



**13th NAFO Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment.
17-26 November 2020, Webex**

ToR 1. Update on identification and mapping of sensitive species and habitats in the NAFO area

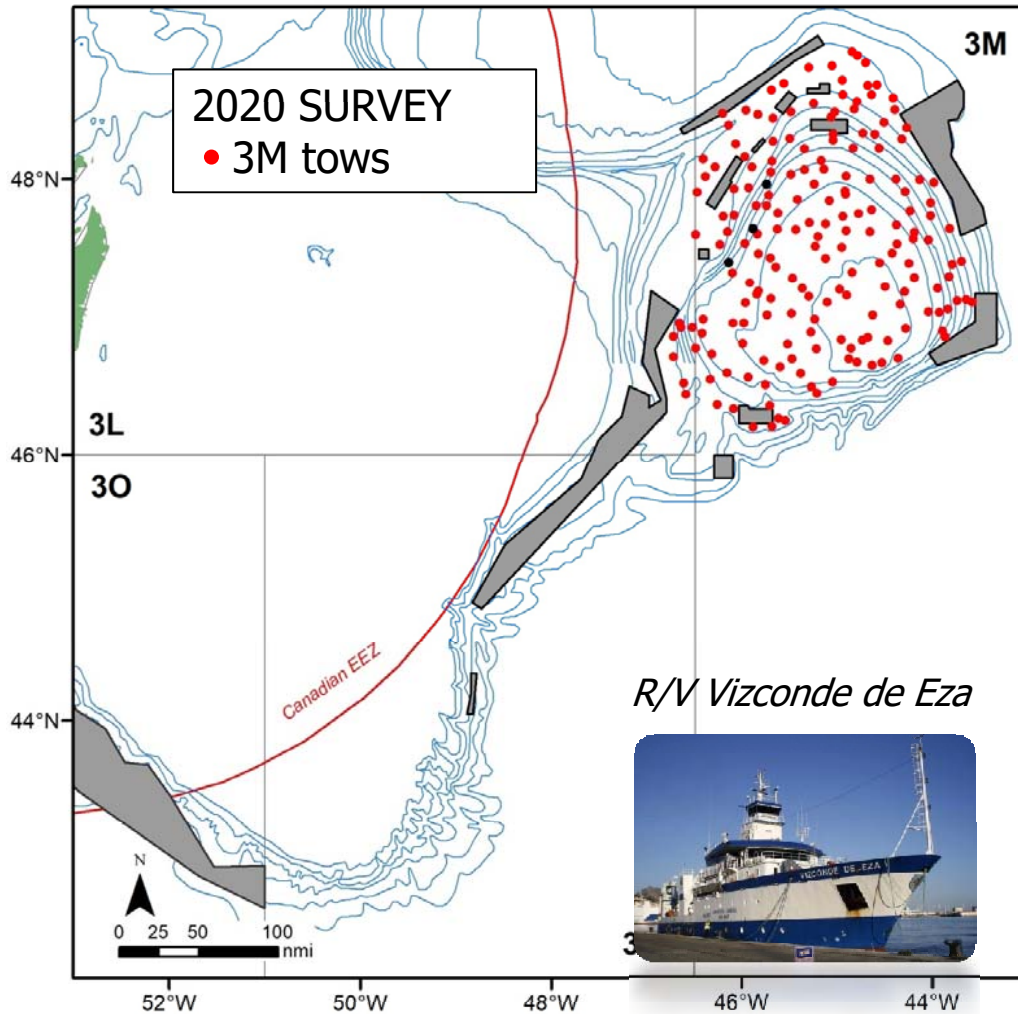
**New preliminary data on VME encounters in NAFO
Regulatory Area
(Div. 3M) from EU-Spain and Portugal Groundfish
Surveys (2020) and Canadian surveys**

EU-Spain and Portugal Groundfish Survey (2020): Div 3M



R/V Vizconde de Eza

Data Groundfish Survey 2020



Due to the pandemic situation during 2020, R/V Vizconde de Eza only carried out one survey in Division 3M.

