



# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

## Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas (SESAs) & Collaborative Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Proposal

Karen Grimmer,  
Resource Protection Coordinator

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting  
August 21, 2013

# Outline



- I. What are SESAs?
- II. SESA Products
- III. SESA Uses
- IV. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Proposal to Pacific Fishery Management Council
- V. Next steps with EFH Process

SAC Discussion  
August 21, 2013

# I. SESA Definition

## Definition

- SESAs encompass remarkable, representative and/or sensitive marine habitats, communities and ecological processes.
- SESAs are focal areas for facilitating research to better understand natural and human-induced variation

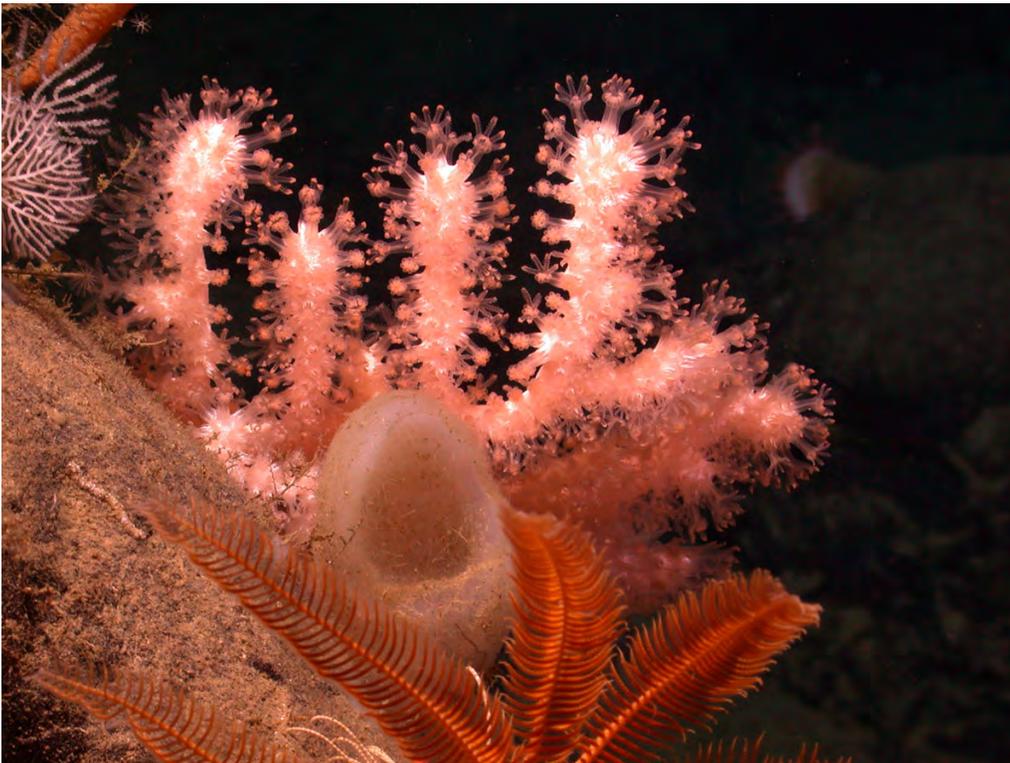
# I. Why SESAs

1. Understand the area under MBNMS jurisdiction
2. Evaluate sensitive habitat within a large region
3. Use adaptive management approach
4. Engage on resource policy processes
5. Enhance research & monitoring efforts



