

Co-occurrence of large whales and crab pot in Monterey Bay

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Background

- The working group identified knowledge of co-occurrence of whales and crab pot fishing efforts as a major gap.
- Point Blue and NOAA Sanctuaries shared existing co-occurrence data for the Gulf of the Farallones region
- No similar information is available for areas south of Pillar Point



Scope of Work

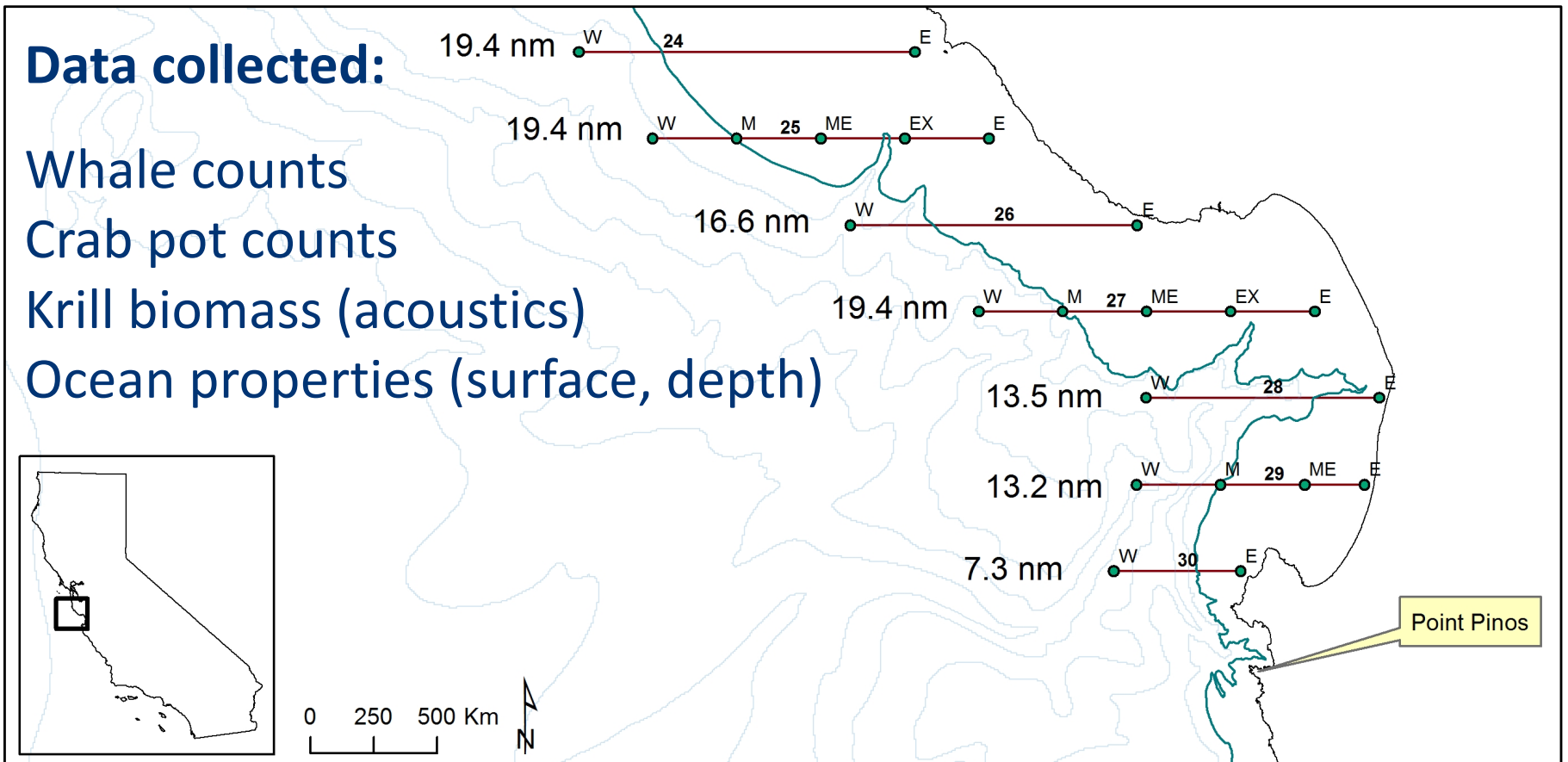
Ship surveys will be conducted south from Año Nuevo to Southern Monterey Bay collecting multi-disciplinary data to

- 1) monitor the distribution and abundance of large whales in the context of underlying physical/biological processes, and
- 2) simultaneously assess the distribution and abundance of crab pots in the region.

