



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

**Alaska  
Region**

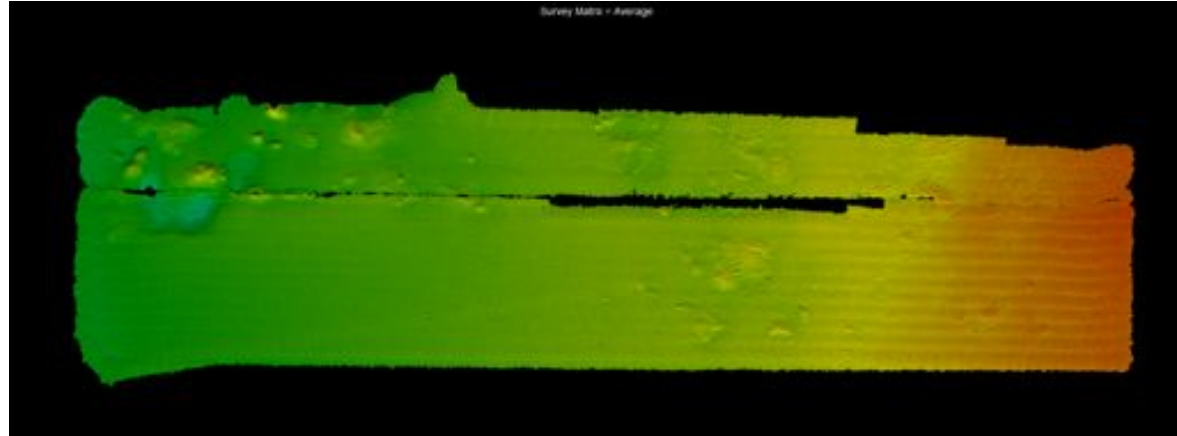
# EFH Summit

Notable EFH Non-Fishing Activities &  
Council Involvement - Cases

May 18th, 2016

## Marine Mining

- Norton Sound Red King Crab (NSRKC) stocks and potential marine mining impacts.
- OHC supported AKR/AFSC research with funds
- HCD saw 'likely to adverse affect EFH' & brought before Council;
- Stock expert, Crab Plan Team, and Academia involvement
- HCD funded studies through our EFH Research Plan
- HCD helped investigate.
- Conclusions likely a year out.
- We hope to determine either whether or not NMFS should have concern for crab habitat and affects from mining.



## Sea Floor Cable Laying

- HCD reviews a seafloor cable project and gets the applicant to notice and outreach their work at an upcoming council meeting.
- Serves the applicant well;
- Gets the information to the groups are most likely affected (fishers).
- These groups normally do not look at COE PCN's.
- Recently, NPFMC weighed in on a global, trans-Arctic fiber optic seafloor cable project and is working with that industry; as not to interfere with fishing activities.



## Oil and Gas

- NPFMC can be instrumental.
- Council staff wrote a white paper for effects to fishing grounds and sectors in a proposed lease area.
- This work supported NMFS position as to maintain the Presidential Moratorium prohibiting oil and gas activities in the central Bering Sea.
- Also, served to show concern; as projects are often related to the political climate and boom and bust economy of Alaska's resource development – when a mainstay to our economy and livelihood is fishing.



## USN Exercises - GOA

- NMFS/HCD has a long history with USN activities in Alaska and works closely with USN environmental staff leads.
- NMFS comment was to simply dispose of “OPA-clean” vessels and not to impact Seamounts, and other coral HAPCs.
- Recently, the Sink-EX exercise in the Gulf of Alaska drew attention. An associated Cordova harbor blockade by salmon fishers made national news.
- HCD coordinated discussion with NPFMC, AFSC, NMML and Regional top leadership through request of the USN ADM of the Pacific Fleet (who has an oceanography discipline).
- Consultation is ongoing.

