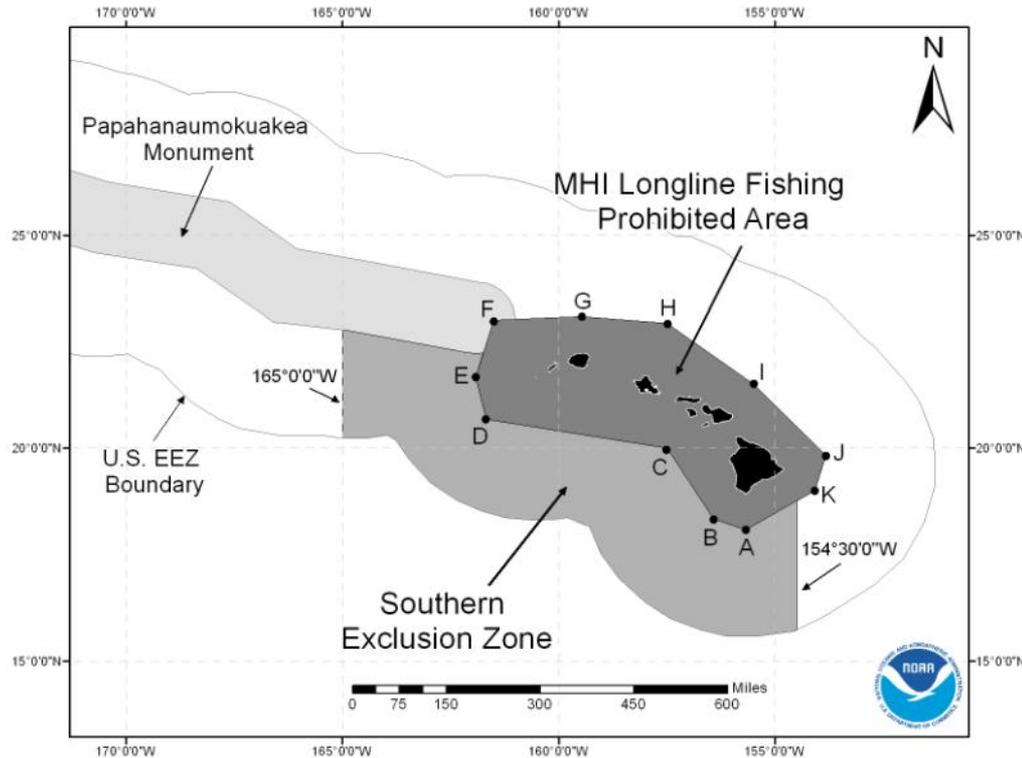




Southern Exclusion Zone

NOAA
FISHERIES
Pacific Islands
Regional Office

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May 30, 2013



Outline

- Overview of current SEZ measures
- Issues for consideration
 - Trigger
 - Calculation
 - Accounting for takes above trigger
 - Trigger/closure implementation
 - NWHI stock
 - Boundary and take patterns
- Plan moving forward?

Overview of Current SEZ Measures

Southern Exclusion Zone - Overview

Trigger

- # of observed false killer whale M&SI in deep-set fishery inside the EEZ around Hawaii
- Calculated as larger of these two values:
 - (i) Two; or
 - (ii) Smallest # of observed false killer whale M&SI that, when extrapolated based on the % observer coverage in the deep-set fishery for that year, exceeds the Hawaii Pelagic false killer whale stock's PBR level.

Southern Exclusion Zone - Overview

Closing/reopening procedures

- If observed M&SI meets trigger for the year, SEZ is closed to deep-set fishing until end of fishing year
 - If M&SI inside the EEZ in the deep-set fishery after the SEZ is closed, NMFS convenes the TRT
- In subsequent year following SEZ closure, if SEZ trigger is again met, SEZ closed to deep-set fishing until reopened by NMFS Assistant Administrator (per reopening criteria)

Issue for Consideration: SEZ Trigger

1. Trigger Calculation

- Trigger in final rule matches TRT's recommendation
 - NMFS implemented mainly because PBR increased
 - Minimum trigger of 2 observed M&SI \approx 10 actual M&SI
 - 10 M&SI was 4x PBR (2.5)
 - 10 M&SI is now just above PBR (9.1)
 - Is the trigger still appropriate if PBR fluctuates?