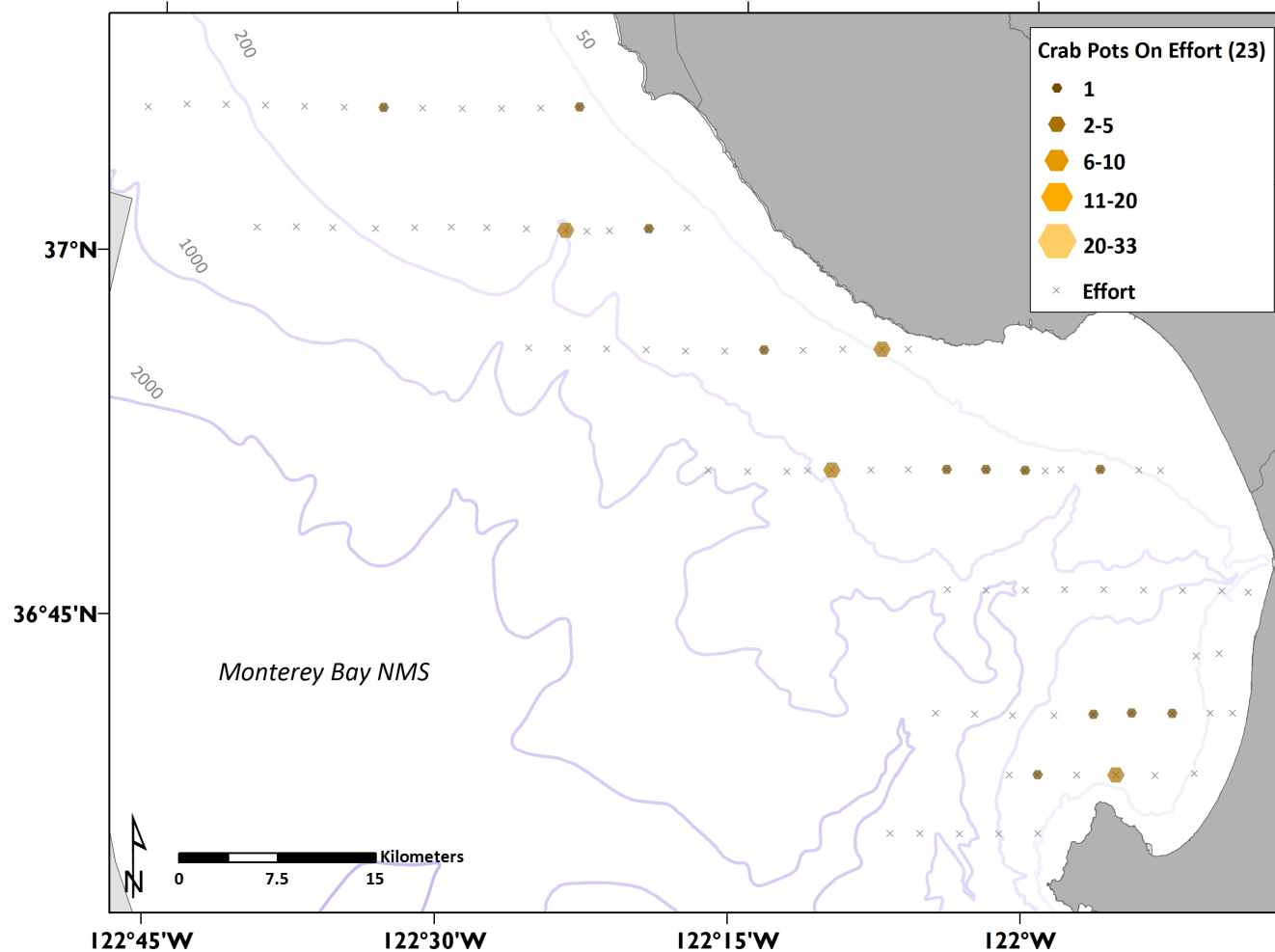


Proposed Study Area

(5 days + 1 weather day needed)



