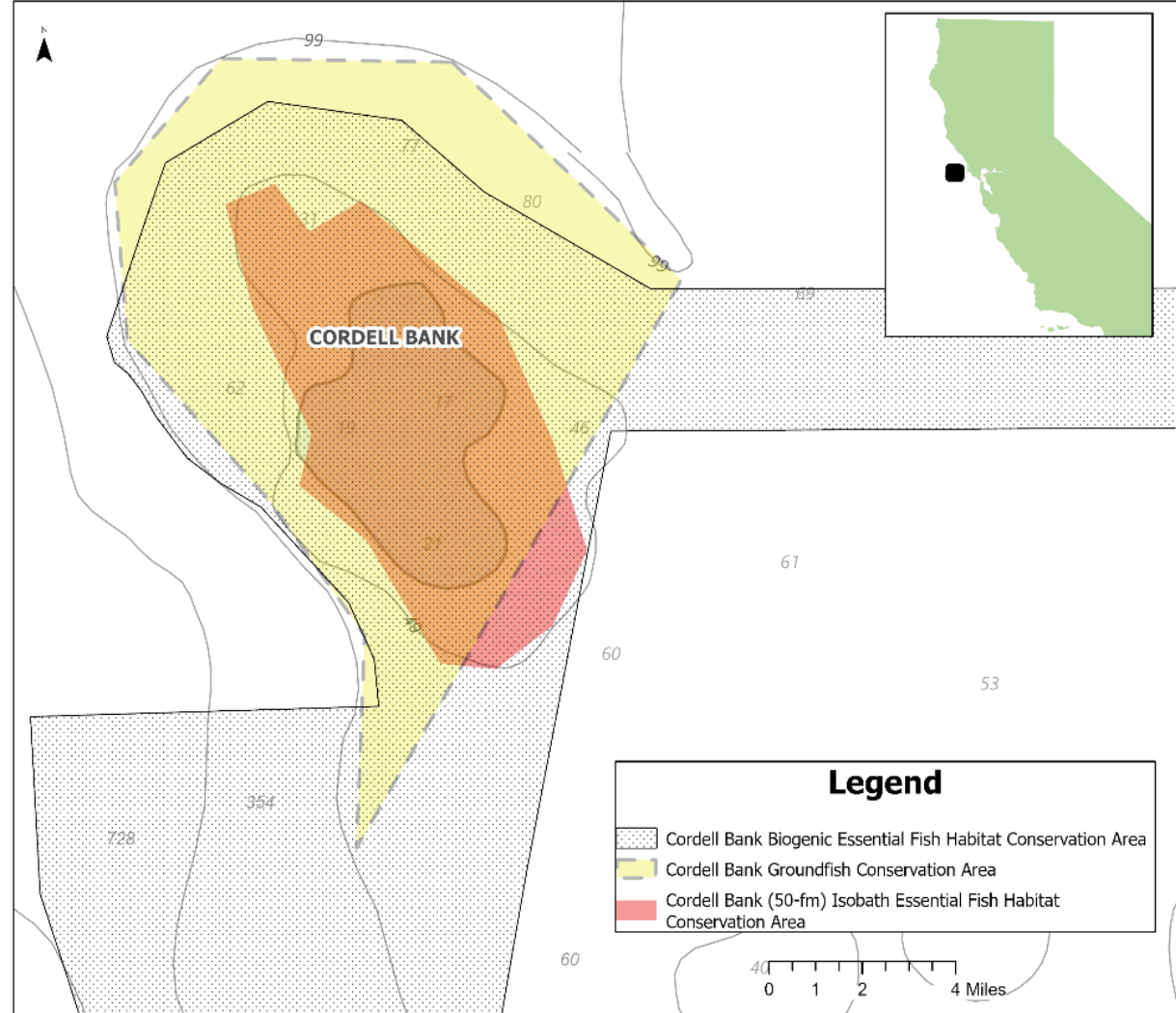
Photo: Clinton Bauder/BAUE

TYPES OF MANAGEMENT AREAS

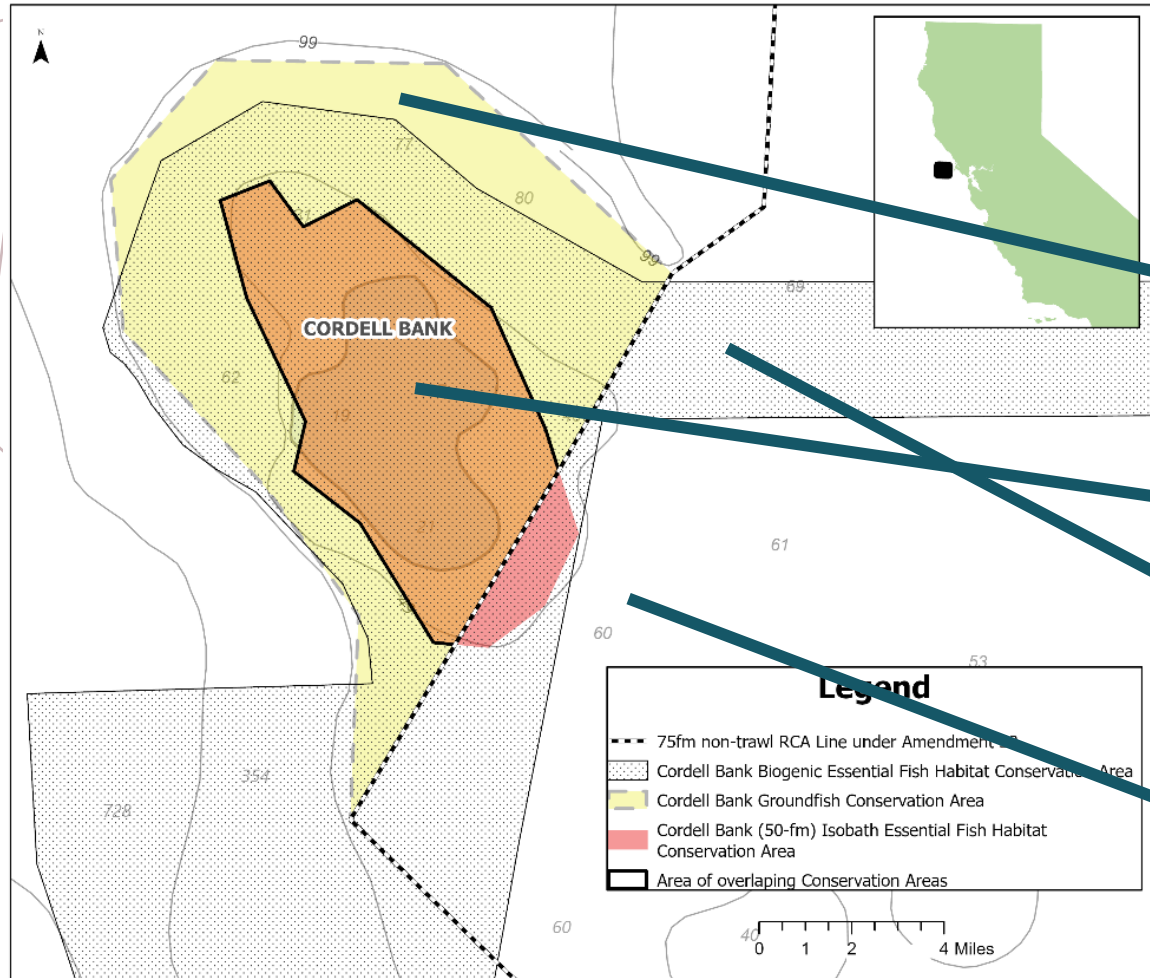
- Groundfish Conservation Area (GCA)
 - Purpose: Limit impacts to groundfish
 - Can be gear specific, fishery specific
 - Examples: Cordell Bank GCA, Non-Trawl RCA, Trawl RCA
- Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area (EFHCA)
 - Purpose: Limit impacts to essential fish habit for groundfish
 - Gear specific (bottom trawl, bottom contact), applicable to all fisheries/select fisheries
- Groundfish Exclusion Area (GEA)
 - Purpose: Limit impacts to sensitive habitats (not EFH) from groundfish fishing
 - Can be gear specific and fishery specific

