



NOAA
FISHERIES

Greater Atlantic
Regional
Fisheries Office

Response to Council's request on scallop/turtle measures

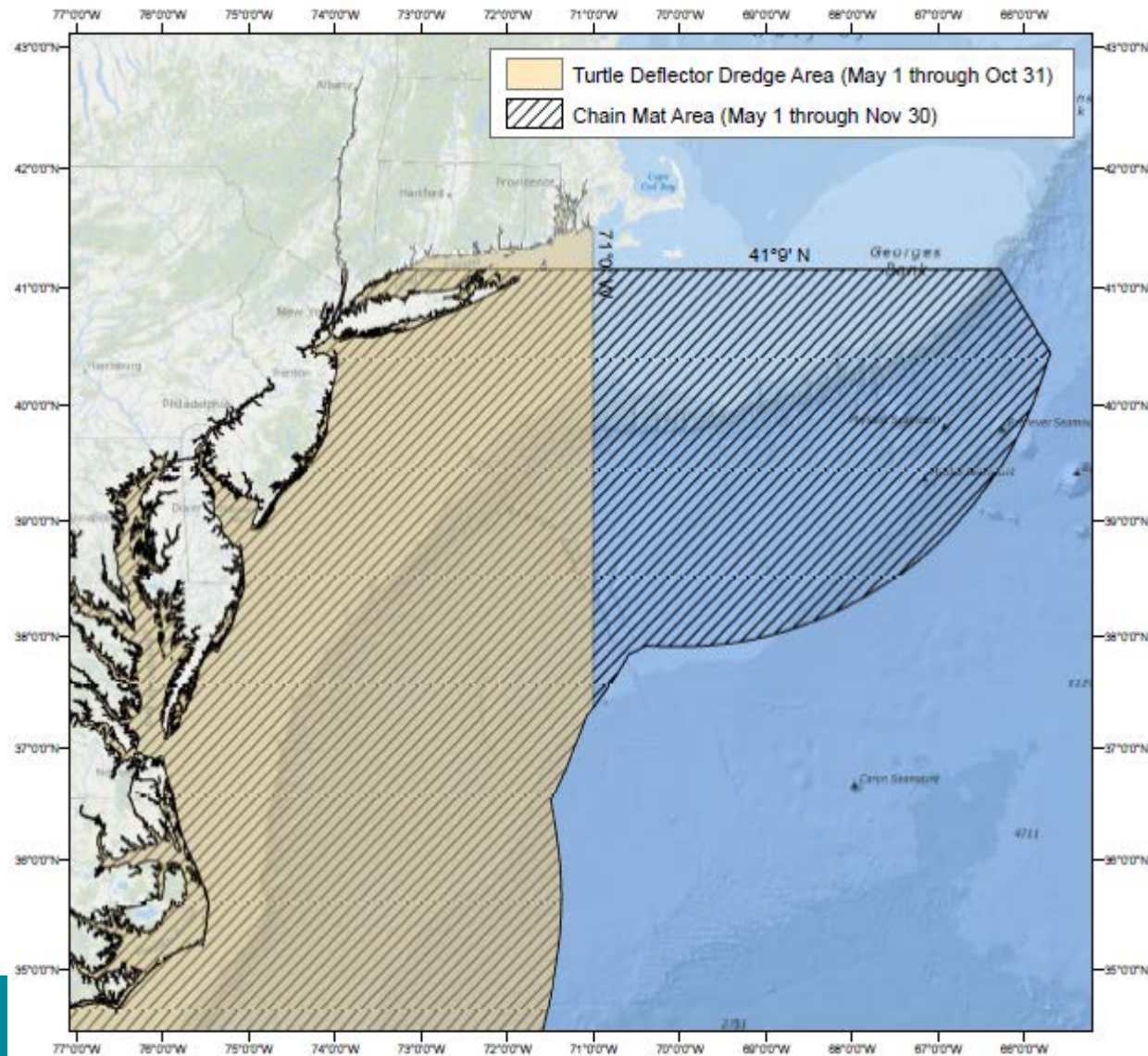
Can we align the TDD and chain mat regulations?

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Protected Resources Division

What is the issue?