- EU Spain and Portugal Flemish

Cap Survey: Flemish Cap (Div. 3M)

Depth range: 137 to 1470 m.

Tows: 184

(3 of them null)

Current NAFO Criteria

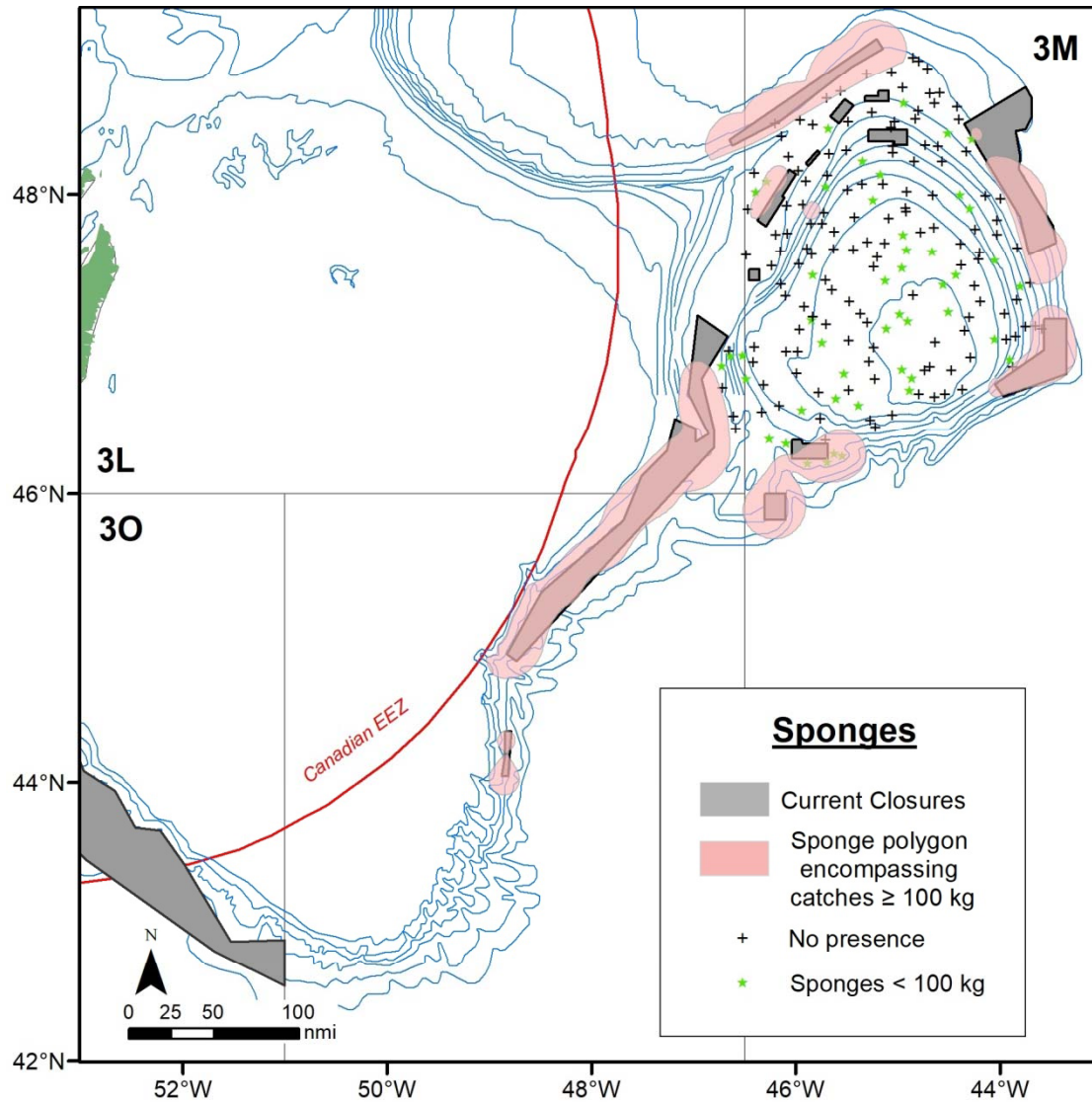
	THRESHOLDS FOR SIGNIFICANT CONCENTRATIONS	NEW THRESHOLDS * Nov 2019
VME INDICATOR SPECIES		
SPONGES	≥75 kg per tow	≥100 kg per tow
CORALS		
SMALL GORGONIANS	≥0.15 kg per tow	≥ 0.2 kg per tow
LARGE GORGONIANS	≥0.6 kg per tow	≥0.6 kg per tow
SEA PENS	≥1.4 kg per tow	≥1.3 kg per tow