2. Accounting for Takes Above Trigger

- Takes may continue to occur within EEZ after SEZ is closed, leading to further PBR exceedance
- Takes are not considered cumulatively across years
 - PBR exceedance in one year does not affect trigger or closure in future years
 - (Actual impacts to the whales are cumulative)
- Should we consider alternative approaches?
 - E.g., 5-year sum scheme - compare summed M&SI to summed PBR

3. Trigger/Closure Implementation

TRP's SEZ Regulations - 50 CFR 229.37(e)

“Year 1”

(3) Unless otherwise subject to paragraph (e)(4) of this section, if there is an observed false killer whale mortality or serious injury in the EEZ around Hawaii on a declared deep-set longline trip that **meets the established trigger** for a given fishing year, the Southern Exclusion Zone **will be closed** to deep-set longline fishing until the **end of that fishing year**.

“Year 2”

(5) If in the **subsequent calendar year following closure** of the Southern Exclusion Zone in accordance with paragraph (e)(3) of this section, there is an observed false killer whale mortality or serious injury in the EEZ around Hawaii on a declared deep-set longline trip that meets the established trigger for a given fishing year, the Southern Exclusion Zone will be closed to deep-set longline fishing until the area is reopened by the Assistant Administrator as per criteria in paragraph (e)(7) of this section.

3. Trigger/Closure Implementation (cont'd)

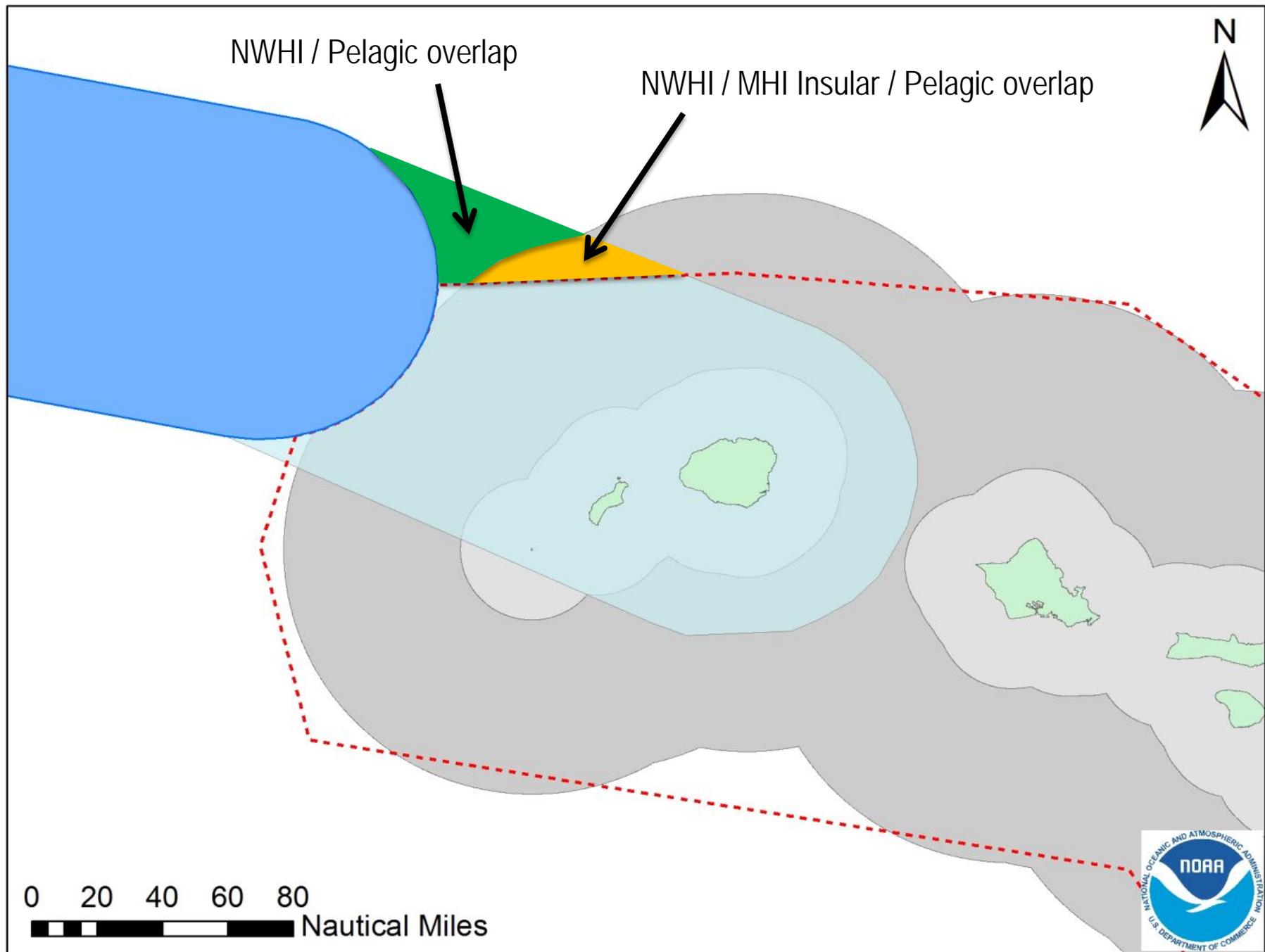
Year 2 = "Subsequent year **following closure**"

