Bottom trawling impacts the seafloor of central California...

...and can alter the habitat attributes used by demersal fishes.

How do we know this?

The goal of this 5-year study is to quantify the recovery of seafloor habitats and associated taxa and to inform best management practices for bottom trawling.

Video and still photographic imagery are collected by an ROV in trawled and un-trawled study plots. In 2009 the entirety of each trawled plot was trawled twice. In 2010 each plot will be trawled five times. ROV sampling occurs at 2 weeks, 6 months, and 1 year post-trawling and is accompanied by infaunal sampling.

This collaborative research effort involves key staff and resources from TNC, IfAME-CSUMB, MARE, NMFS, MBNMS, and is being conducted in close association with the commercial fishing industry. All trawling and infaunal surveys, and selected ROV surveys are conducted from fishing vessels.

**Mean % Change Trawled Plots** = -15.4

**Mean % Change Un-trawled Plots** = -6.8

Visible bioturbation declined by 15% in trawled areas two weeks post-trawling.