Essential Fish Habitat project status report

Reporting date: 10/09/2009

Project number: 2007-6

Title: Recovery of a sessile invertebrate of the Bering Sea shelf from trawling

PIs: Craig S. Rose

Funding year: FY07

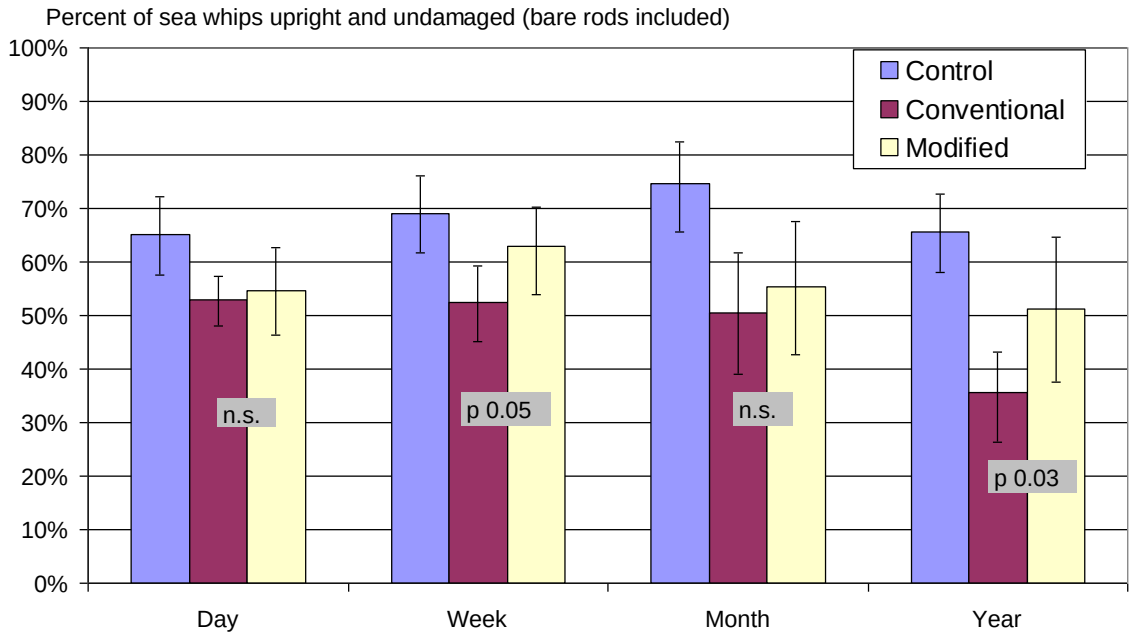
Funding amount: $9888

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

Planned completion date if incomplete:

Reporting: The results of this project were part of a presentation on the effectiveness of trawl sweep modifications in reducing impacts to sea whips. This was presented to the Alaska Marine Science Symposium and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Slide 7 of the presentation is attached, indicating percent undamaged after one year.

Results: EFH funding allowed extension of a larger project to include observations of trawl impacts out to one year after trawling. There was no indication of recovery (increase in the percent of undamaged animals) after one year. Sea whips affected by the conventional sweeps had fewer undamaged animals than were observed at the day, week, and month periods, perhaps indicating delayed mortality. Those contacted by the modified sweeps showed no additional drop after a year relative to the shorter periods.


Percent of sea whips upright and undamaged (bare rods included)
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Control
Conventional
Modified
n.s.
p 0.05
n.s.
p 0.03
Day
Week
Month
Year