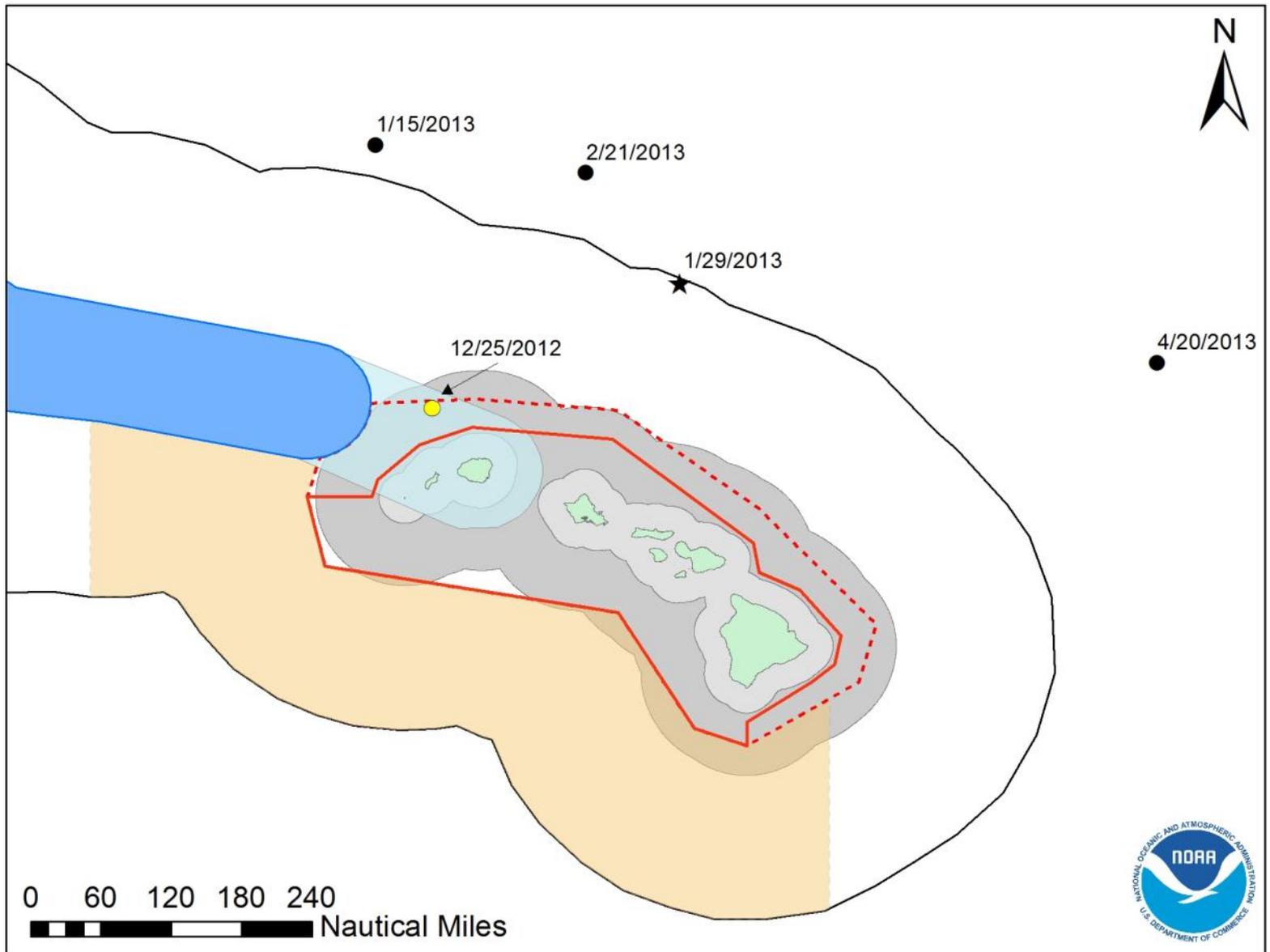
- For takes that occur late in the calendar year, NMFS may not be able to make an injury determination and/or implement a closure before the end of the calendar year (year 1)
- Clarify intent: take date is the controlling factor
 - Trigger is considered to have been met and next year is considered "year 2", regardless of whether injury determination is made or area closure is implemented before the end of the year

