

# Seascape-scale modelling of benthic habitat disturbance from commercial fishing activities

*Brad Harris, T. Scott Smeltz, Felipe Restrepo, John Olson, & Suresh Sethi*



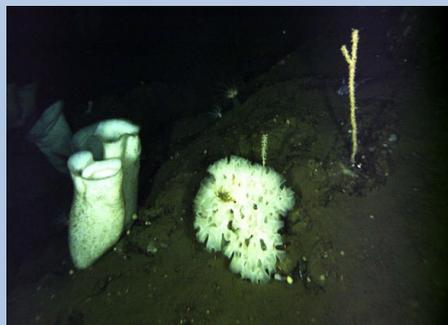
**NOAA FISHERIES**



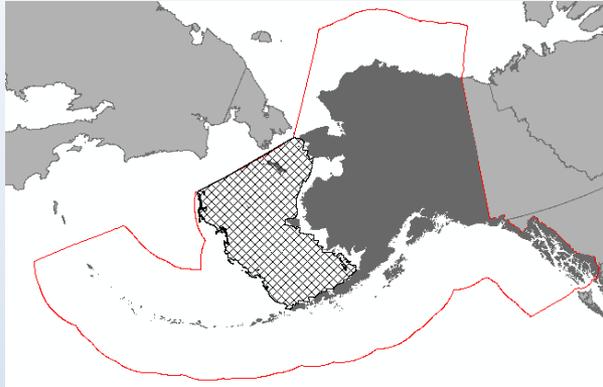
**Cornell University**



# Benthic Habitat Features



# Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

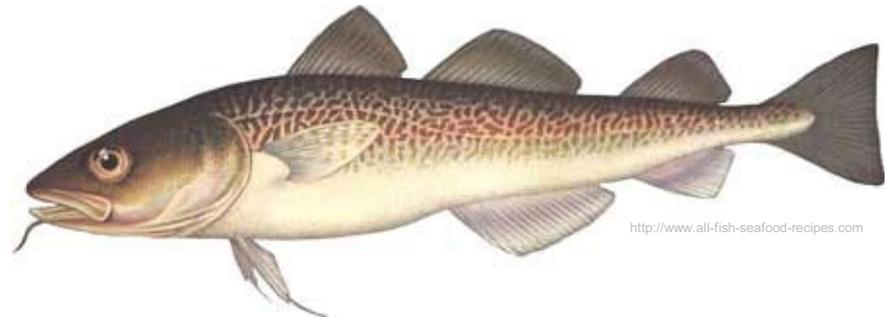
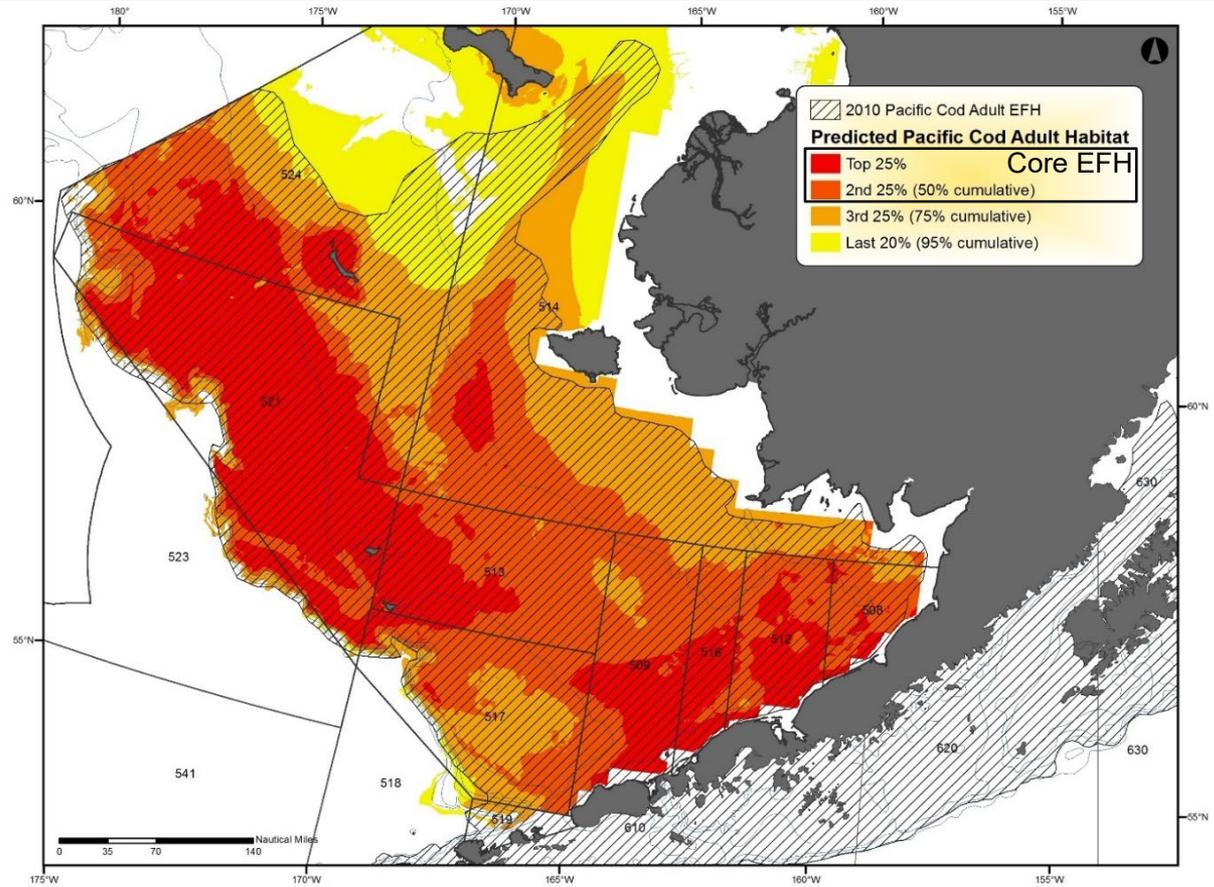


NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-AFSC-

## Model-based Essential Fish Habitat Definitions for Aleutian Islands Groundfish Species

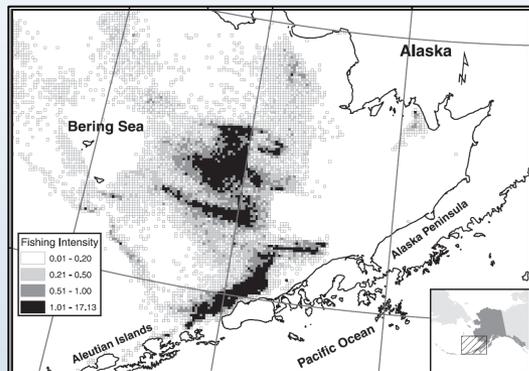
by  
Turner, K, Rooper, CN, Rooney, S, Laman, E, Cooper, D, Zimmermann,  
M

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska  
Fisheries Science Center  
October 2015



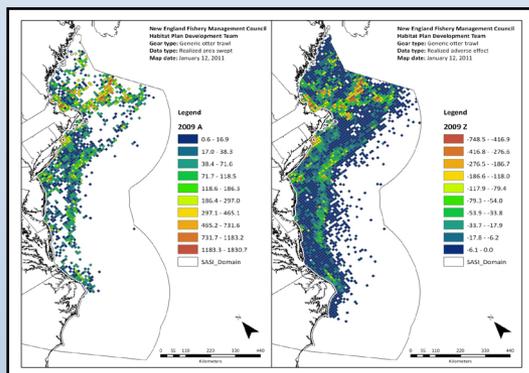
<http://www.all-fish-seafood-recipes.com>

# Modeling Habitat Disturbance



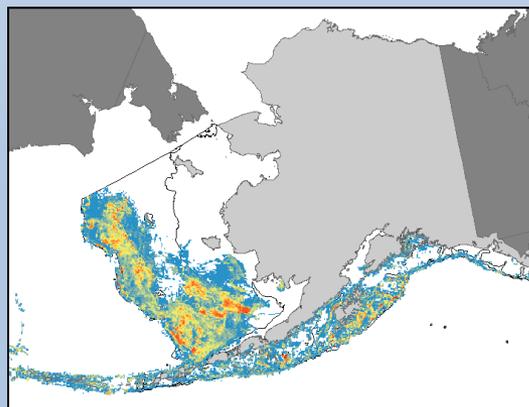
## Long-term effects index (LEI)

- NPFMC 2005 & 2010 EFH reviews, Fujioka (2006)
- Continuous time, 5x5 km resolution, End-point
- 4 substrate types × 4 habitat features × 11 gear types

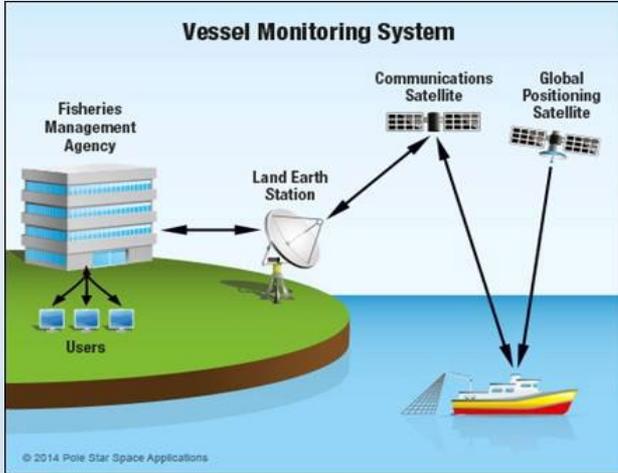


## Swept Area Seabed Impacts (SASI)

- NEFMC 2010 EFH review, Grabowski et al. (2014)
- Discrete time (annual), 10x10 km resolution, VTR
- 2 energy regimes × 5 substrate types × 27 substrate-specific habitat features × 9 gear types



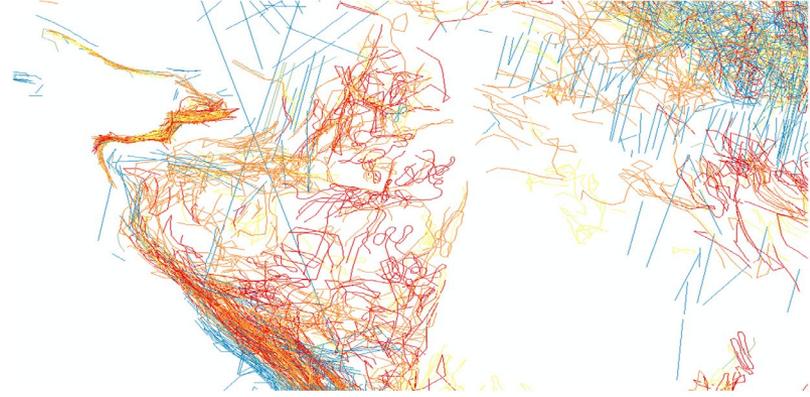
# FE Model Inputs – Fishing Events



<https://www.afma.gov.au/monitoring-enforcement/satellite-monitoring-fishing-boats>

