

Extracted from Report of the Scientific Council, June 2014, SCS Doc. 14/17

<http://archive.nafo.int/open/sc/2014/scs14-17.pdf>

xiii) Occurrence of sea pens around areas 13 and 14 (Item 15)

The Fisheries Commission Working Group on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (WGFMS-VME) considered the scientific advice available at the time of its last meeting held in April 2013. No consensus was reached between Contracting Parties regarding specific management measures that are best suited in protecting areas 13 and 14 as reflected in Figure 2 of the Working Group report (NAFO/FC Doc. 13/3) and defined by the coordinates indicated in page 10 of that report.

New information from the EU Flemish Cap survey was expected to be available on sea pens later in 2013, which would help to clarify what type of management measures would best suit areas 13 and 14.

The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to provide the Fisheries Commission with the preliminary results or analysis, regarding occurrence of sea pens in areas towed close to areas 13 and 14 and advise if these reveal significant concentrations of VME indicators.

The Scientific Council responded:

The available data, including information from the 2013 EU-Spain and Portugal Flemish Cap survey, indicates that areas 13 and 14 are located within the easternmost seapen VME unit of the seapen VME system (Fig. 16). Within this unit, three high concentration locations have been identified, two corresponding to the candidate closures, and a third one located in between them, as well as several seapen observations of lower density. This seapen VME unit also encompasses locations of other VME indicator species (crinoids), as well as black corals.

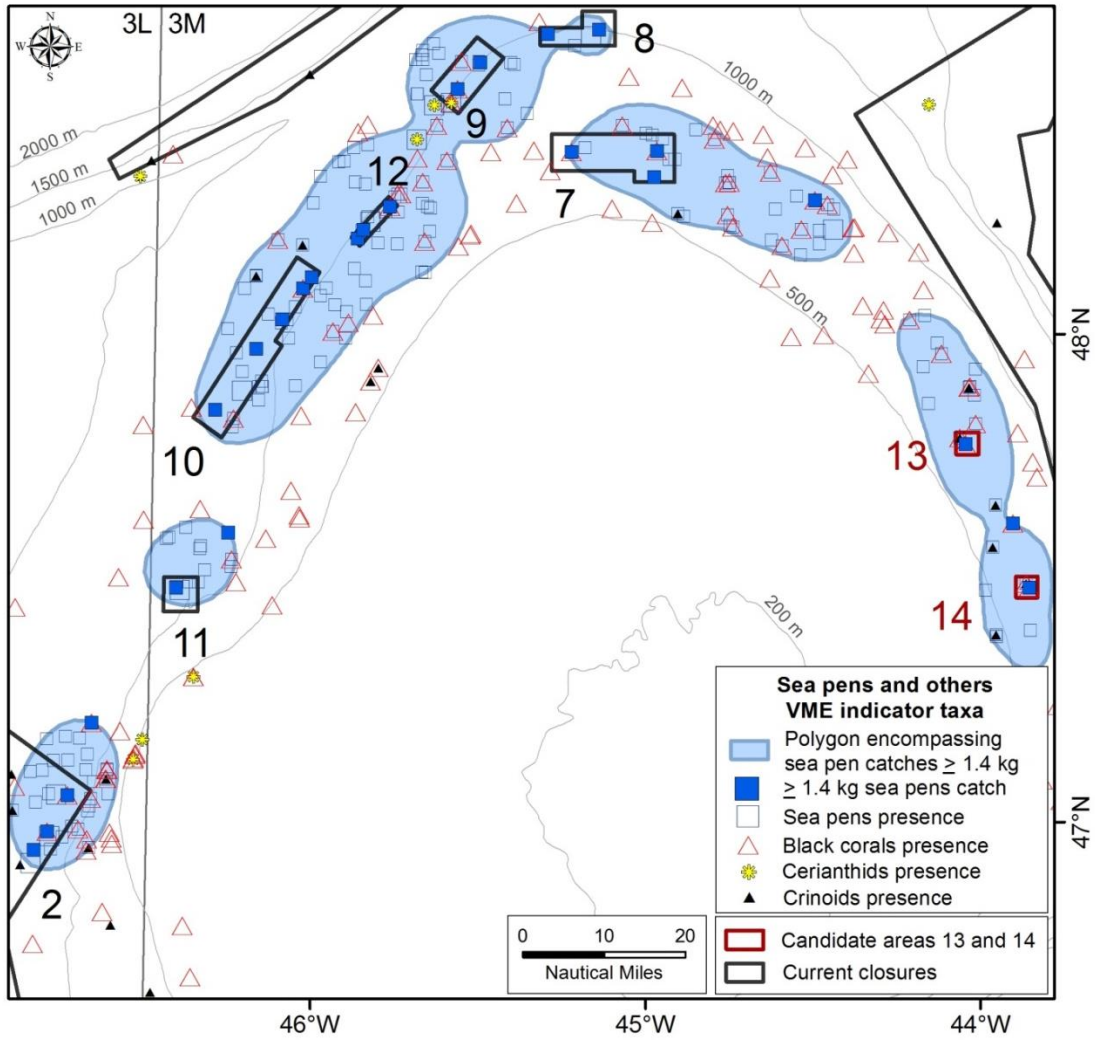


Fig. 16. Location of sea pen VME in relation to the candidate closure areas 13 and 14.