Issue for Consideration: Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Stock

NWHI Stock

- Trigger - HI Pelagic false killer whales only
- Takes in MHI Insular/Pelagic overlap zone assumed to be from Pelagic stock unless genetic or photo-ID data show it is MHI Insular
- NWHI stock was recognized after Draft TRP was developed - no consideration of NWHI stock
- NMFS will apply same rule within NWHI overlap zone:
 - Assume Pelagic stock unless genetic or photo-ID data show it is MHI insular or NWHI





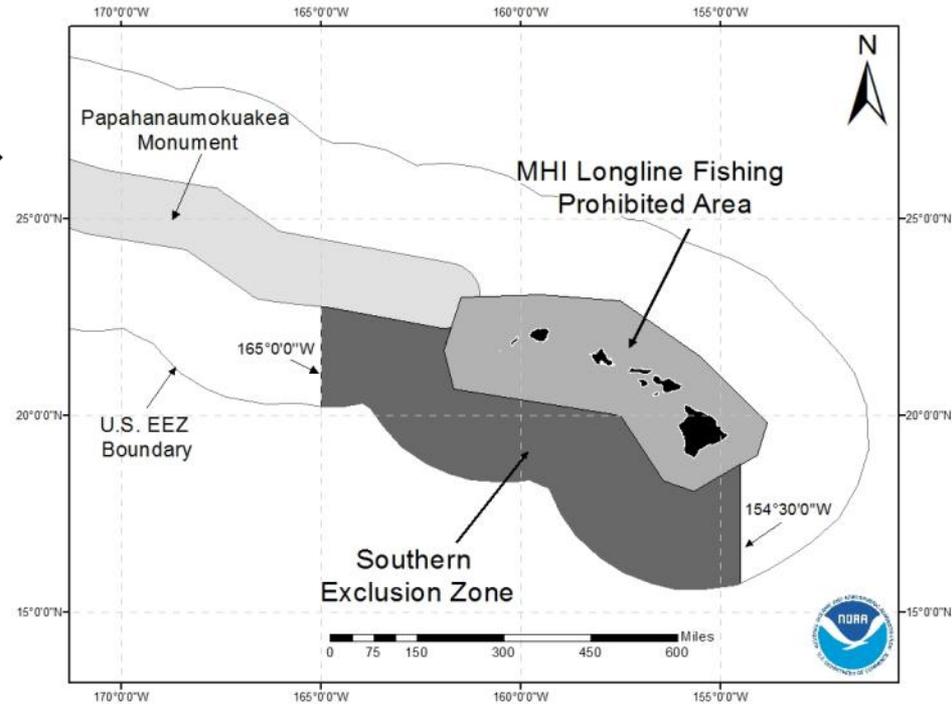
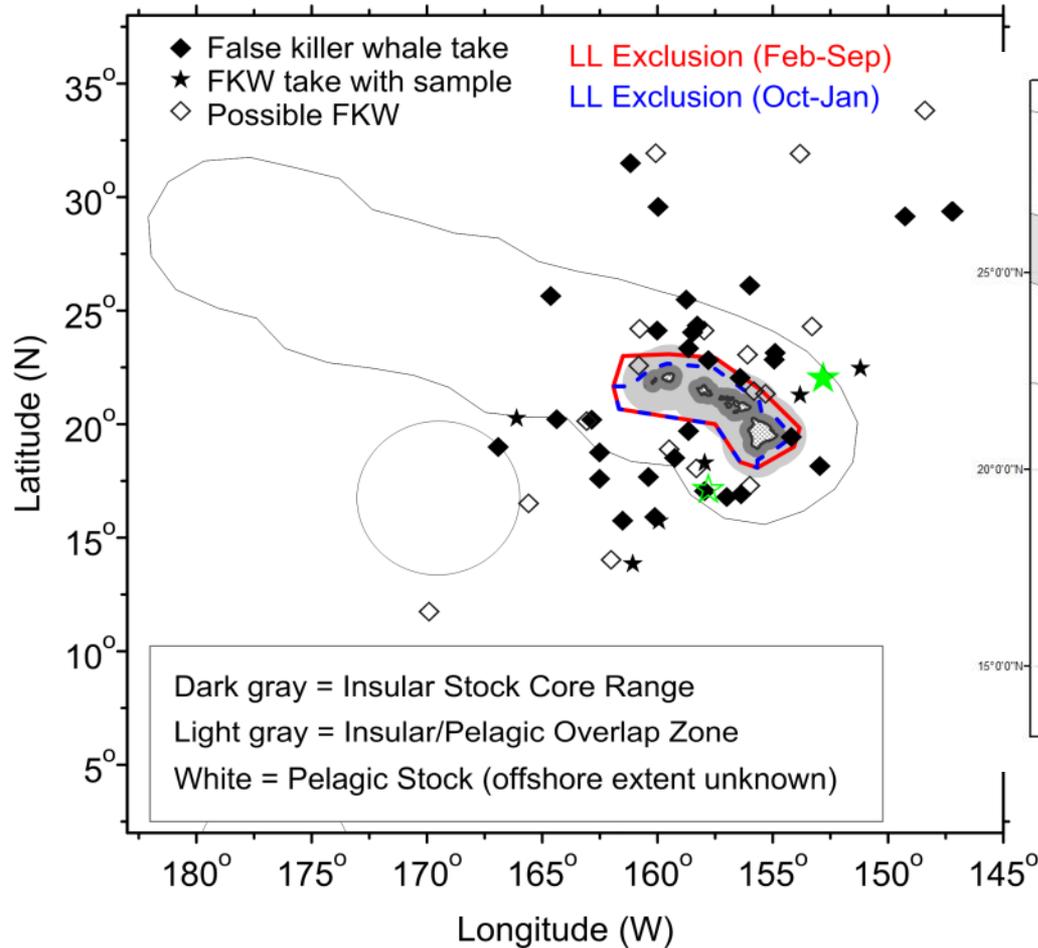
Issue for Consideration: SEZ Boundary and Take Patterns

Boundary and Take Patterns

- SEZ area was delineated to encompass large number of historical false killer whale and blackfish takes (1994 - July 2010)
- SEZ was one hotspot of interactions, but north of the MHI was another
- Ongoing concern that SEZ closure might concentrate fishing in another area within the EEZ, with unknown impact on take levels
- Take patterns in response to an SEZ closure will be important to track

Delineation of SEZ – July 2010

1994 – July 2010



Moving Forward

- Do any of these issues merit consideration of alternative approaches?
- Is there any analysis needed to inform potential options?

Questions?

Take Locations

2002-2006