# I. SESA Criteria

**Focus on benthic resources or scientific research**

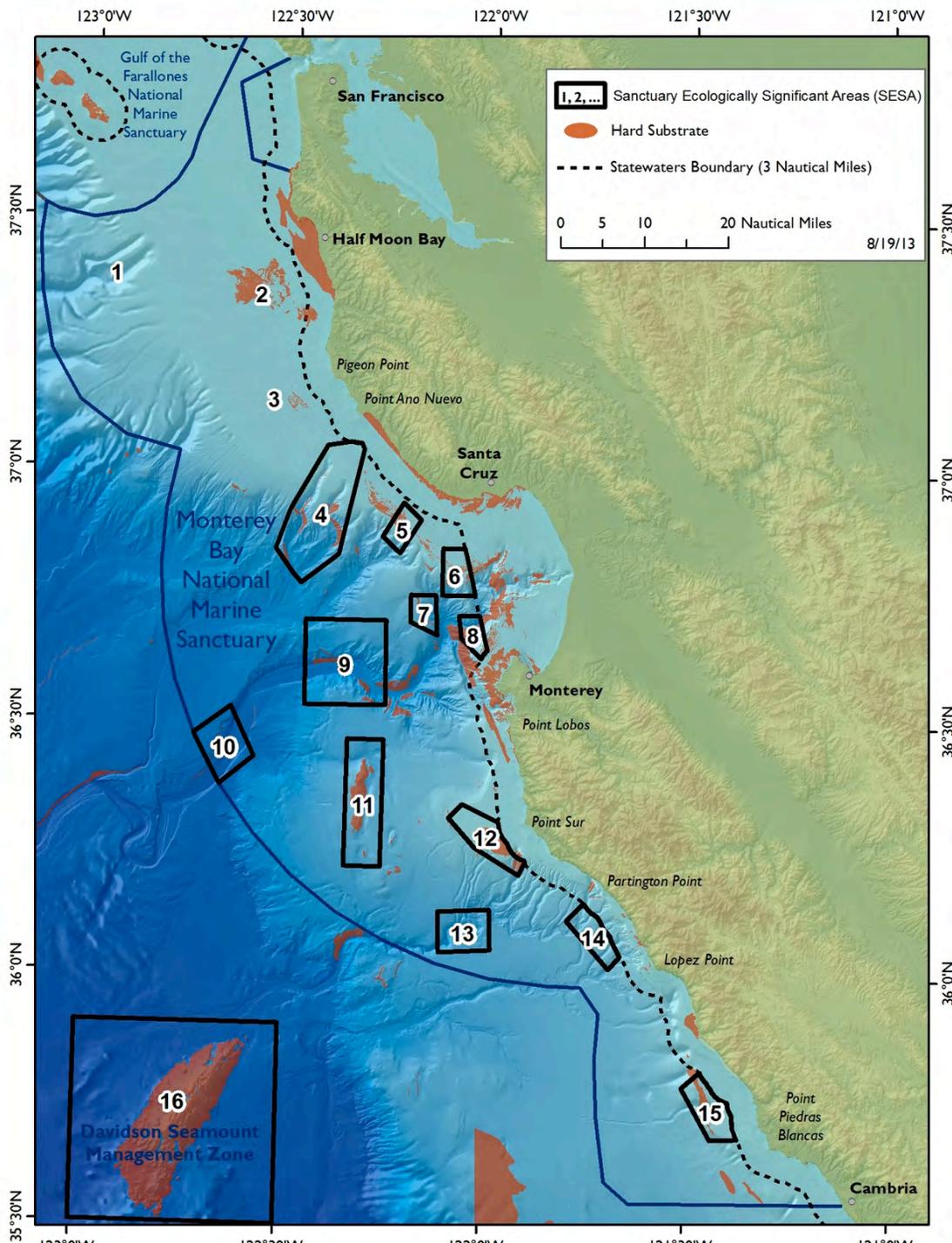


- Benthic habitat heterogeneity
- Structure-forming invertebrates
- Benthic biodiversity
- Past research and monitoring

# I. Process to Identify SESAs

- Defined SESAs and objectives
- Compiled best available information on resources in MBNMS
- Selected primary & secondary criteria; modified based on input
- Gathered local knowledge from stakeholders, scientists and partners on MBNMS resources
- Identified & mapped draft locations & circulated to stakeholders for input
- Launched public GIS on-line map