Results



R/V Vizconde de Eza

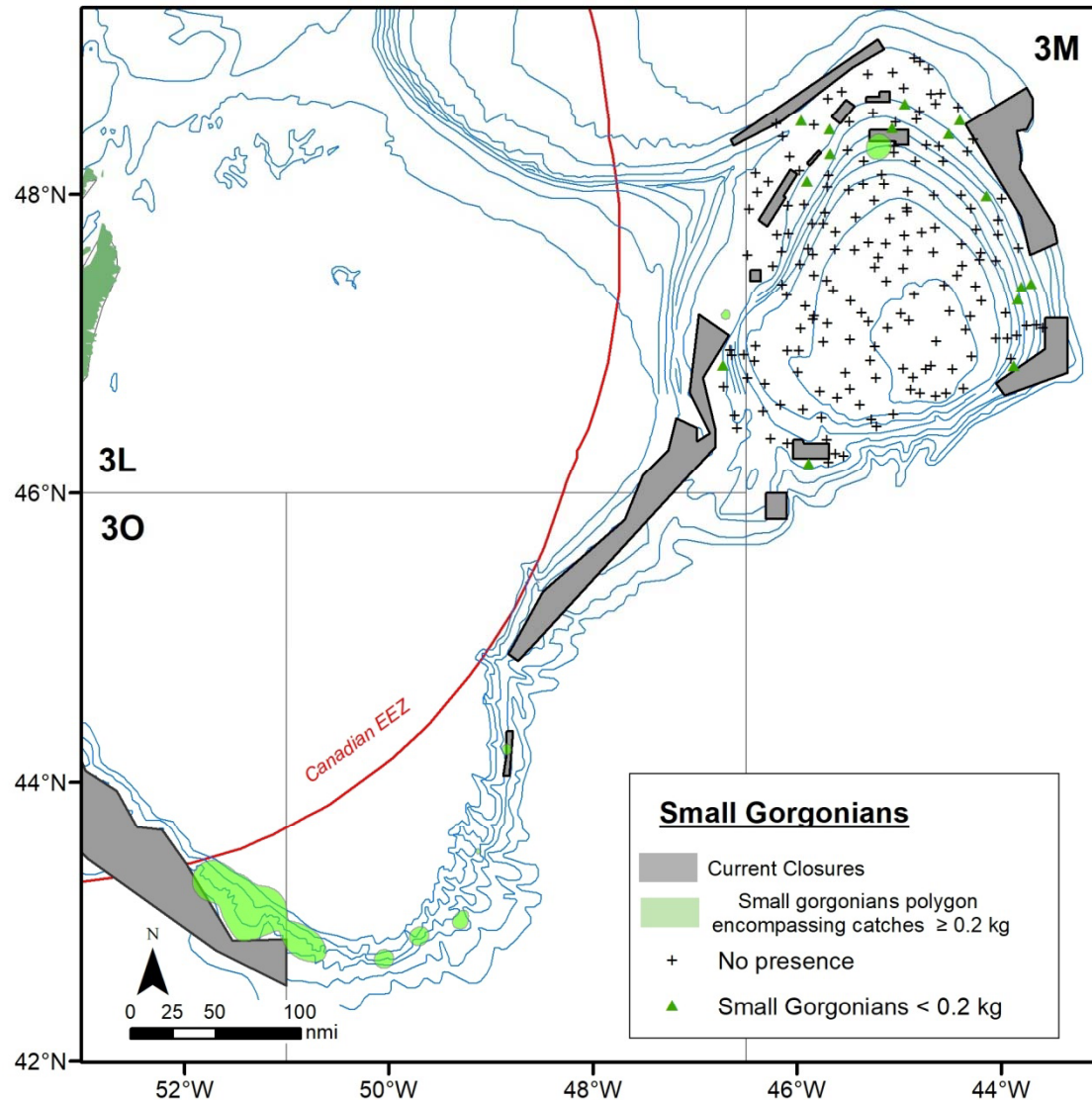
Sponges



Recorded in 47 tows of
184 tows

No significant catches