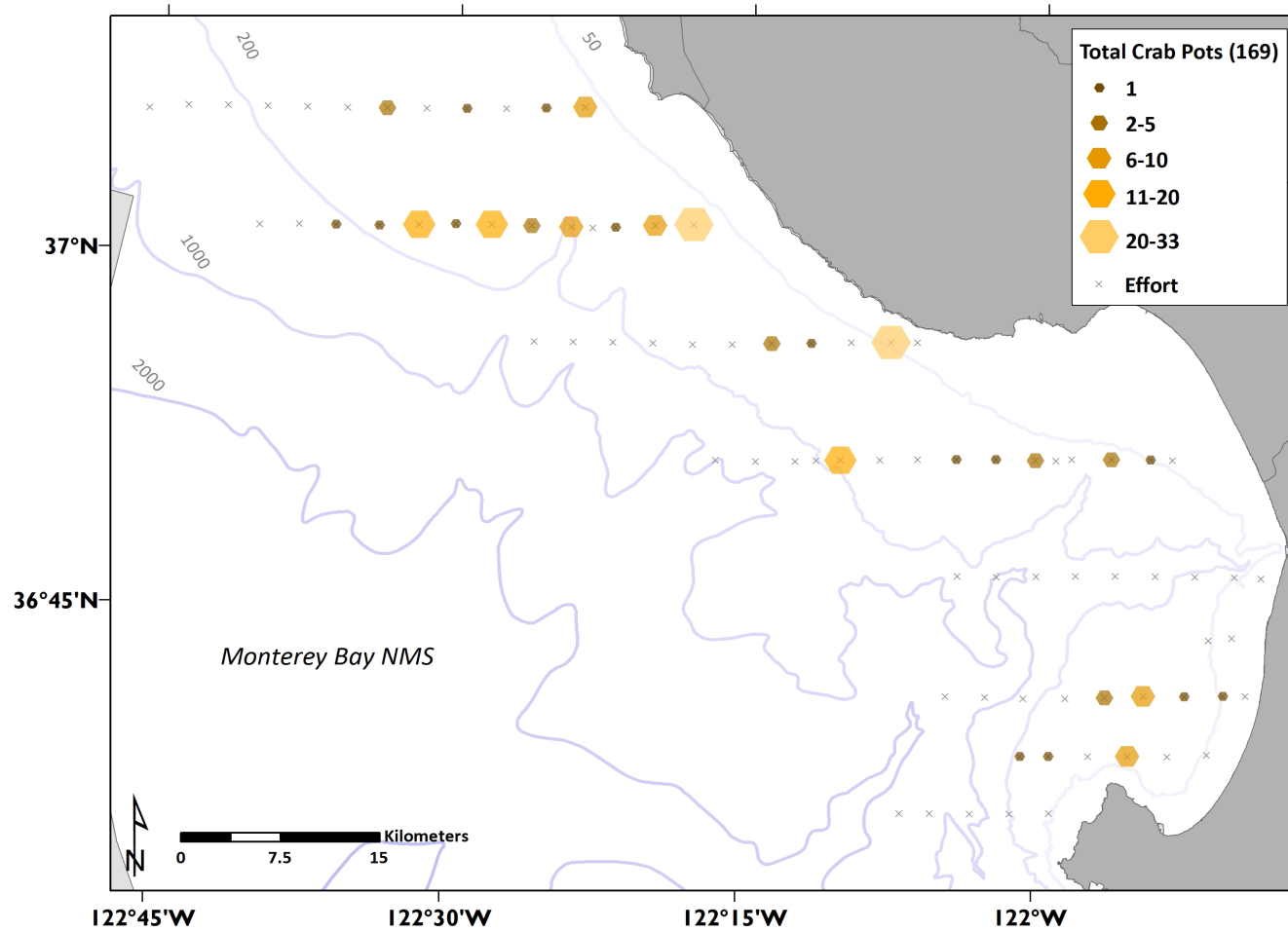
Distribution of crab pots – On effort



Crab Pots On Effort, May 2017



