

GROUND FISH AMENDMENT 28 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS

Arago Reef

At the September 2018 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, [Agenda Item I.2.a NMFS Report 1](#) described approaches for defining Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) in regulations. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) noted that the Arago Reef EFHCA (Figure 3, September 2018) would leave very narrow slivers of federal water open where the original closure was ‘clipped’ at the state water boundary. The Council expressed support for modifying the EFHCA boundaries to “close” those slivers. Below is a definition of the Arago Reef EFHCA (Figure 1) for Council consideration that closes those slivers of Federal waters that would have been left open under the April 2018 Council action.

Arago Reef. The boundary of the Arago Reef EFH Conservation Area is defined as the areas within the West Coast EEZ shoreward (east) of a boundary line defined by connecting the following coordinates in the order stated:

- (1) 43° 08.55' N. lat., 124° 30.79' W. long.;
- (2) 43° 10.22' N. lat., 124° 37.82' W. long.;
- (3) 43° 16.91' N. lat., 124° 37.50' W. long.;
- (4) 43° 16.51' N. lat., 124° 28.97' W. long.;
- and
- (5) 43° 16.88' N. lat., 124° 28.16' W. long.



Figure 1. Arago Reef EFHCA (outlined in grey), bounded on the east by the state water line.

All EFHCAs

The preliminary draft latitude and longitude coordinates defining the revised and new EFHCAs under Amendment 28 are available for download on the NMFS West Coast Region website. These preliminary draft coordinates are provided in a comma-delimited file for interested parties to input into mapping software. NMFS welcomes public comment under Agenda Item G.2 or via e-mail to Amendment28.WCR@noaa.gov regarding consistency of the shapes and locations of these EFHCAs with Council recommendations. Comments must be received no later than March 12, 2019.

Download the coordinates file here:

<https://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish/data/draftam28points.csv>