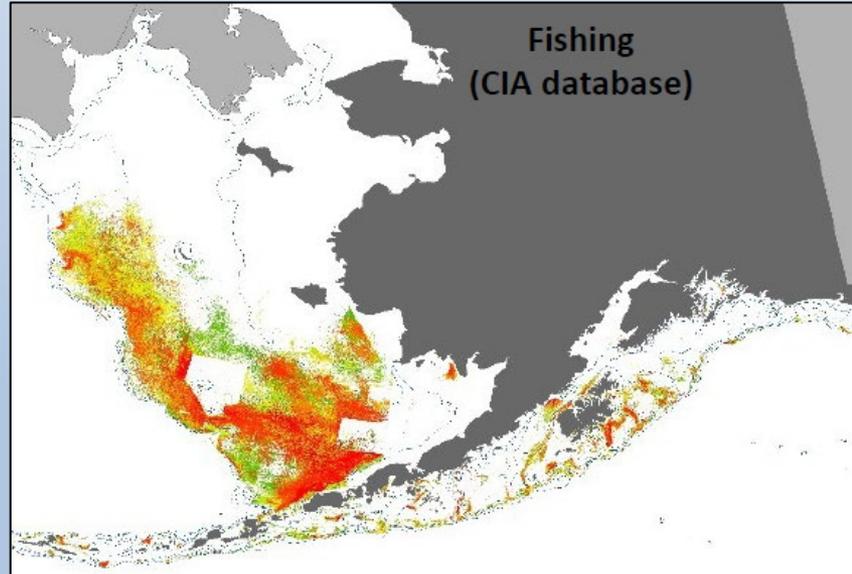
## VMS-Observer Enabled Catch-In-Areas (CIA) Database

Higher resolution fishing data--observed and unobserved fishing tracks



- Observed and unobserved actual fishing activity via catch-in-areas database

<http://gftw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Gray-and-Lewis-PDF.pdf>



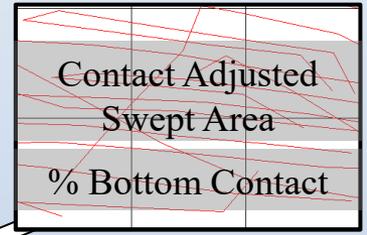
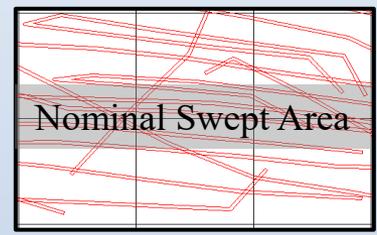
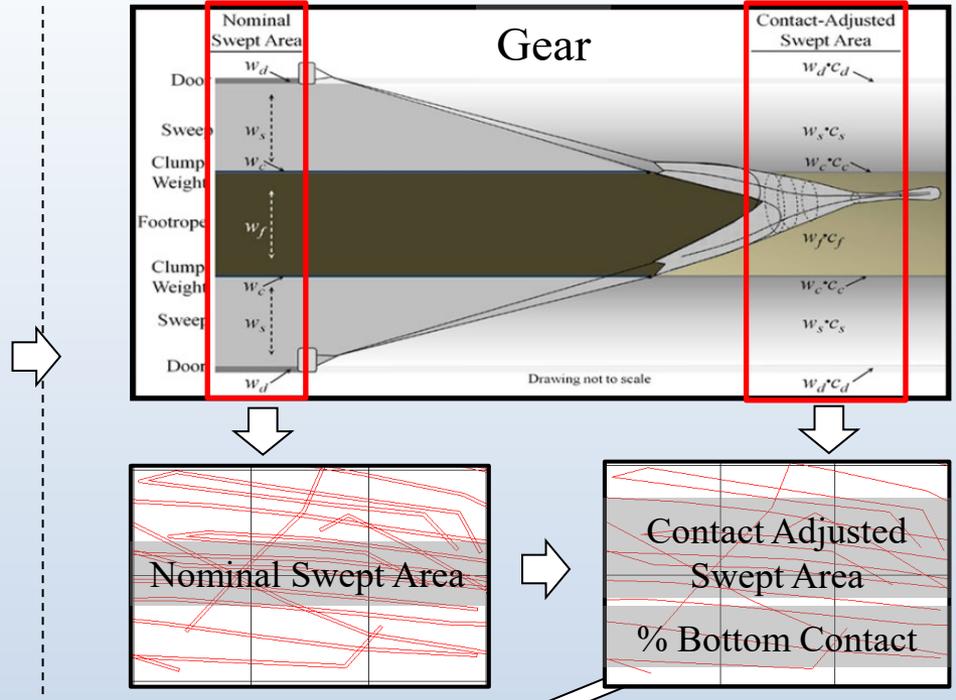
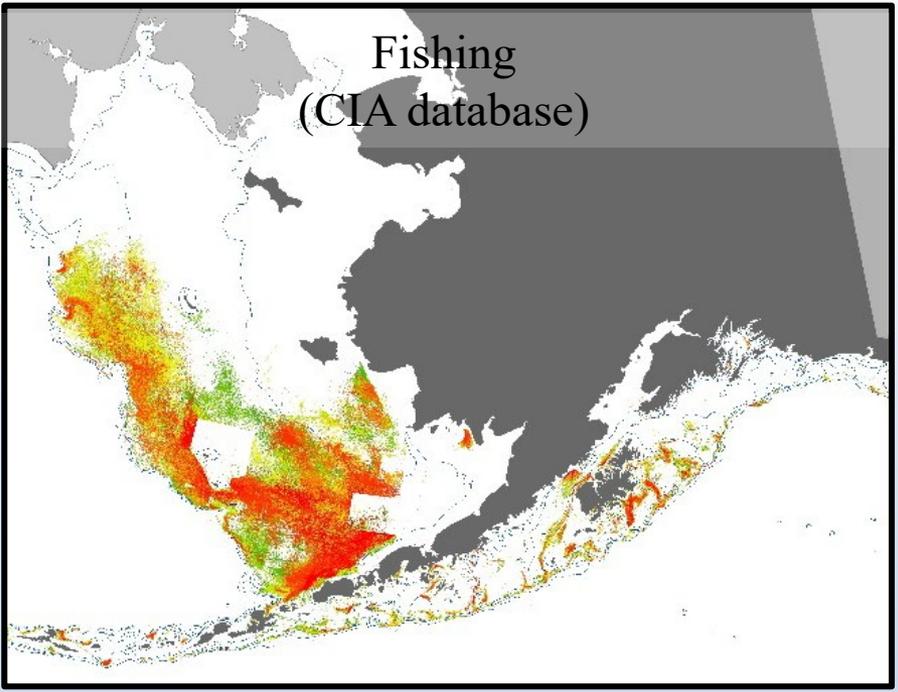
**NOAA FISHERIES** Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division