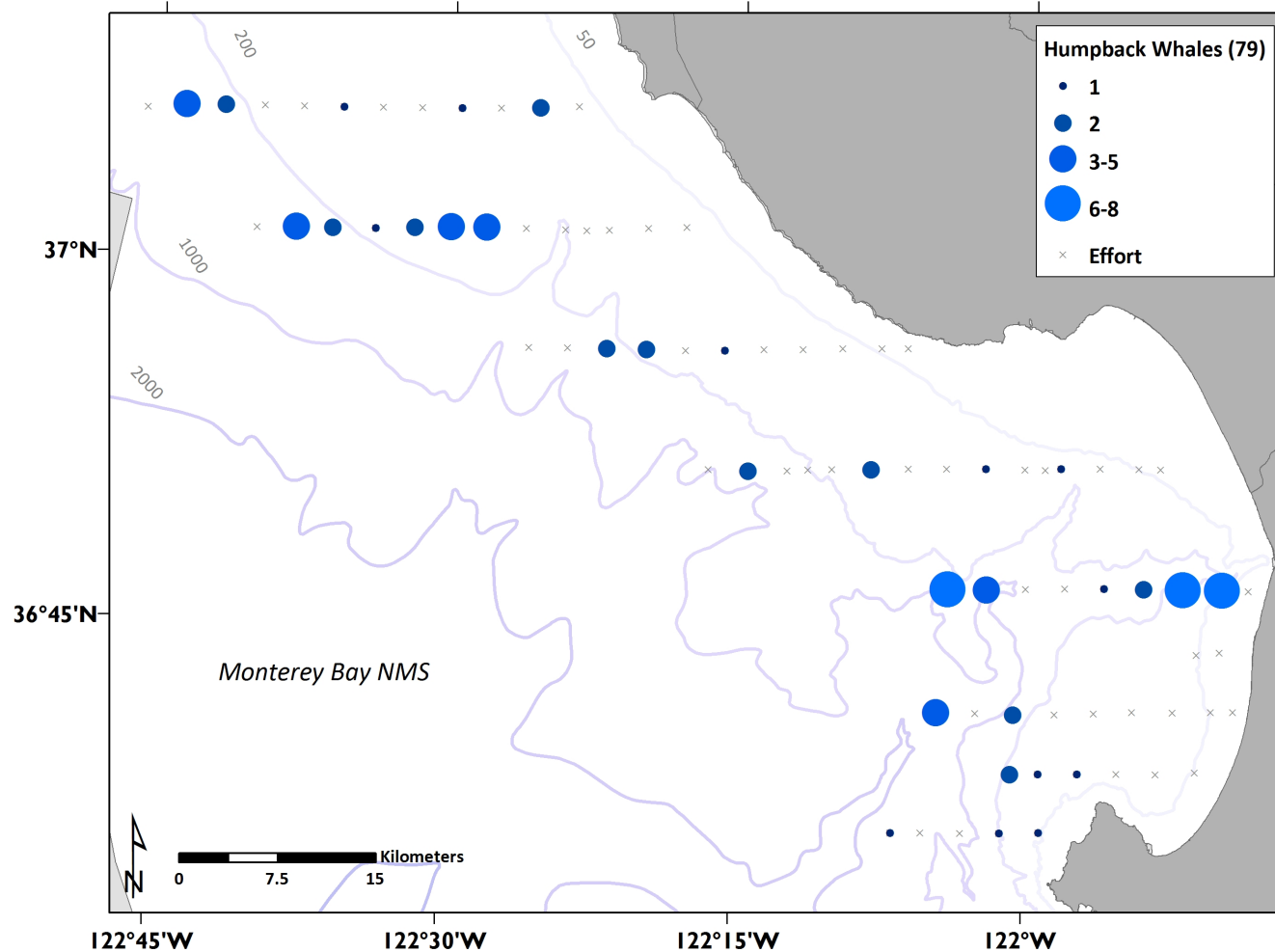
Distribution of crab pots – On + Off effort