# I. Final SESA Map

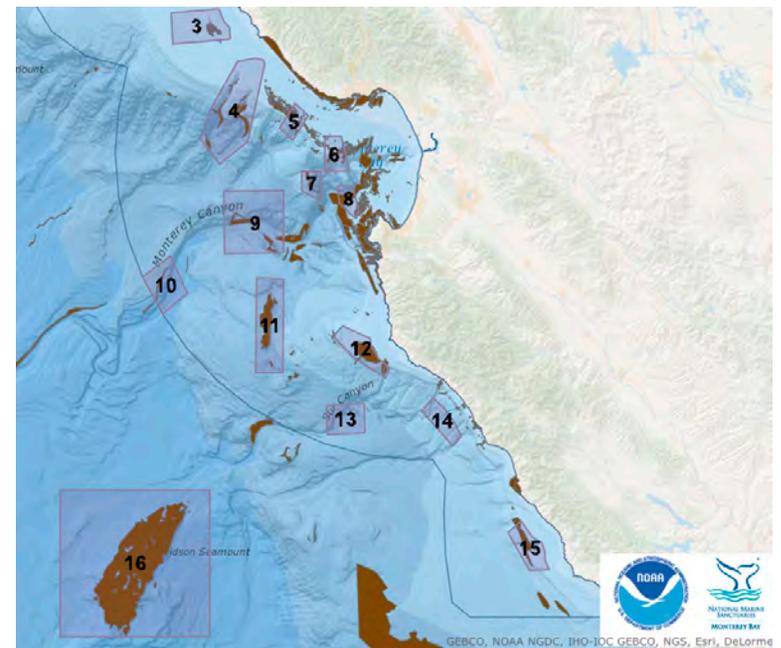
## II. SESA Products & Presentations

### Products:

- Launched online ArcGIS SESA map tool: (<http://sanctuarysimon.org/maps/sesa/>)
- Data Matrix (<http://sanctuarysimon.org/maps/sesa/SESAsPublicMatrix073013.pdf>.)
- SESA Fact Sheet (see handout)
- MBNMS & SIMoN webpages
- Technical Report (under construction)
- Visual Imagery from CSUMB Deepwater Characterization Cruise

### Presentations:

- 2 SAC, 3 CWG, 3 RAP mtg presentations
- Society of Conservation GIS Conference



# III. Uses for SESAs

Two Current Uses for SESAs are:

1. **Policy:**
  - a. **Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat 5 Yr Review**
  
2. **Research:**
  - a. Research Plan being developed in Fall with RAP and research community

July 31, 2013

Collaborative Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Proposal:

*Protecting Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat While Balancing Fishing Opportunities in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, South of Año Nuevo*



Rosy rockfish (*Sebastes rosaceus*)



Phylum *Porifera* and Class *Crinoidea*

## IV. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Proposal

What is the Groundfish EFH 5 Yr Review?

- This is a process established by NMFS to review the existing EFH regulations that were put into place by the Pacific Fishery Management Council in 2006.

How are West Coast Sanctuaries engaging?

- GF, OC and MBNMS have worked with partners to submit 3 separate proposals to modify boundaries in EFH Conservation Areas
- CI and CBNMS are requesting no changes



## IV. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Proposal

What were the goals for the MBNMS proposal?

- Use new data to identify and add sensitive habitat to EFH Conservation Areas that is currently not protected
- Restore historically fished trawling grounds to fishermen that were closed during the first round
- Build trust and a productive working relationship between the Sanctuary, fishermen and conservation organizations



# Pacific Coast Groundfish Five Yr Essential Fish Habitat Review

Aug 2012  
- Mar 2013

Meetings with Groundfish Trawl Fleet to gather local knowledge on important trawling areas & discuss potential EFH boundary modifications

Mar 2013

Meetings with NGOs & CWG to discuss MBNMS SESAs and plan for collaborative EFH proposal

April 2013

NMFS Synthesis Report released & PFMC issues RFP for proposals for EFH boundary modifications

May 2013

Host meetings with trawl fleet & NGOs to discuss draft objectives & potential EFH boundary modifications

June 2013

Collaborative draft EFH proposal is drafted & reviewed by fishermen, NGOs, & interested stakeholders