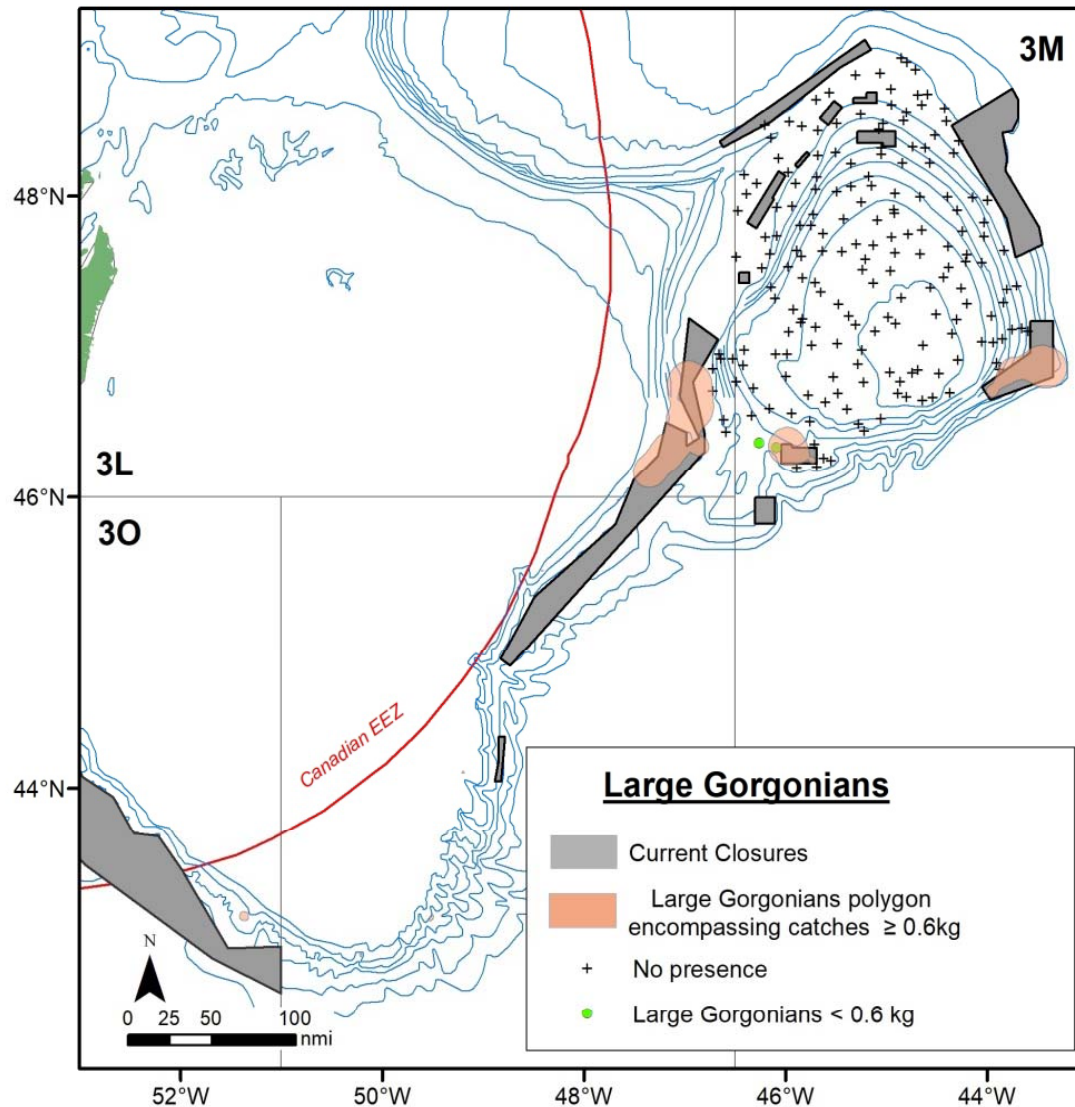
Small Gorgonians



Recorded in 15 tows of
184 tows

No significant catches

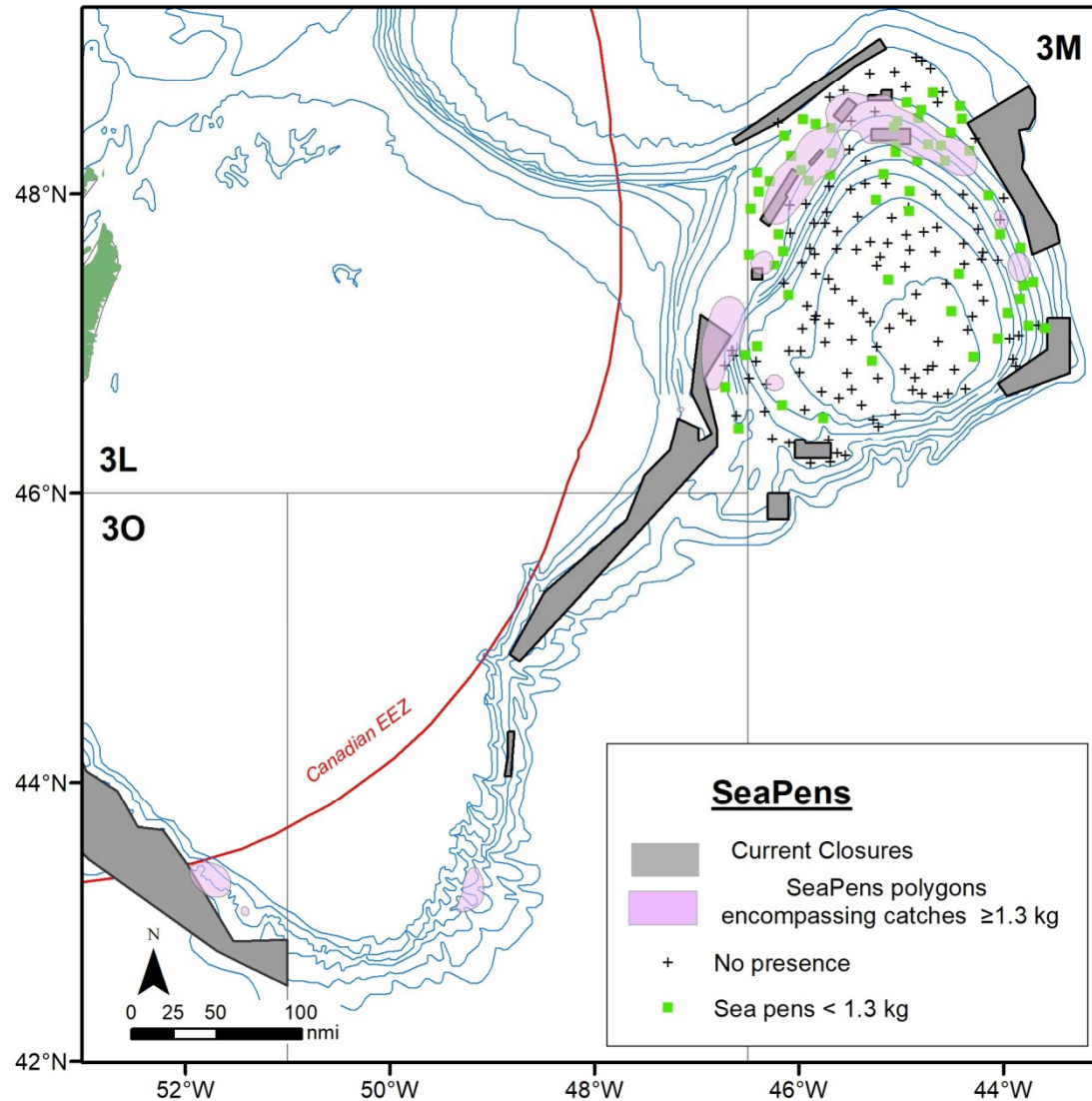
