

**35th ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2013****2013 Recommendations from the WGFSM-VME to the Fisheries Commission**

The FC Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (WGFSM-VME) met on 23-25 April 2013 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, reviewed the existing VME closed areas (see Figure 13 of FC Doc 12/30) and agreed on the following recommendations (meeting report FC Doc 13/3):

1. Extension of the Existing Closed Areas

1.1 The WG recommends to extend the boundaries of Closed Area 2 to protect significant concentrations of large gorgonians; amend the coordinates of Closed Area 2 in Article 16.5 NCEM as follows (see Figure 1):

Point No.	Latitude	Longitude
2.1	44° 50' 56.4" N	48° 43' 45.48" W
2.2	46° 18' 54.72" N	46° 47' 51.72" W
2.3	46° 25' 28.56" N	46° 47' 51.72" W
2.4	46° 46' 32.16" N	46° 55' 14.52" W
2.5	47° 03' 29.16" N	46° 40' 4.44" W
2.6	47° 11' 47.04" N	46° 57' 38.16" W
2.7	46° 40' 40.8" N	47° 03' 4.68" W
2.8	46° 24' 24.12" N	46° 51' 23.04" W
2.9	46° 21' 4.78" N	46° 58' 53" W
2.10	46° 26' 32" N	46° 58' 53" W
2.11	46° 30' 22.20" N	47° 11' 2.93" W
2.12	46° 17' 13.30" N	47° 15' 46.64" W
2.13	46° 07' 1.56" N	47° 30' 36.36" W
2.14	45° 49' 6.24" N	47° 41' 17.88" W
2.15	45° 19' 43.32" N	48° 29' 14.28" W
2.16	44° 53' 47.4" N	48° 49' 32.52" W

and adjust the map in Figure 3 of the NCEM accordingly.

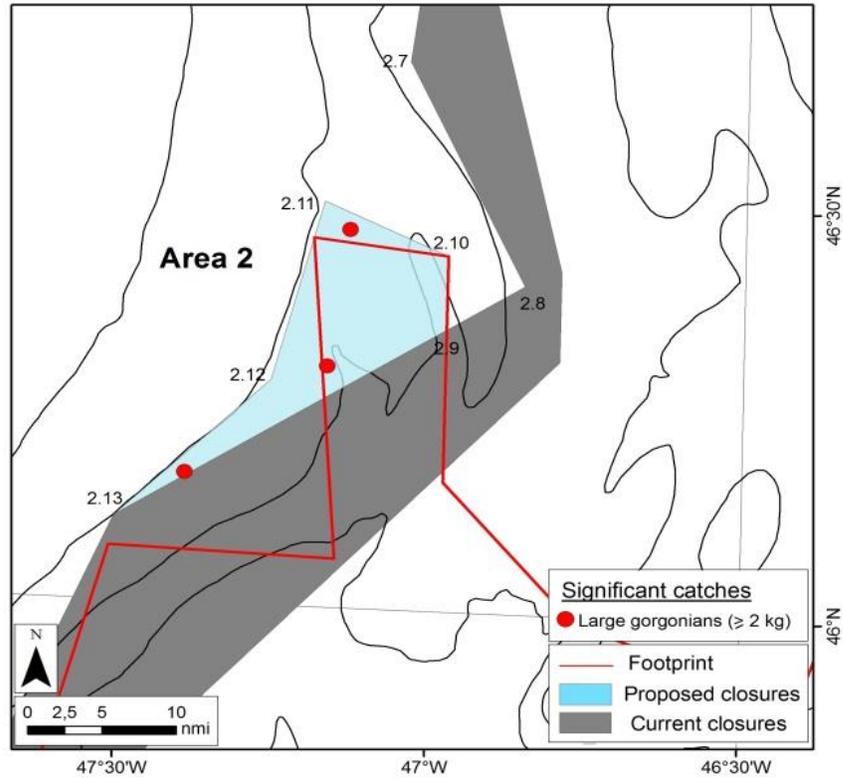


Figure 1. Polygons Delineating the Extention of Area 2

1.2 The WG recommends to extend the boundaries of Area 7 to protect significant concentrations of sea pens; amend the coordinates of Closed Area 7 in Article 16.5 of the NCEM as follows (see Figure 2):

Point No.	Latitude	Longitude
7.1	48° 25' 02.28"N	45° 17' 16.44"W
7.2	48° 25' 02.28"N	44° 54' 38.16"W
7.3	48° 19' 08.76"N	44° 54' 38.16"W
7.4	48° 19' 08.76"N	45° 01' 58.56"W
7.5	48° 20' 29.76"N	45° 01' 58.56"W
7.6	48° 20' 29.76"N	45° 17' 16.44"W

and adjust the map in Figure 3 of the NCEM accordingly.