- Chain mat requirement since 2006 (ESA)
- Turtle deflector dredge requirement since 2013 (MSA – FW23)
- Council letter 2/11/14; NMFS response 4/10/14

Atlantic Sea Scallop Dredge Fishery - Areas Regulated for Sea Turtle Conservation

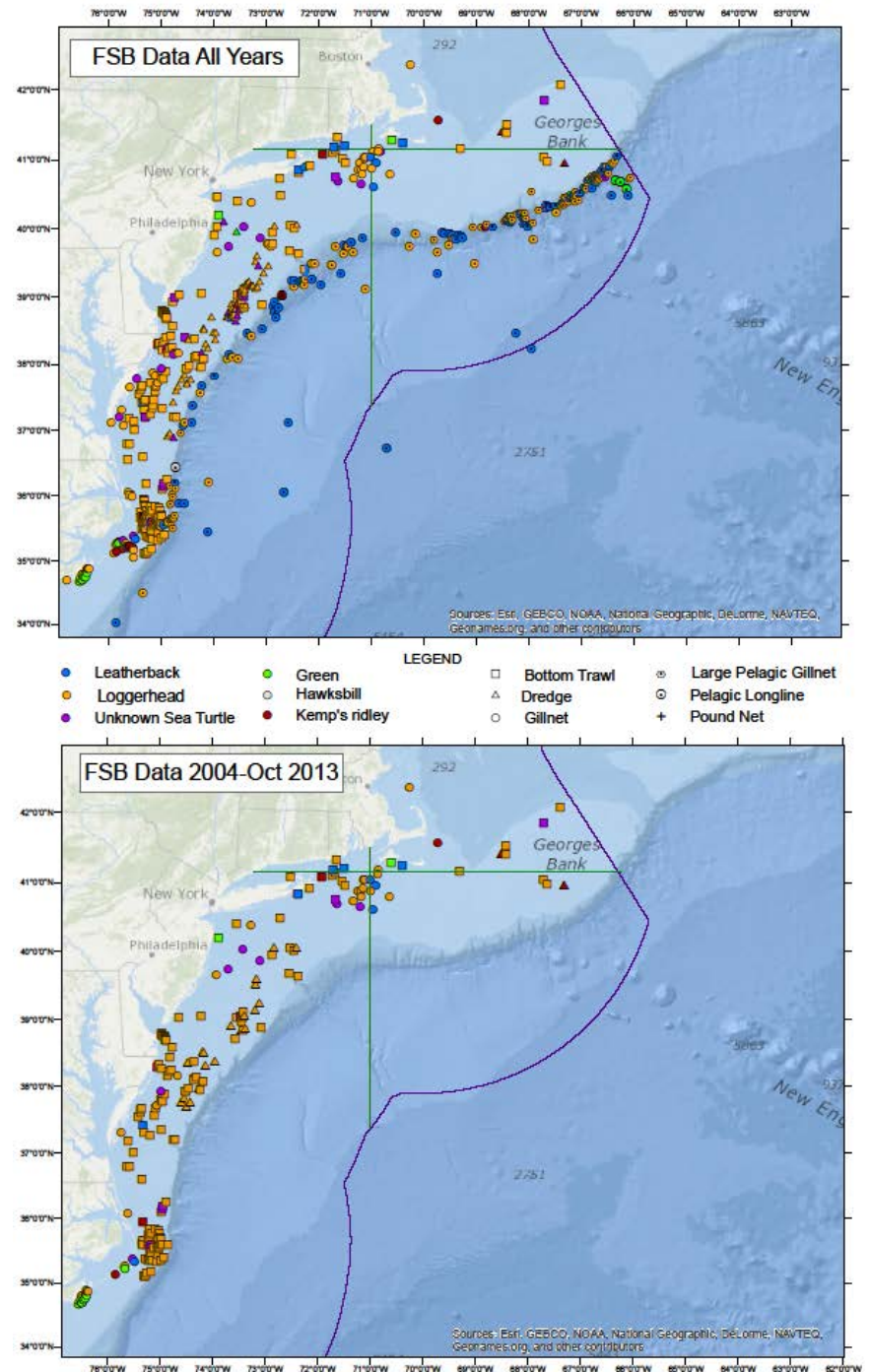


NMFS letter – one option

- Make chain mat boundary same as TDD line and extend TDD season through November (instead of October)
- Maintain relatively equivalent turtle conservation with season extension
- Considered November in FW23 – “potential overlap limited”
- Option based upon preliminary analysis
- Considered various sources of information: satellite tracks, observer records, fishing effort, bycatch estimates (Murray 2011)