**North Pacific  
Observer Program**  
October 22, 2021

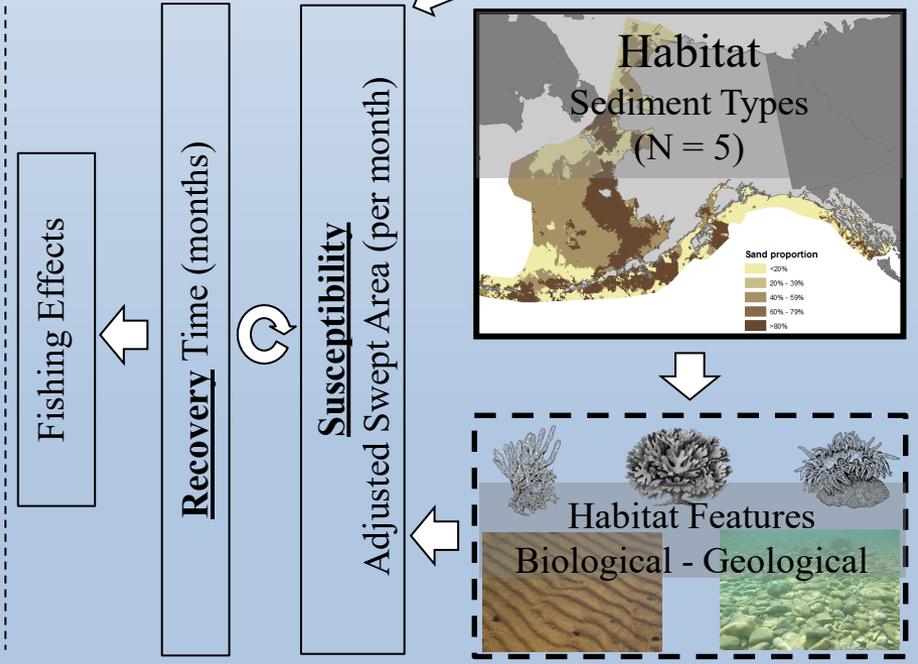
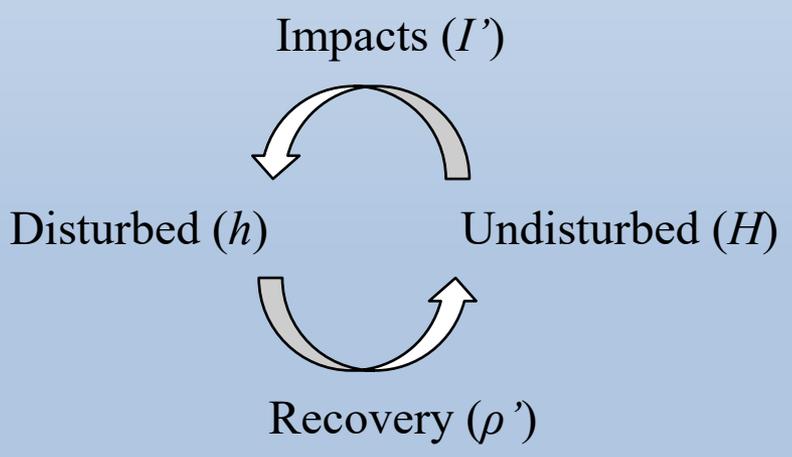
**2022 OBSERVER  
SAMPLING MANUAL**