Large Gorgonians



Recorded in 2 tows of
184 tows

No significant catches

Sea pens

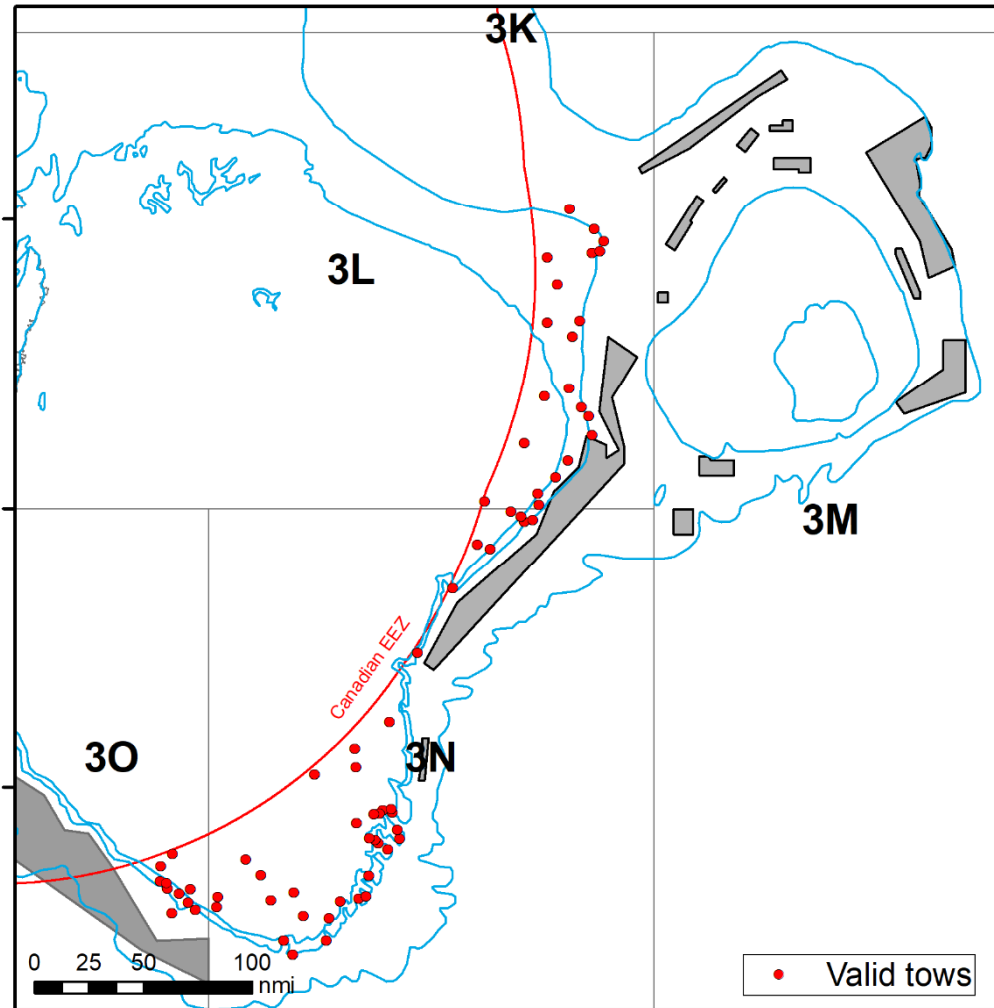


Recorded in 59 tows of
184 tows