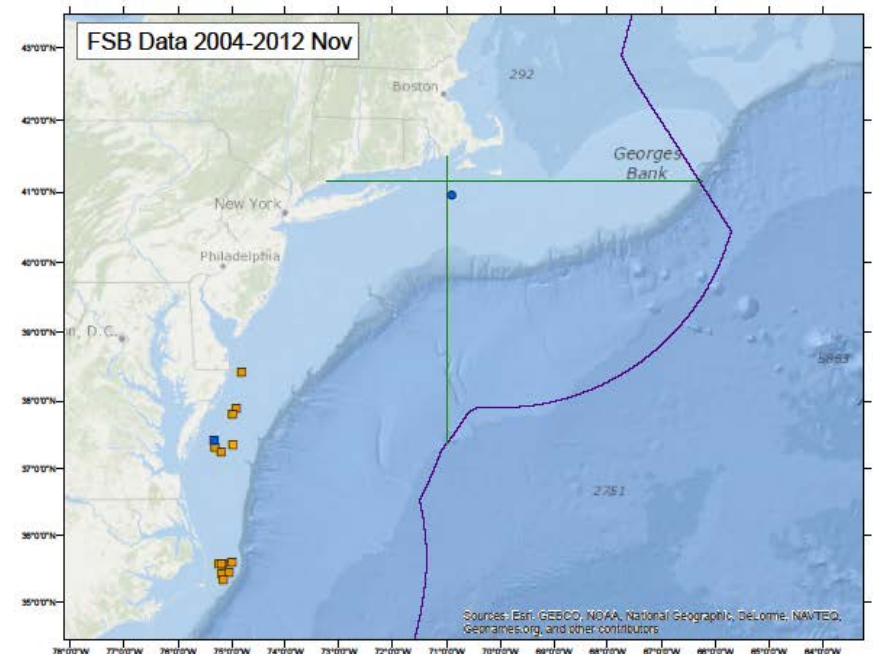
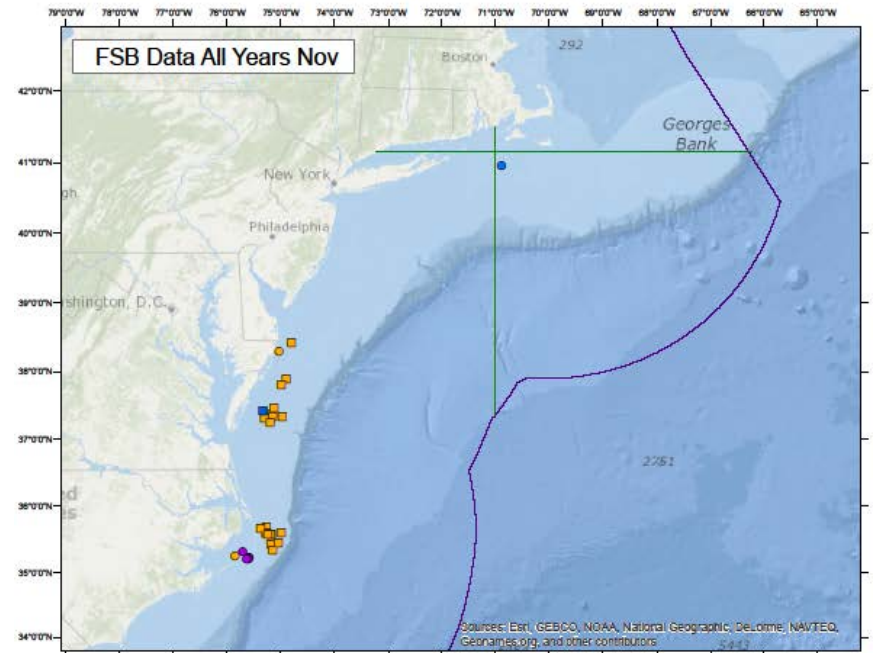
Observed takes