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Marine Fisheries Service

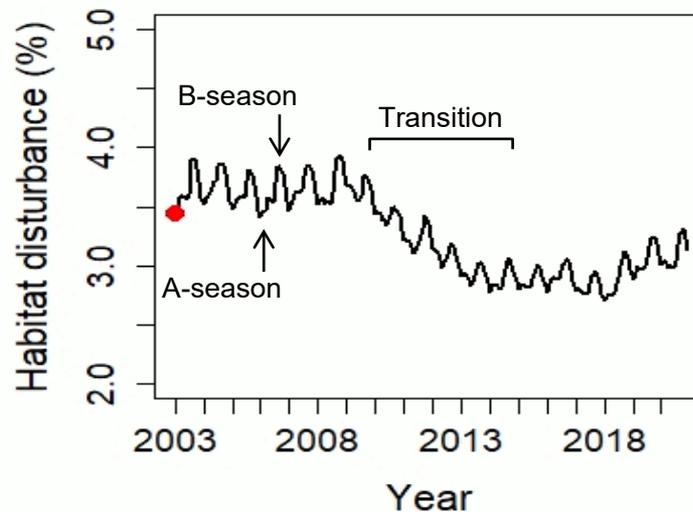
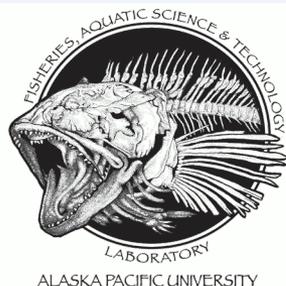




