

Action 1: Seamounts. The Council forwards for review all three alternatives under Action 1 for analysis. Additionally, the Council tasks staff to evaluate the brown king crab effort on Patton and other GOA seamounts and add a suboption to exempt brown king crab fishing within the seamount HAPCs.

Alternative 1: No action

Alternative 2: Designate 5 named seamounts in the EEZ off Alaska as HAPCs (Dickens, Giacomini, Patton, Quinn, and Welker) and prohibit all Council-managed bottom contact fishing within these proposed HAPCs.

Alternative 3: Designate 16 named seamounts in the EEZ off Alaska as HAPCs (Bowers, Brown, Chirkikof, Marchand, Dall, Denson, Derickson, Dickins, Giacomini, Kodiak, Odessey, Patton, Quinn, Sirius, Unimak, Welker) and prohibit all Council-managed bottom contact fishing within these proposed HAPCs.

The specific latitude and longitude boundaries for these sites are provided in a separate table and GIS map.

Action 2: GOA Corals.

The Council accepts the following Alternatives for analysis.

Alternative 1: No action

Alternative 2: Designate three sites along the continental slope at Sanak Island, Albatross, and Middleton Island as HAPCs with two options as follows:

Option 1: Close sites to bottom contact with mobile gear (BCMG)* for 5 years. During the five years, these sites would be prioritized for undersea mapping to identify the portion of the three sites that are high-relief deep-water corals. The portion of these sites that are in fact high-relief coral sites should remain closed to BCMG after the five years and the portion of the areas that are not high relief coral sites should re-open to BCMG after the five years.

Option 2: Close sites to bottom trawling for 5 years. During the five years, these sites would be prioritized for undersea mapping to identify the portion of the three sites that are high-relief deep-water corals. The portion of these sites that are in fact high-relief coral sites should remain closed to bottom trawling after the five years and the portion of the areas that are not high relief coral sites should re-open to trawling after the five years.

Alternative 3: Designate four areas at Cape Ommaney, Fairweather grounds NW, Fairweather grounds SW and Dixon Entrance as HAPCs. Prohibit bottom contact gear within six smaller areas identified by the technical subcommittee inside these HAPCs. Increase the size of the two Fairweather Ground management areas by 1/10nm on each side to provide additional protection to the sites for potential gear drift.

Alternative 4: Combine Alternatives 2 & 3 as modified.

The specific latitude and longitude boundaries for these sites are provided in a separate table and GIS map.

*Bottom Contact with mobile gear (BCMG)- defined as pelagic trawls that contact the bottom, bottom trawls, dredges, and troll gear that contacts the bottom (includes dinglebar gear).

Action 3: AI Corals.

The Council accepts the four hybrid boundaries and management measures as modified for analysis.

Alternative 1: No action.

Alternative 2: Adopt the six coral garden sites within the Aleutian Islands as HAPC.

1. Adak Canyon: Accept the bottom contact gear closure defined within staff's hybrid (two tier approach), increase the designation only portion of the boundary to include the entire AMCC and MCA proposals.
2. Cape Moffett: Modify the hybrid proposal boundaries for no bottom contact gear as follows: The square would be split into two triangles from SW to NE, the right (SE/S) side of the square would be open to fishing (with a HAPC designation), the other side (NW) would be closed to bottom contact gear. The designation only areas of the hybrid would remain the same.
3. Bobrof Island: Utilize the boundaries of the NMFS proposal, adjusted on the northern extent of the island (per public comment in notebooks) to define the no bottom contact gear areas. The designation only area of the hybrid would remain the same.
4. Semisopochnoi Island: Utilize the original NMFS proposal and management measures of no bottom contact gear for analysis. The designation only area from the hybrid proposal would remain the same.
5. Great Sitkin: Utilize the boundaries of the NMFS proposal and management measures of no bottom contact gear for analysis. The designation area would be from the hybrid proposal.
6. Ulak Island: Utilize the boundaries of the NMFS proposal and management measures of no bottom contact gear for analysis. The designation area would be from the hybrid proposal.

Alternative 3: Adopt the hybrid area for Bowers Ridge with management measures of no bottom contact with mobile gear.

Alternative 4: Adopt 4 sites in the Aleutian Islands (South Amlia/ Atka, Kanaga Volcano, Kanaga Island and Tanaga Islands as HAPCs with two options as follows:

Option 1: Close sites to bottom contact with mobile gear (BCMG)* for 5 years. During the five years, these sites would be prioritized for undersea mapping to identify the portion of the sites that are high-relief deep-water corals. The portion of these sites that are in fact high-relief coral sites should remain closed to BCMG after the five years and the portion of the areas that are not high relief coral sites should re-open to BCMG after the five years.

Option 2: Close sites to bottom trawling for 5 years. During the five years, these sites would be prioritized for undersea mapping to identify the portion of the sites that are high-relief deep-water corals. The portion of these sites that are in fact high-relief coral sites should remain closed to bottom trawling after the five years and the portion of the areas that are not high relief coral sites should re-open to trawling after the five years;

*Bottom Contact with mobile gear (BCMG)- defined as pelagic trawls that contact the bottom, bottom trawls, dredges, and troll gear that contacts the bottom (includes dinglebar gear).

Alternative 5: Adopt Alternatives 2,3,4 four in conjunction with the same boundaries, and management measures.

The specific latitude and longitude boundaries for these sites are provided in a separate table and GIS map.

EFH EIS :

The Council tasks staff to modify EFH Alternative 5B (Aleutian Islands) to have three options as follows:

1. Original Oceana 5b open area approach for bottom trawling that would include coral/sponge bycatch caps and TAC reductions.
2. Oceana's proposed modifications to the open area approach based on their April 29th letter to NMFS with 1) the removal of the coral /sponge bycatch cap and all the groundfish TAC reductions, and 2) with the coral/sponge bycatch cap and the Atka mackerel/rockfish TAC reductions.
3. A modified 5b core open area approach that would incorporate all areas where the cumulative bottom trawl groundfish catch is greater than or equal to 200 MT based on cumulative observer data from 1991-2003. The alternative will not have a coral/sponge bycatch cap or TAC reduction for any groundfish species.

All three of these options for an open area approach will be plotted on nautical charts on a 1: 300,000 scale and be made available to the public.

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