July 2013

EFH proposals due to Pacific Fishery Management Council on 7/31

Nov 2013

PFMC decides if moving forward with EFH FMP Amendment

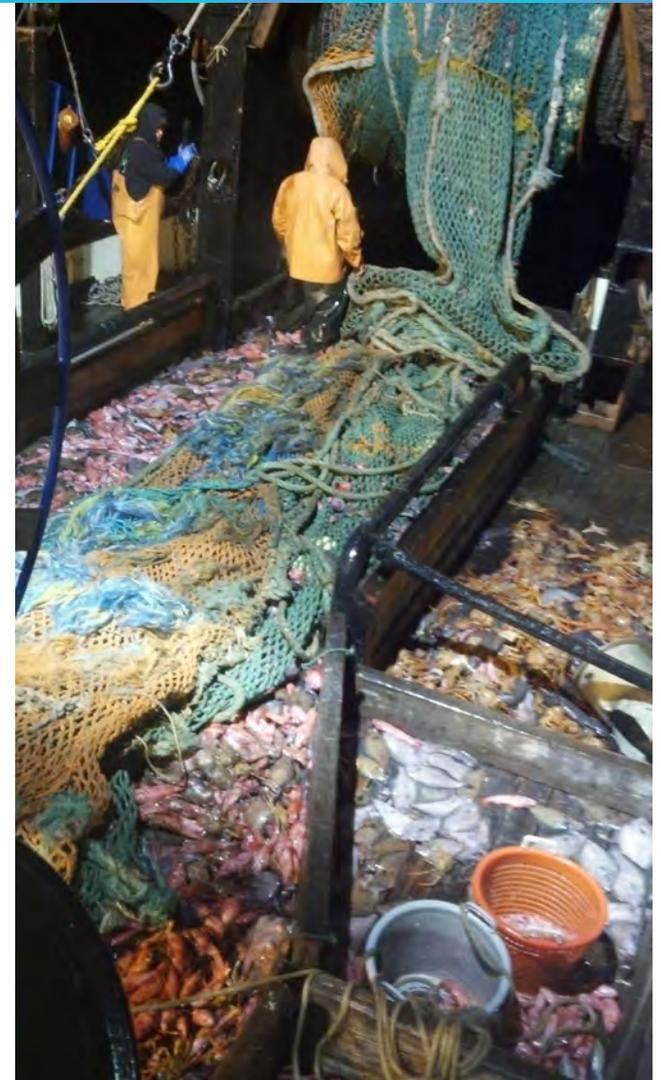
## Outcomes

- 1) Submitted collaborative proposal on 7/31/13!
- 2) Inform PFMC process

## IV. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Proposal

MBNMS EFH Proposal Stakeholders include:

- Alliance for Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (SAC Commercial Fishing seats) including Monterey Bay & Morro Bay trawl fishermen
- City of Monterey (SAC Harbors primary)
- Oceana (SAC Conservation primary)
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Ocean Conservancy
- Environmental Defense Fund
- California Risk Pool including The Nature Conservancy, Fort Bragg Groundfish Association, Half Moon Bay Groundfish Marketing Association, and Central California Seafood Marketing Association



## IV. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Proposal

The proposal includes the following suite of spatial management measures:

- a. Spatial modifications to EFH designations that
  - I. Propose adding 10 areas into existing EFH – 259 sq statute miles
  - II. Propose re-opening 5 areas to trawling – 153 sq statute miles
- b. Voluntary management areas – 3 non regulatory areas that are adopted by fishermen as no bottom trawl zones as a pilot project
- c. Changes to enforcement of spatial areas. This would include requiring the use of hydraulic sensors, changing VMS pings from 1 hour to 15 minute intervals, and the use of electronic logbooks; and
- d. Benthic research and monitoring to collect baseline visual data in the modified areas (future plan with research community)