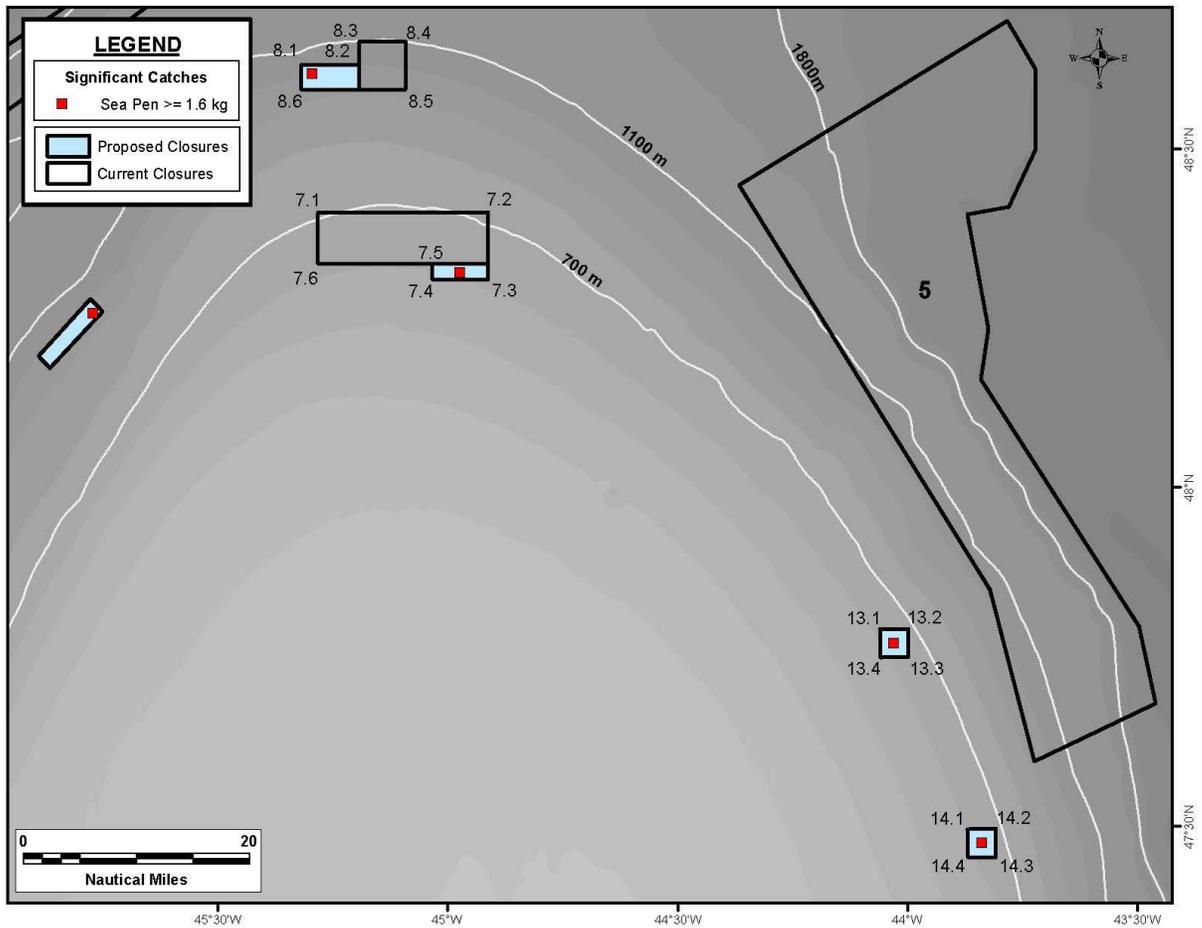


Fig. 2. Polygons Delineating the Extension of Areas 7 and 8 and the Creation of Closed Area 13 and 14.

1.3. The WG recommends to extend the boundaries of Area 8 to protect significant concentrations of sea pens; amend the coordinates of Closed Area 8 in Article 16.5 of the NCEM as follows (see Figure 2):

Point No.	Latitude	Longitude
8.1	48° 38' 07.95"N	45° 19' 31.92"W
8.2	48° 38' 07.95"N	45° 11' 44.36"W
8.3	48° 40' 9.84"N	45° 11' 44.88"W
8.4	48° 40' 9.84"N	45° 05' 35.52"W
8.5	48° 35' 56.4"N	45° 05' 35.52"W
8.6	48° 35' 56.4"N	45° 19' 31.92"W

1.4 The WG recommends to extend the boundaries of Closed Area 10 to protect significant concentrations of sea pens; amend the coordinates of Closed Area 10 in Article 16.5 of the NCEM as follows (see Figure 3):

Point No.	Latitude	Longitude
10.1	47° 49' 41.51" N	46° 22' 48.18" W
10.2	47° 47' 17.14" N	46° 17' 27.91" W
10.3	47° 58' 42.28" N	46° 6' 43.74" W
10.4	47° 59' 15.77" N	46° 7' 57.76" W
10.5	48° 7' 48.97" N	45° 59' 58.46" W
10.6	48° 9' 34.66" N	46° 4' 8.54" W

and adjust the map in Figure 3 of the NCEM accordingly.

