

there's some very interesting followup to these studies that was done west of Seguam, in Tanaga Pass and near Amchitka and Kiska. All told it suggests, much like the earlier fishery depletion work, that there are patches of mackerel of varying sizes in the AI. Seguam and Kiska are likely the biggest, and trawl exclusion zones have varying efficacy depending on the habitat distribution. At Seguam, the trawl exclusion zone happens to capture habitat inside that is naturally separated from habitat outside the zone, with little mackerel near the line; so this zone is effective. At Amchitka, for instance, the zone boundary cuts right across the habitat, so fish inside and outside are really part of the same patch; this is a way less effective zone and could lead to temporary depletion of that patch if there were not other management mechanisms in place. I'll probably be asked to write up a summary of this for the recovery plan revisions and it could be useful in the BiOp as well.

cheers, Lowell