$$H_{t+1} = H_t(1 - I'_t) + h_t\rho'_t$$

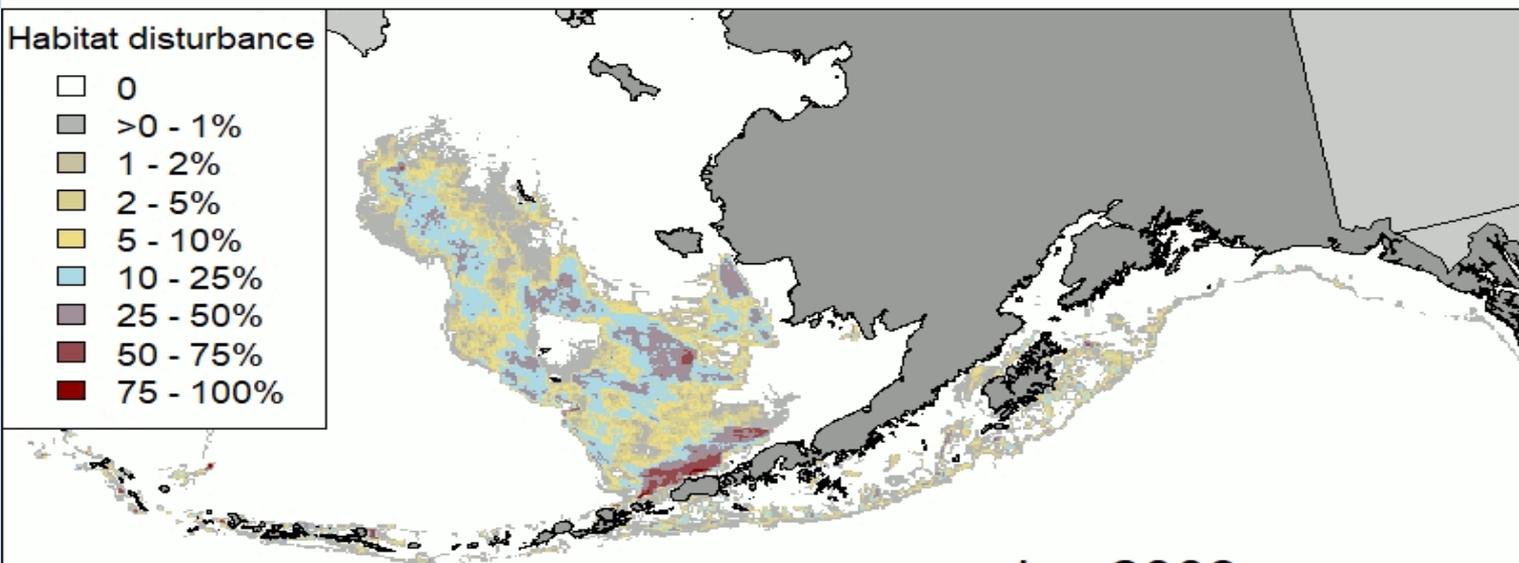


# Fishing Effects Model



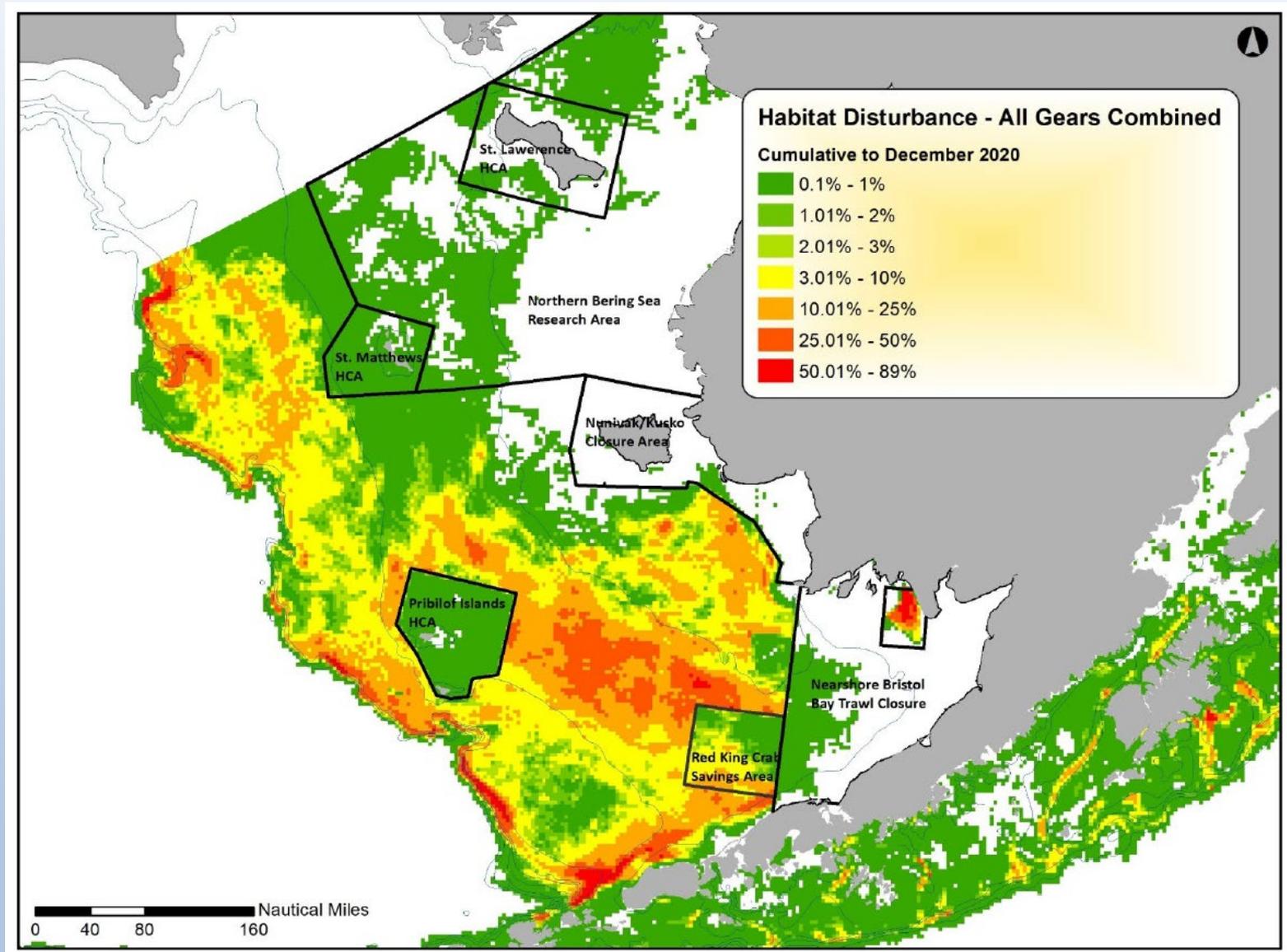
## Habitat disturbance

- 0
- >0 - 1%
- 1 - 2%
- 2 - 5%
- 5 - 10%
- 10 - 25%
- 25 - 50%
- 50 - 75%
- 75 - 100%



Jan 2003

# Fishing Effects model output – Dec 2020



# North Pacific Fisheries Management Council EFH 5-Year Review



Is habitat disturbance from fishing “*more than minimal, and not temporary*”?

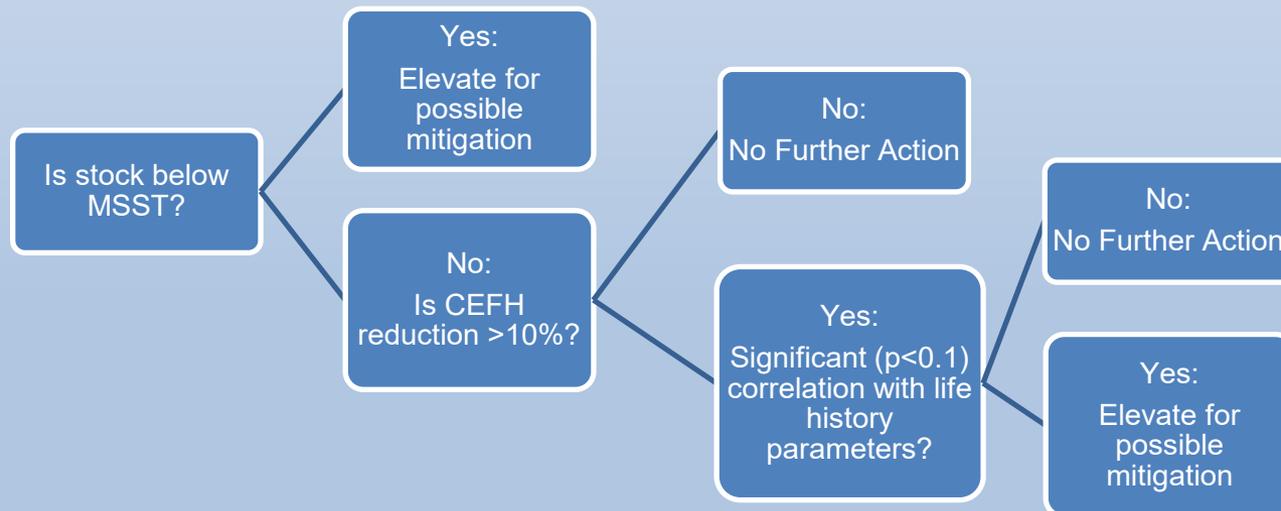
For NPFMC managed stocks with an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH):