CORDELL BANK GROUNDFISH CONSERVATION AREA (GCA)

- Implemented in early 2000s for recreational and commercial fisheries to limit impacts to overfished rockfish
- Prohibits groundfish fishing- with certain exceptions for flatfish (see Table 1 in Attach 1 for details)
- Historically overlapped with 4 other management areas (trawl RCA, non-trawl RCA, 2 EFHCAs)
 - Now overlaps with EFHCAs and borders non-trawl RCA
- Regulatory complexity in area= HIGH

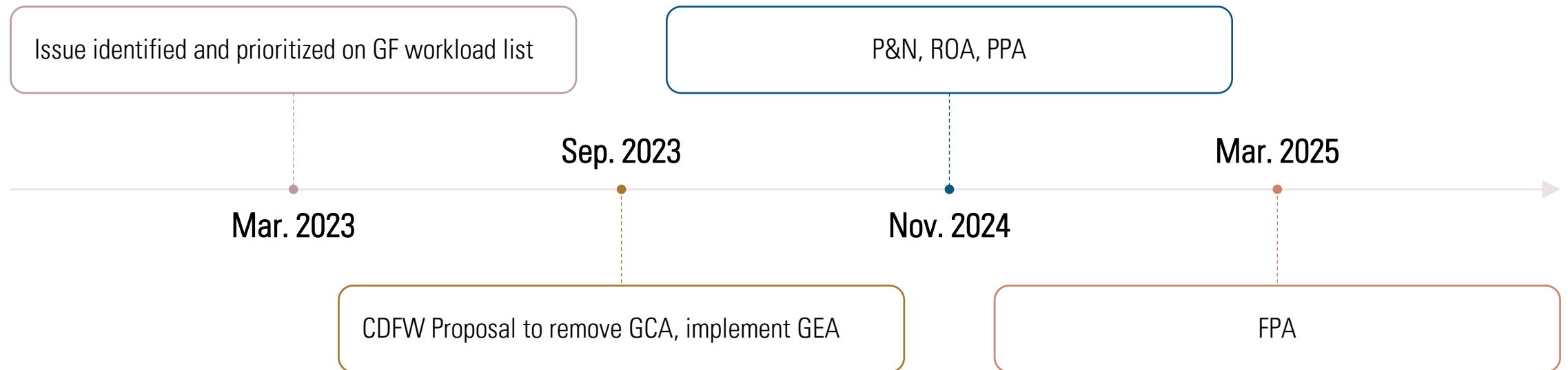


FISHING REGULATIONS



- Yellow= GCA
 - Closed to GF fishing
 - Exceptions for non-trawl comm other FF, rec petrale, starry flounder, and other FF
- Pink= Bottom Contact EFHCA
 - No bottom contact gears permitted
- Dotted= Bottom Trawl EFHCA
 - No bottom trawl except demersal seine
- Dashed line= 75 fm seaward boundary of Non-Trawl RCA
 - Non-bottom contact gears permitted (including in BC EFHCA)