Total Crab Pots, May 2017



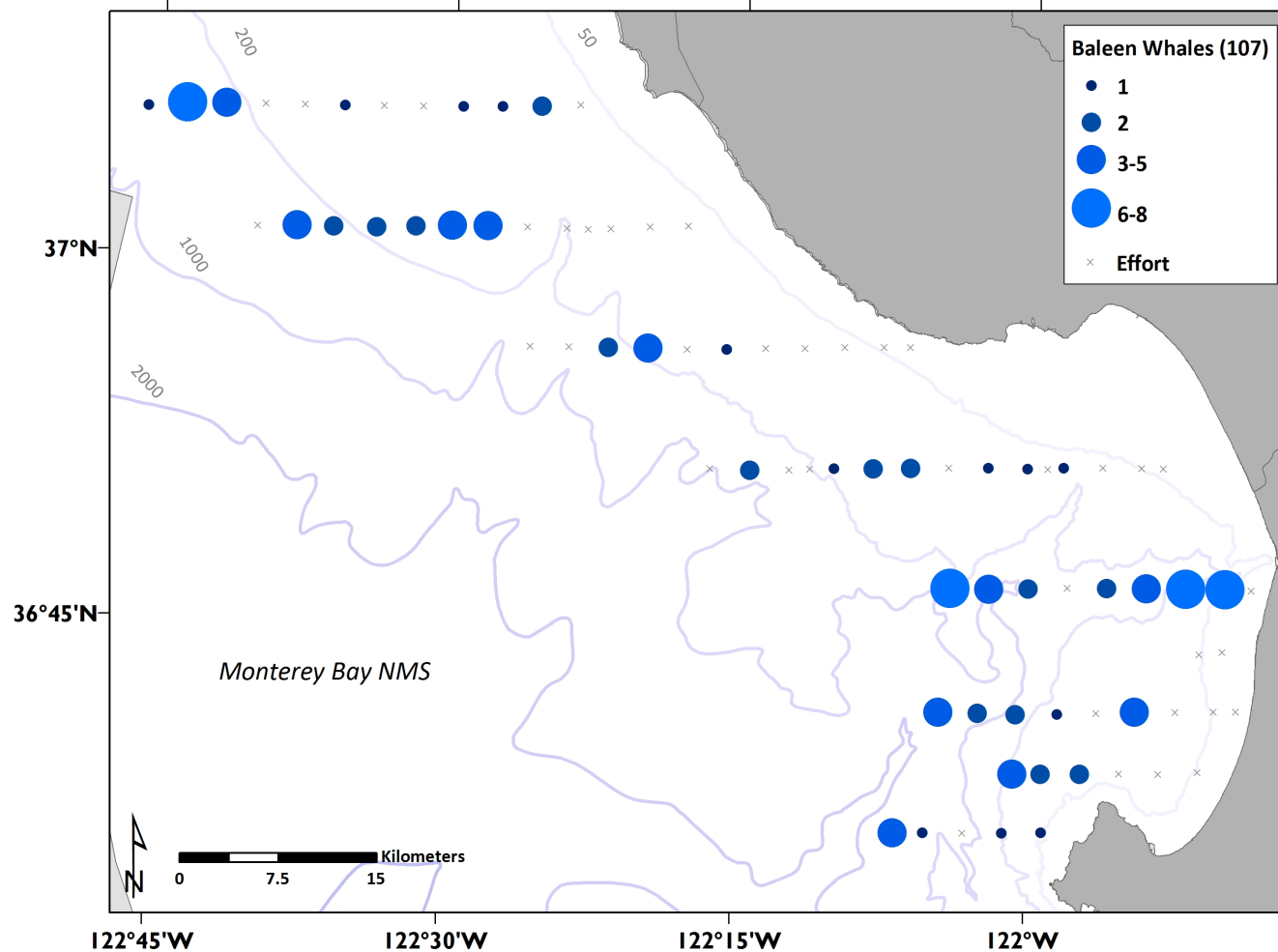
Distribution of humpback whales only



Humpback Whales, May 2017



Distribution of large whales (all spp)