## More than Minimal

*-Does habitat reduction within each specie’s Core EFH (upper 50%) exceed 10%?*

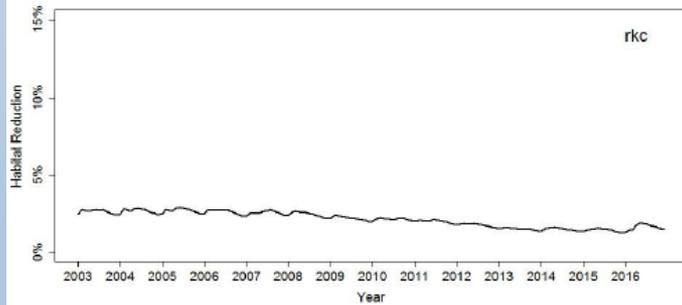
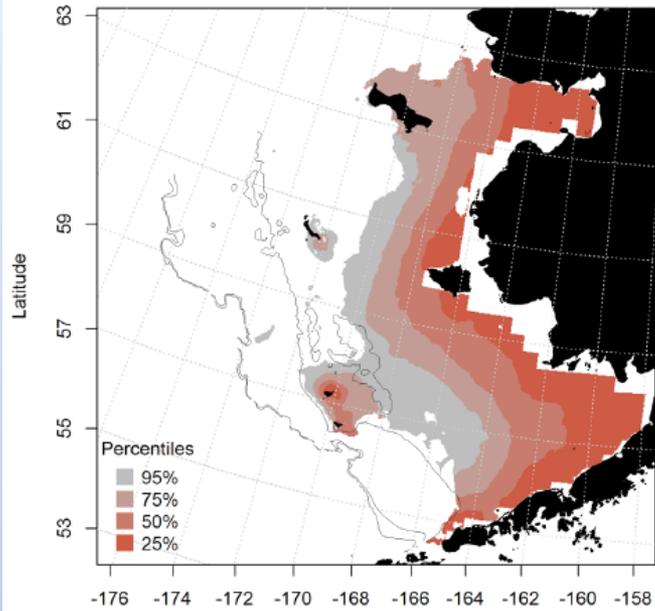
## Not Temporary

*-Is the disturbance time trend negatively\* correlated with life history parameters?*

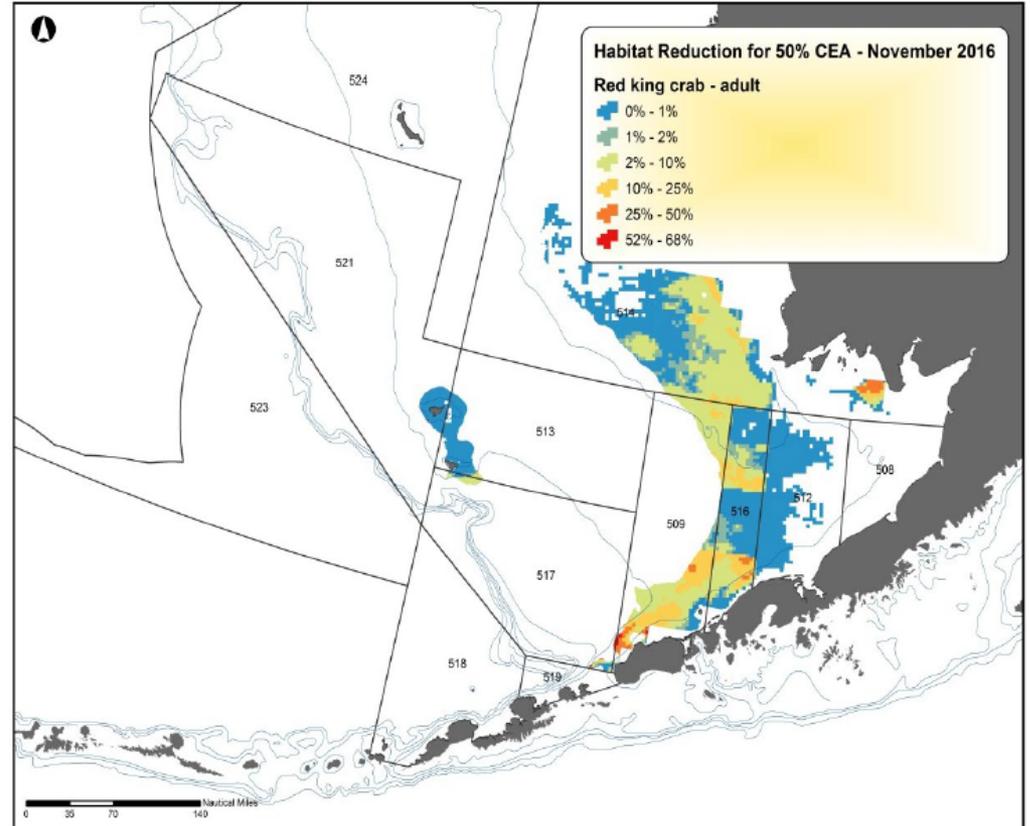


# 2017 Stock Author Review – Bristol Bay red king crab

Core EFH (CEA) area defined as 50% cumulative distribution



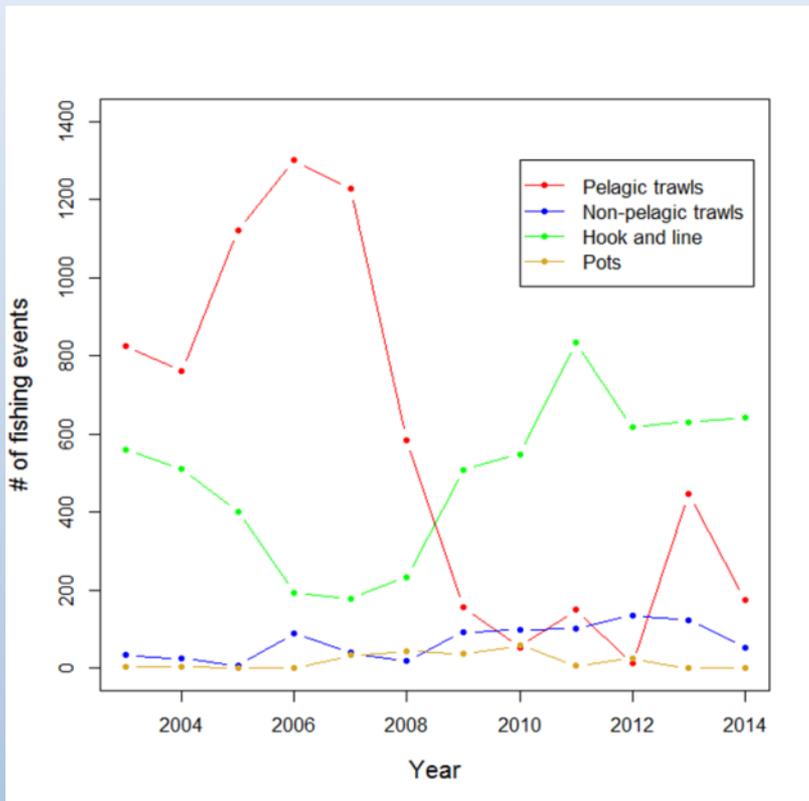
Proportion of habitat reduction (November 2016)