HISTORY OF ACTION



COUNCIL TASKS

**Consider NMFS report
and recommendations**

**Adopt a final
preferred alternative**

MATERIALS



Attachment 1: Draft
EA/RIR/MSA Analysis



NMFS Report 1



Supplemental
HC/GAP/GMT/EC Reports



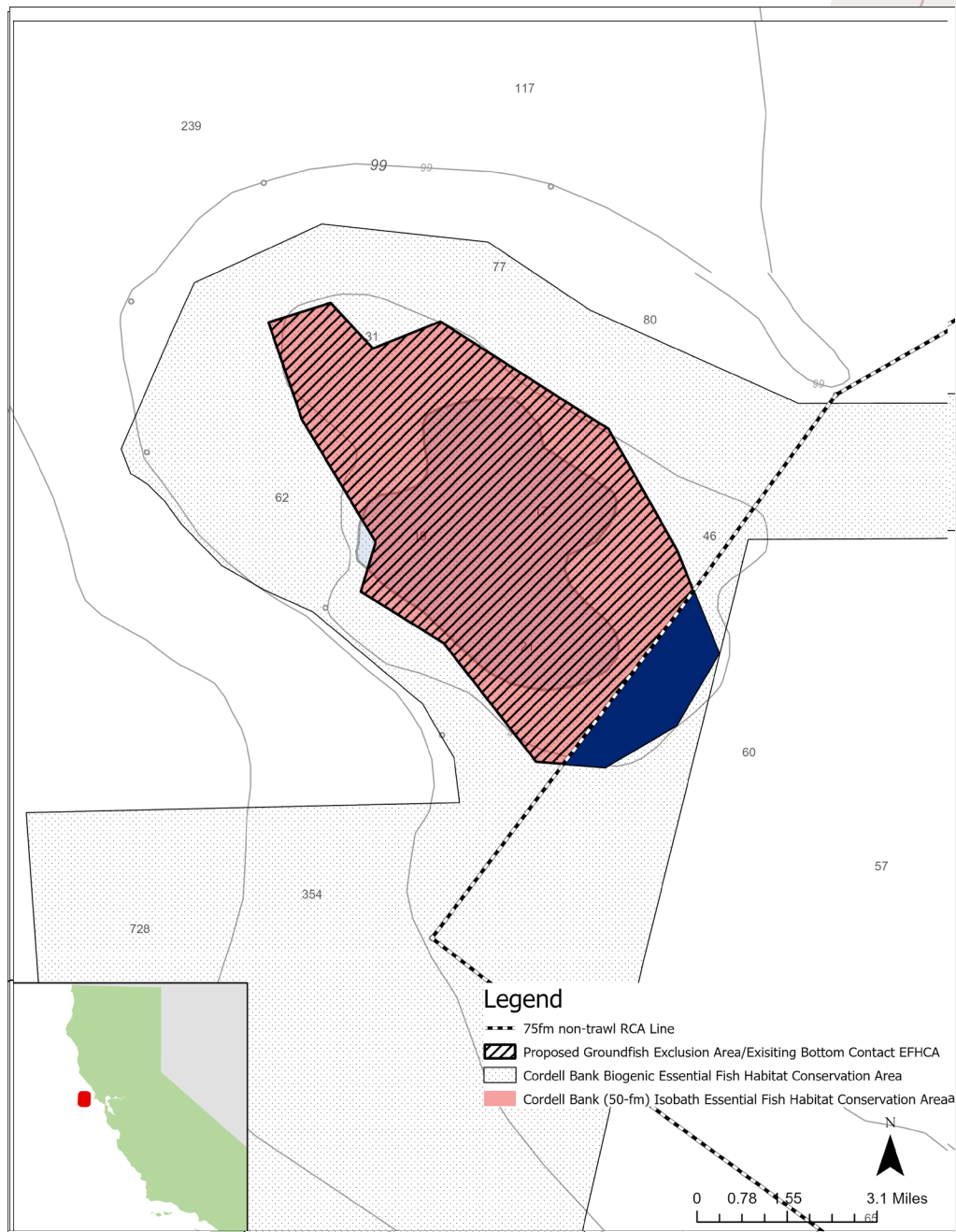
Public comments

PROPOSED PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this action is to **provide fishing access to previously closed areas surrounding Cordell Bank while protecting sensitive habitats**. The Cordell Bank GCA was initially implemented to reduce catch of several overfished groundfish stocks, which are all now rebuilt or rebuilding ahead of schedule. This action is needed to **remove unnecessary regulations and to reduce regulatory complexity**.

ALTERNATIVE 1

- Remove GCA
- Implement a GEA that overlaps with the bottom contact EFHCA
 - Prohibit all groundfish fishing
- Results
 - 10.2 sq. mi. open to bottom trawling
 - 40.1 sq. mi. open to non-trawl comm and rec
 - 2.5 sq. mi. closed to non-bottom contact gear in Non-Trawl RCA
 - Overall=less regulatory complexity
 - Total opening=0.014% of the EEZ



NMFS REPORT 1

- Proposes to keep the 100 fm “ring” to prevent large footrope gear in the 10.2 sq. mi. that would be opened to trawl gear
- Aligns with the intent of the PPA

COUNCIL ACTION

ADOPT A FINAL PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

QUESTIONS?