## IV. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Proposal

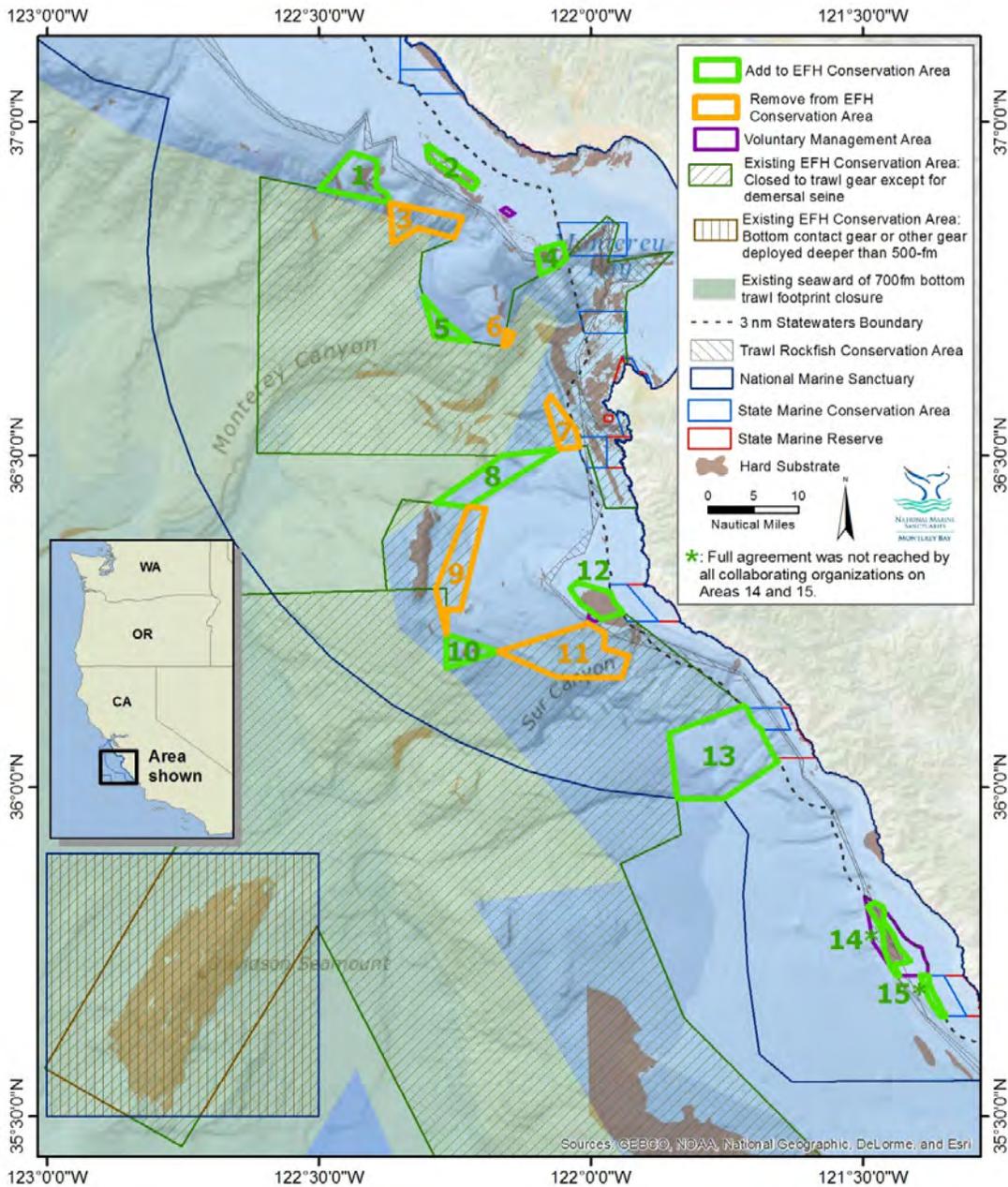
The results of the proposal are:

- a. An increase of 41 sq st miles of hard substrate (rocky reef HAPC) protected from bottom trawling
- b. Inclusion of 1,031 coral observations in EFH Conservation Areas
- c. Inclusion of 740 sponge observations in EFH Conservation Areas
- d. Restore 153 sq st miles of historic trawling grounds to fishermen
- e. A total increase of 106 sq st miles added to EFH habitat protection overall



# MBNMS EFH Boundary Modifications

7/29/13



## EFH Overview Map

Study area:

- Federal waters only
- South of Año Nuevo
- Includes Davidson Seamount

## V. Next Steps for EFH

### Next Steps for EFH Proposal:

- a. EFH review committee provides comments to PFMC
- b. Council decides if moving forward with FMP amendment – Nov PFMC mtg
- c. Continue to work within Council process over the next year or so
- d. MB EFH Stakeholder group continues to meet to discuss voluntary management areas and other potential collaborative management processes (such as trawl RCA amendments)

For a pdf of the full proposal, visit:

<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/resourcepro/ebmi/welcome.html>