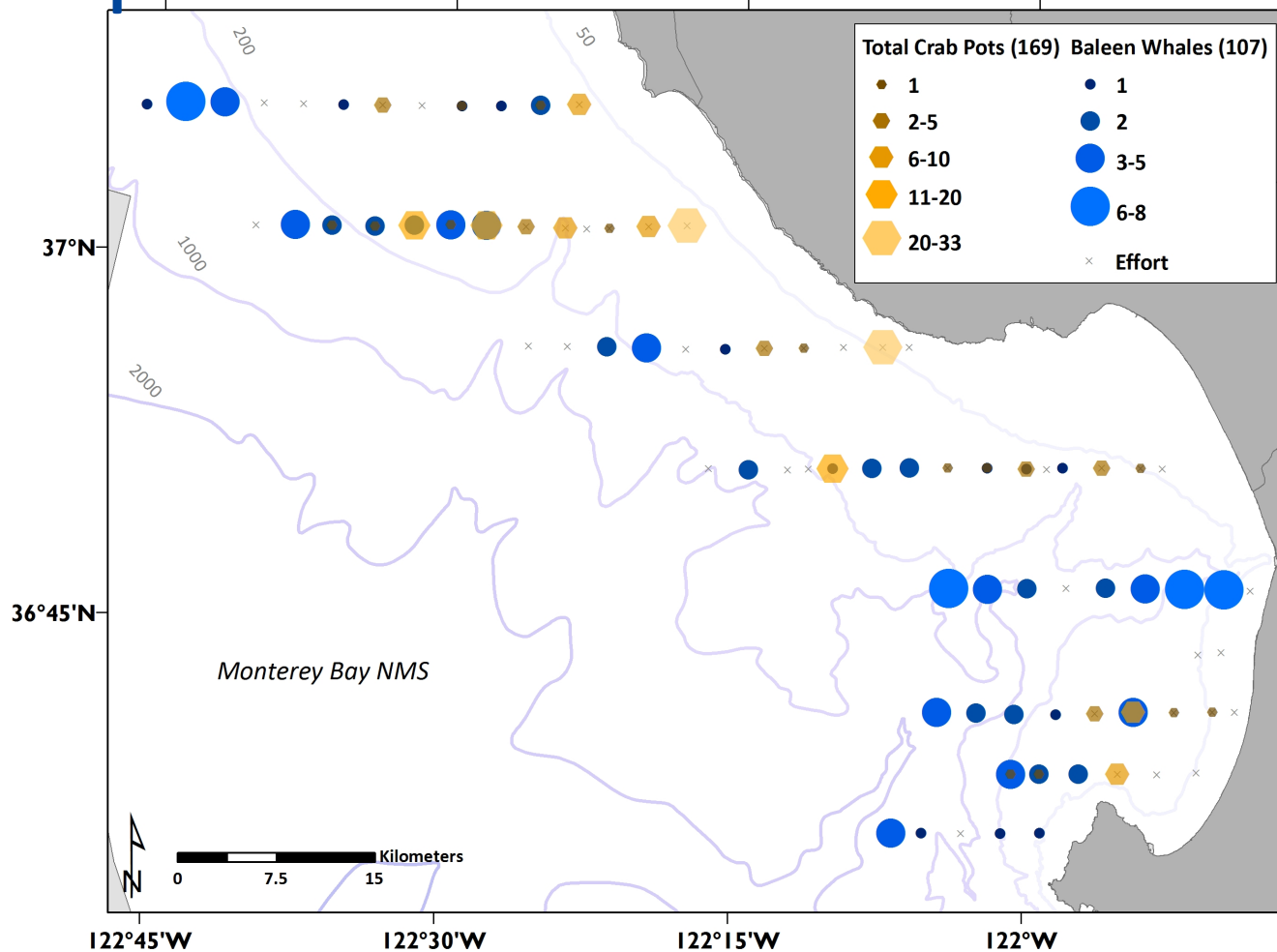
Large Whales
Included:
BLWH (2)
FIWH (1)
HUWH (79)
UNWH (25)

Not included
KIWH (3)

Baleen Whales, May 2017



Co-occurrence of large whales and crab pots



Large Whales Included:
 BLWH (2)
 FIWH (1)
 HUWH (79)
 UNWH (25)

