

Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization

Sec. 408: Established *Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program*:

- Identify existing research on, and known locations of, deep-sea corals
- Locate and map deep-sea corals
- Monitor human activities in deep-sea coral locations
- Conduct research, including cooperative research with fishing industry participants
- Develop technologies or methods to reduce interaction between fishing gear and deep-sea corals
- Prioritize activities where deep-sea corals are known or predicted to occur
- Submit biennial reports to Congress

Sec. 303(b)(2): Provided new discretionary authority to protect deep-sea coral areas identified under Sec. 408 from damage by fishing gear



Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program (MSA Sec. 408)

- **FY 2009 - \$1.5 M**
 - Began 3-year field mapping and research initiative in South Atlantic FMC Region
 - Smaller projects in all regions to analyze existing information on deep-sea corals, fishing effort, and bycatch
- **FY 2010 - \$2.5 M**
 - Expand analysis of existing information and model deep-sea coral distributions
 - Continue 2nd year of South Atlantic field research
 - Begin a new 3-year field research effort off the West Coast (Pacific FMC Region)





Deep Sea Coral Spending Priorities

- New field research: Focus on one region for three years – add additional regions as funding becomes available.
- Region chosen based on:
 - Need to inform regional Fishery Management Council analyses for significant new protective measures – *primary criterion*
 - Inform other management decisions; importance of the region's deep-sea coral ecosystems; level of threat; partnerships; etc.
- Councils are key partners:
 - Identifying priority research needs
 - Regional Research Priorities Workshop



Upcoming Deep-Sea Coral Reports

- NOAA Strategic Plan for Deep-Sea Coral and Sponge Ecosystems: Research, Management, and International Cooperation
- 2nd Biennial Report to Congress – Implementation of the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program

