Essential Fish Habitat project status report

Reporting date: 10/20/2012

Project number: 2007-10

Title: Juvenile Pacific Ocean Perch Habitat Utilization

PIs: Pat Malecha, Andrew Gray, Chris Lunsford

Funding year: 2007

Funding amount: $89,300

Status: ☐ Complete ☐ Incomplete, on schedule ☒ Incomplete, behind schedule

Planned completion date if incomplete: Results from this work will be combined with work accomplished in 2008. A draft manuscript is currently in preparation.

Reporting: Preliminary results from this research were reported in an oral presentation as part of the HEPR-themed AFSC seminar series. A draft manuscript is currently in preparation.

Results: Surface trawling (up to 60 nautical miles offshore) with an aquarium codend (livebox) successfully captured 221 live juvenile slope rockfish ranging in size from 14-60 mm. Rockfish were transferred to behavior laboratory aquariums at Little Port Walter Marine Station and were acclimated to a modified photoperiod. Genetic determinations identified seven rockfish species including, Pacific ocean perch, rougheye and redstripe rockfish. Habitat preference trials were performed although sample sizes were inadequate to identify statistical differences. Results from this work are being combined with work initiated in 2008.