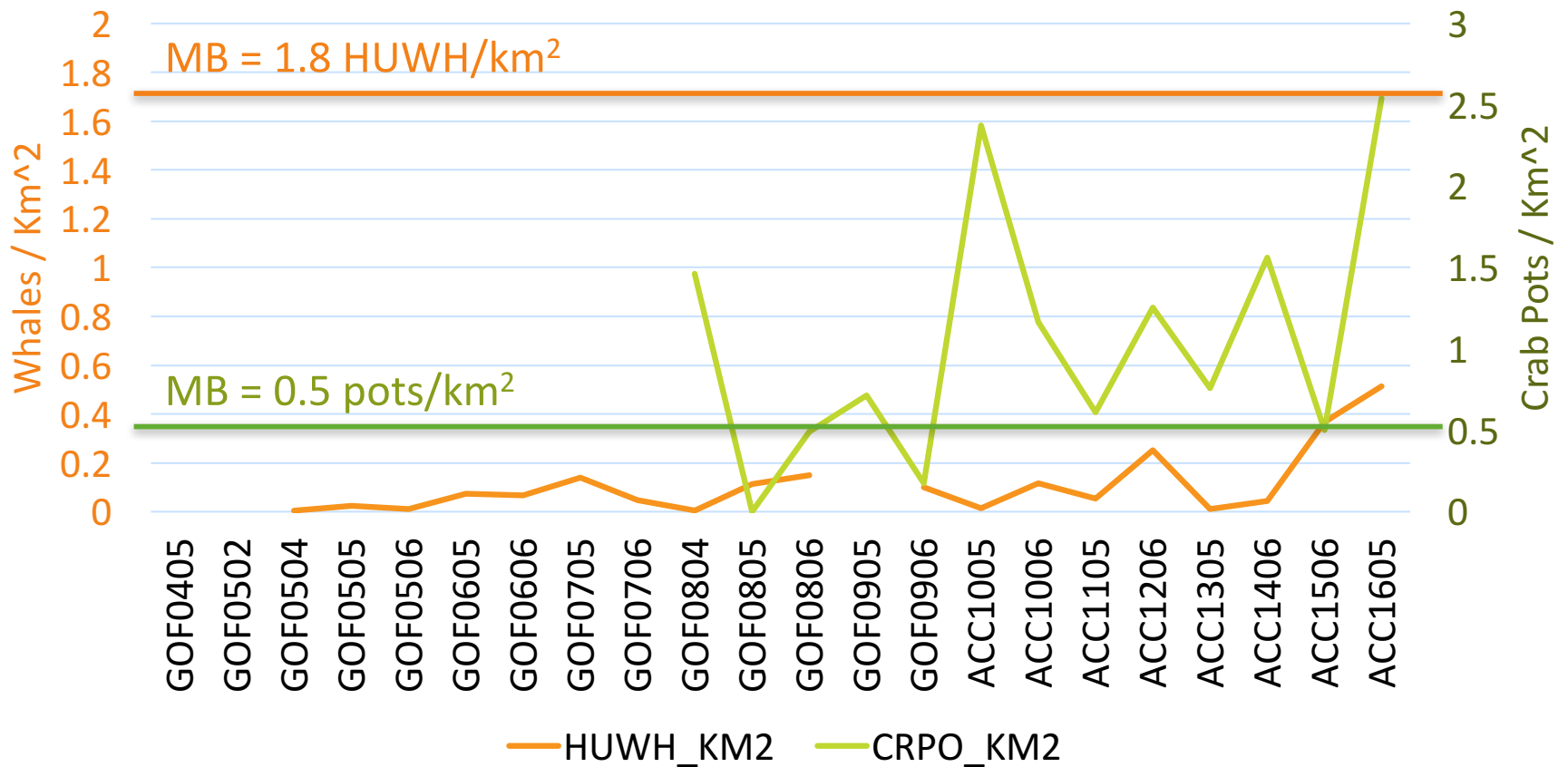
Not included
 KIWH (3)



Baleen Whales and Crab Pots, May 2017



Co-occurrence of humpback whales and crab pots compared to within season data from Gulf of the Farallones



Next steps

- Available to continue surveys in Monterey Bay
- Available to expand surveys into Fall and Winter
- Data funded by the state available for WG purposes
- We are currently seeking funds to assess co-occurrence of whales and crab pots using historical ACCESS data



Acknowledgements

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