- All months
- Two scallop dredge takes outside TDD area



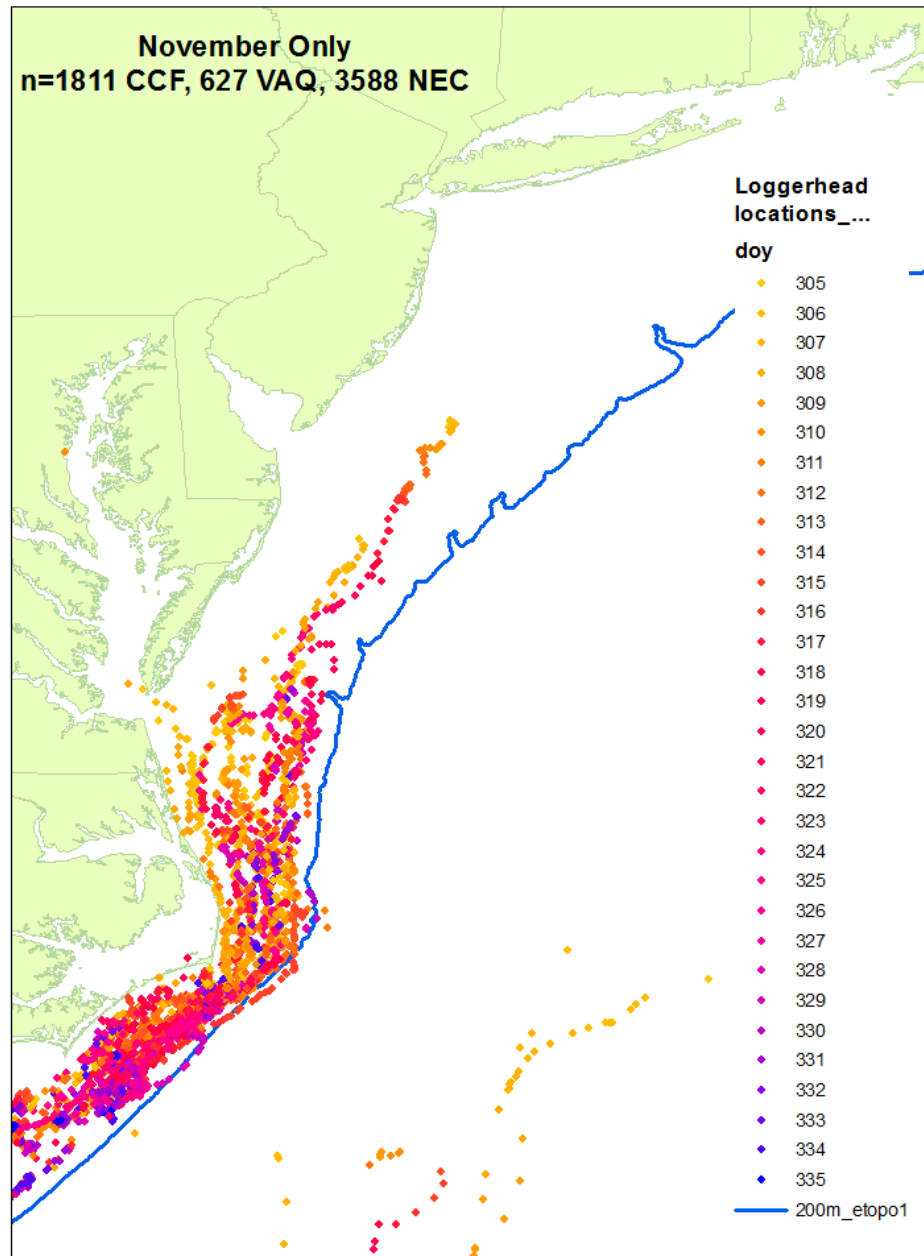
Observed takes

- November only
- No takes in scallop gear



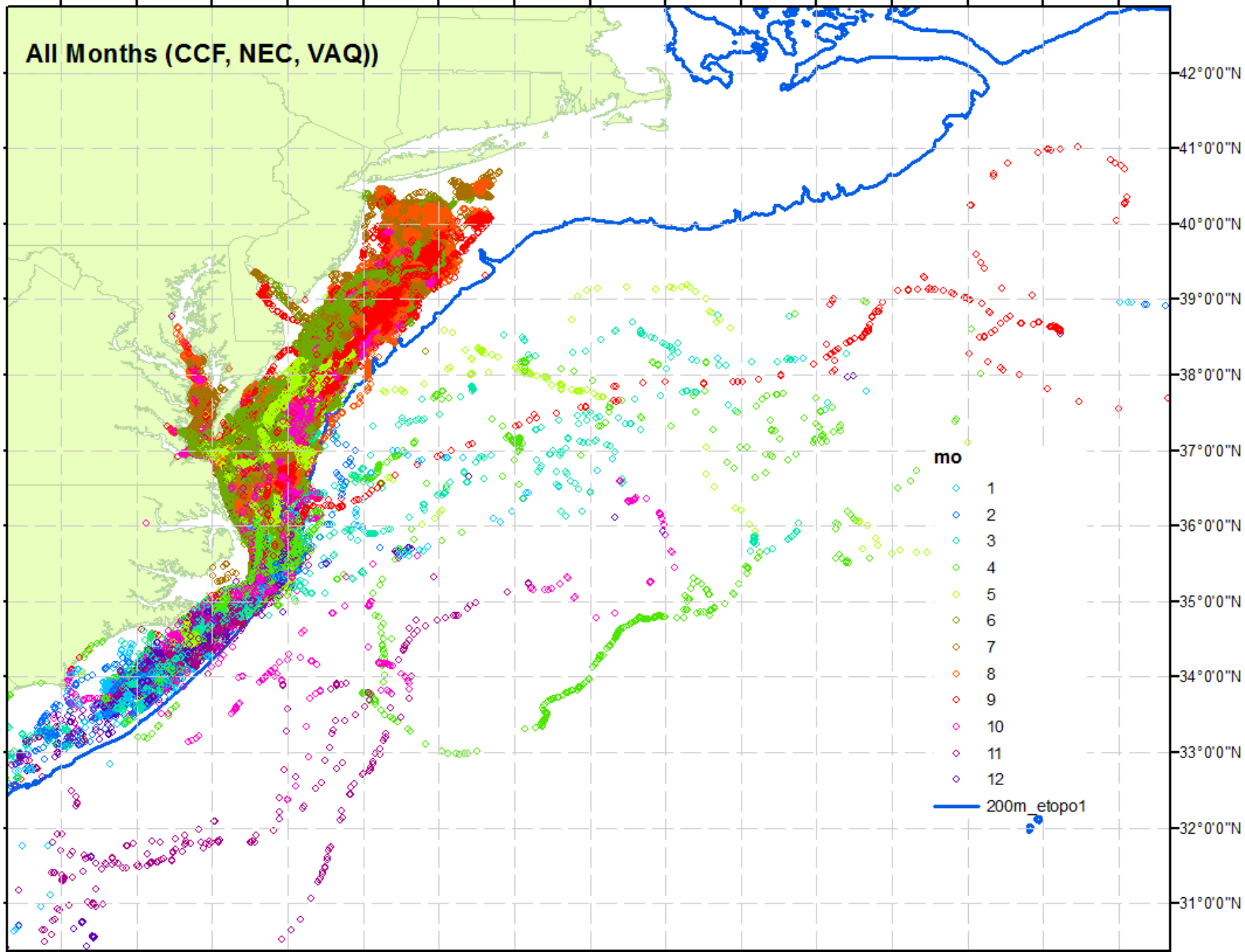
Satellite telemetry

- Collaboration between NEFSC, CCF, VAQ
- Turtles tagged in 2009-2013
- ~100 turtles tagged
- Represents turtle locations (and the best quality data)



78°0'0"W 77°0'0"W 76°0'0"W 75°0'0"W 74°0'0"W 73°0'0"W 72°0'0"W 71°0'0"W 70°0'0"W 69°0'0"W 68°0'0"W 67°0'0"W 66°0'0"W 65°0'0"W 64°0'0"W

All Months (CCF, NEC, VAQ)



Next steps

- Advantages of aligning temporal and spatial extents of scallop/turtle measures
- NMFS needs to maintain turtle conservation under ESA
- If agree on alternative, it is possible to combine MSA and ESA rulemaking in FW26
- Protected Resources staff could help with ESA (chain mat) portion
- Continued monitoring outside TDD area will be important, especially in light of possible environmental or oceanographic changes