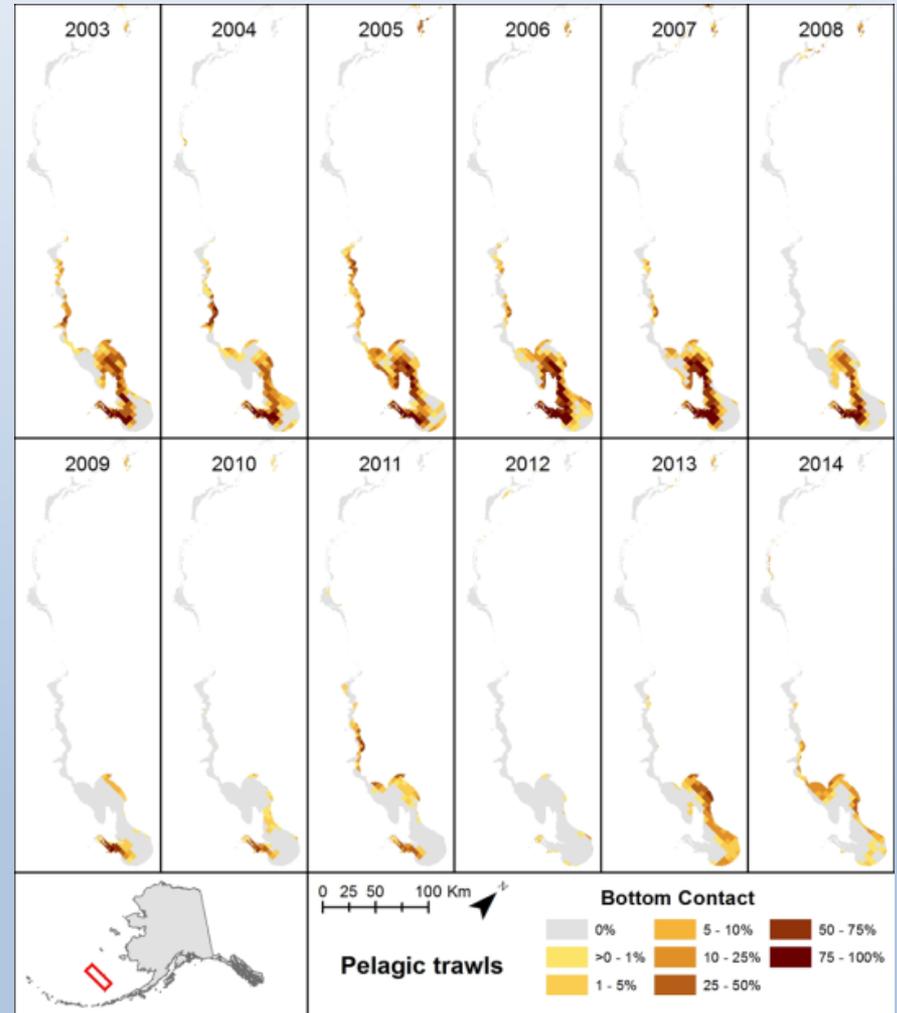
# Ecosystem Considerations

## EBS Corals - Fishing Effort

Time series of events by gear



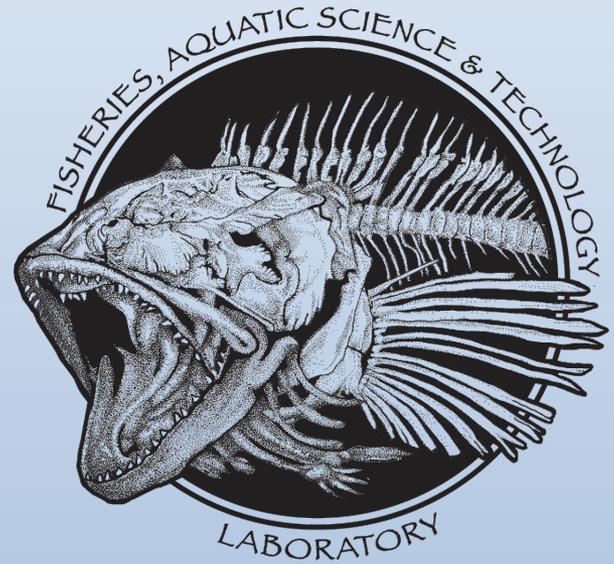
Time series of spatial pattern of bottom contact



# Thank You



**NOAA FISHERIES**



ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



**Cornell University**  
David R. Atkinson Center  
for a Sustainable Future