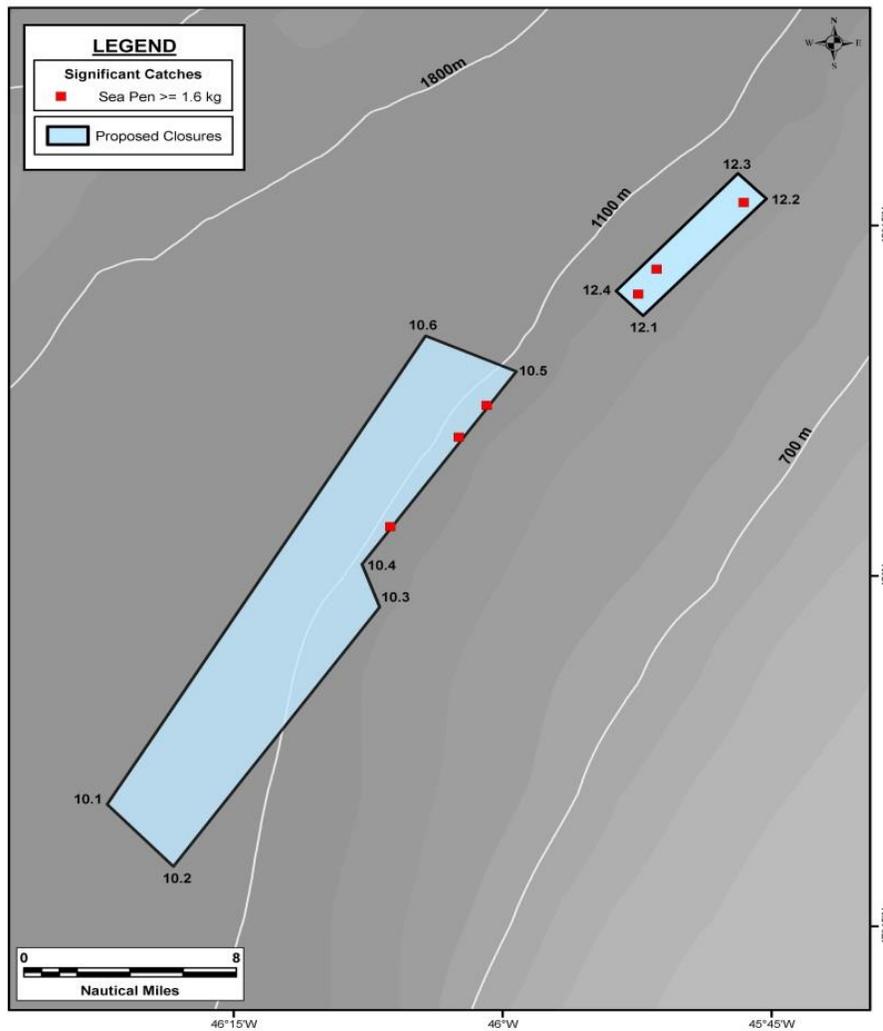


Figure 3. Polygons Delineating the Extention of Area 10 and the Addition of New Closed Area 12.

2. Addition of New Closed Area

The WG recommends to add Closed Area 12 to protect significant concentrations of sea pens; with coordinates as follows (see Figure 3):

Point No.	Latitude	Longitude
12.1	48° 12' 6.60" N	45° 54' 12.94" W
12.2	48° 17' 11.82" N	45° 47' 25.36" W
12.3	48° 16' 7.06" N	45° 45' 48.19" W
12.4	48° 11' 3.32" N	45° 52' 40.63" W

3. Management Measures for Areas 13 and 14 (see Figure 2)

The WG recommends that FC further reflect on the management options presented in item 5 of the WG April 2013 Meeting Report (FC Doc 13/3) and decide which is best suited for Areas 13 and 14 in the protection of areas with significant concentrations of sea pens.

The coordinates of Areas 13 and 14, as reflected in Figure 2 are:

Point No.	Latitude	Longitude
13.1	47° 47' 54.33"N	44° 03' 06.46"W
13.2	47° 47' 54.33"N	43° 59' 23.40"W
13.3	47° 45' 24.44"N	43° 59' 23.40"W
13.4	47° 45' 24.44"N	44° 03' 06.46"W
14.1	47° 30' 04.80"N	43° 52' 00.35"W
14.2	47° 30' 04.80"N	43° 48' 18.54"W
14.3	47° 27' 34.89"N	43° 48' 18.54"W
14.4	47° 27' 34.89"N	43° 52' 00.35"W