

Marine Fish and Invertebrates – Groundfish Trawl Survey Areas and Untrawlable Areas

description

Groundfish bottom trawl surveys are jointly conducted and funded by the Canadian Groundfish Research and Conservation Society (CGRCS) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The objective of these surveys is to provide fishery independent abundance indices of all demersal fish species available to bottom trawling, as well as to collect biological samples of selected species. Surveys take place annually in the summer and all biota from each trawl are recorded.

This map illustrates the four areas where synoptic surveys may be conducted in any year. Survey areas have been divided into 2 kilometre by 2 kilometre grid cells, and some of these grid cells have been determined untrawlable by experience over the years. Each survey area may be split into strata according to depth or other considerations and prior to conducting any survey, tow locations are chosen randomly within strata. Untrawlable blocks are avoided in order to reduce damage to survey gear and nets. Surveys are also not performed within the boundaries of the Hexactinellid sponge reef fishing closures.

Data for the surveys and untrawlable areas were provided by DFO in the BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) planning units. The number of square kilometres covered by each untrawlable area was also provided.



PHOTO: JOHN BROUWER



PHOTO: ED BIERMAN

data sources

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region, Science Branch, Groundfish Section

data resolution

- Source data is in 2 kilometre by 2 kilometre grid cells.

date compiled

- 2010

reviewers

- Reviewed for accuracy and presentation by data providers and industry representative.

reviewer comments

- None provided.

caveats of use

- A block can be marked as 'untrawlable' for a variety of reasons (e.g. skipper knowledge, on-ground sounding or attempted fishing) and does not necessarily mean that the block is absolutely untrawlable.
- Spatial extents of trawl surveys are limited. Lack of survey effort outside these areas should not be interpreted as lack of fish and invertebrate biota. The Strait of Georgia, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Queen Charlotte Strait, Johnstone Strait and offshore areas have not been surveyed.
- Survey tows do not cover the entire survey block.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: None provided.

map, feature data and metadata access

- Visit www.bcmca.ca/data for more information.

references

- Reports on Trawl Surveys are available for download here: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/libraries-bibliotheques/manu-eng.htm

BCMCA Atlas
Marine Fish and Invertebrates
Groundfish Trawl Survey Areas
and Untrawable Areas

Legend

Extents of Survey Areas

- Hecate Strait
- Queen Charlotte Sound
- West Coast of Haida Gwaii
- West Coast of Vancouver Island
- Untrawable Areas
- Sponge Reef Closures

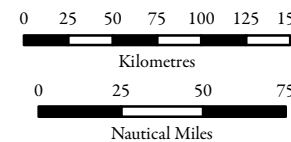
Notes:
 - Untrawable areas are those planning units where the skipper(s) do not believe they can safely put the net on the bottom for at least a 20 minute tow.

Data Sources:
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Base Data:
 ESRI Base Data, GeoBase, GeoBC, NOAA, Natural Resources Canada, USGS, Washington State Government

Thematic Data:
 For more information on data sources and methods please refer to the facing page to this map

Projection: BC Albers NAD83



1:4,250,000 *

* Written scales are approximate and are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.
 June 14, 2010