No significant catches

Canadian surveys

Data Groundfish Survey 2020



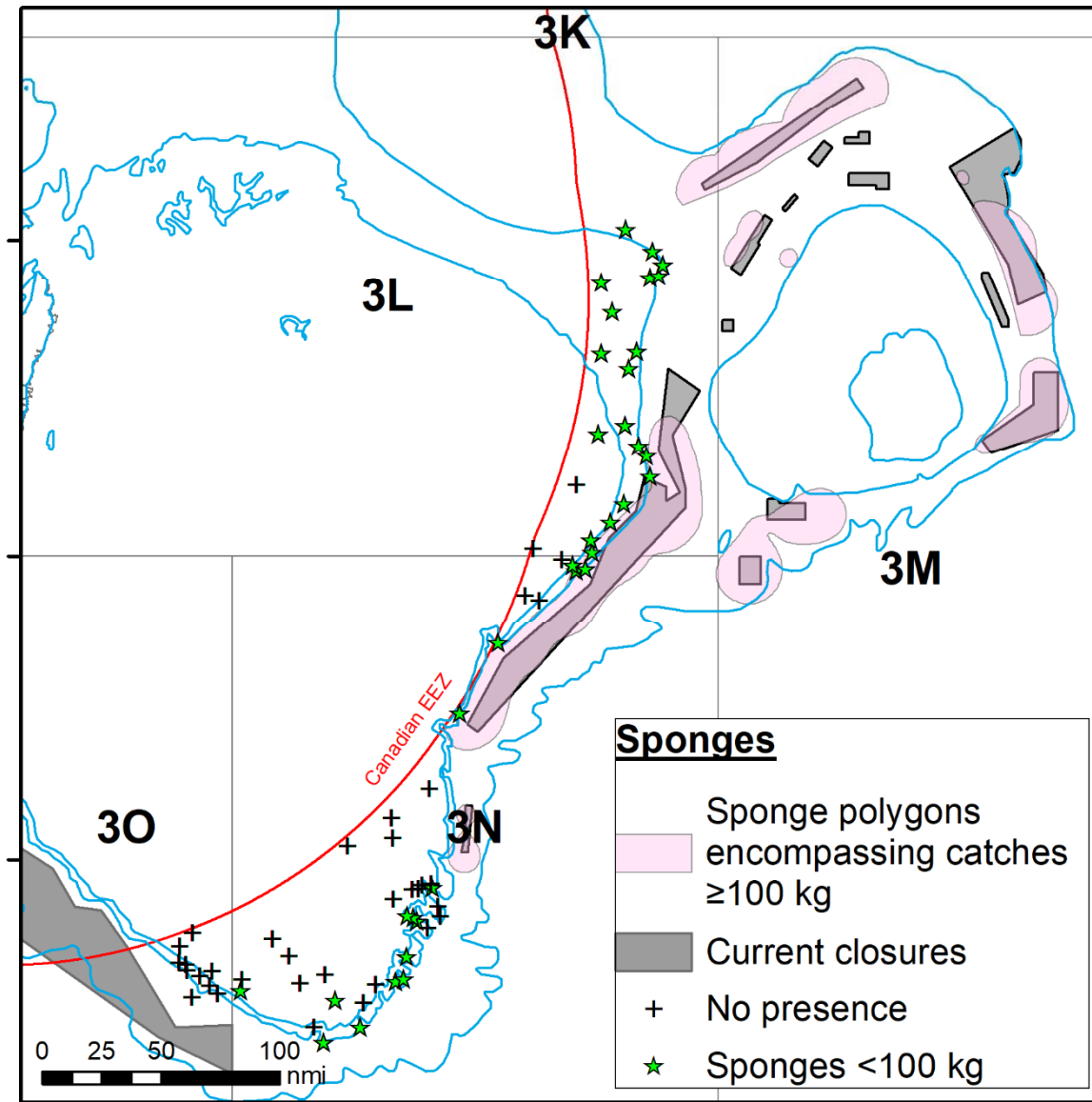
Due to the pandemic situation during 2020, Spring surveys were cancelled.

Only 2019 Fall data presented

- DFO-NL RV survey
- NAFO Divs. 3LNO
- Depth range: 42 - 684 m

Tows: 71 (all valid)

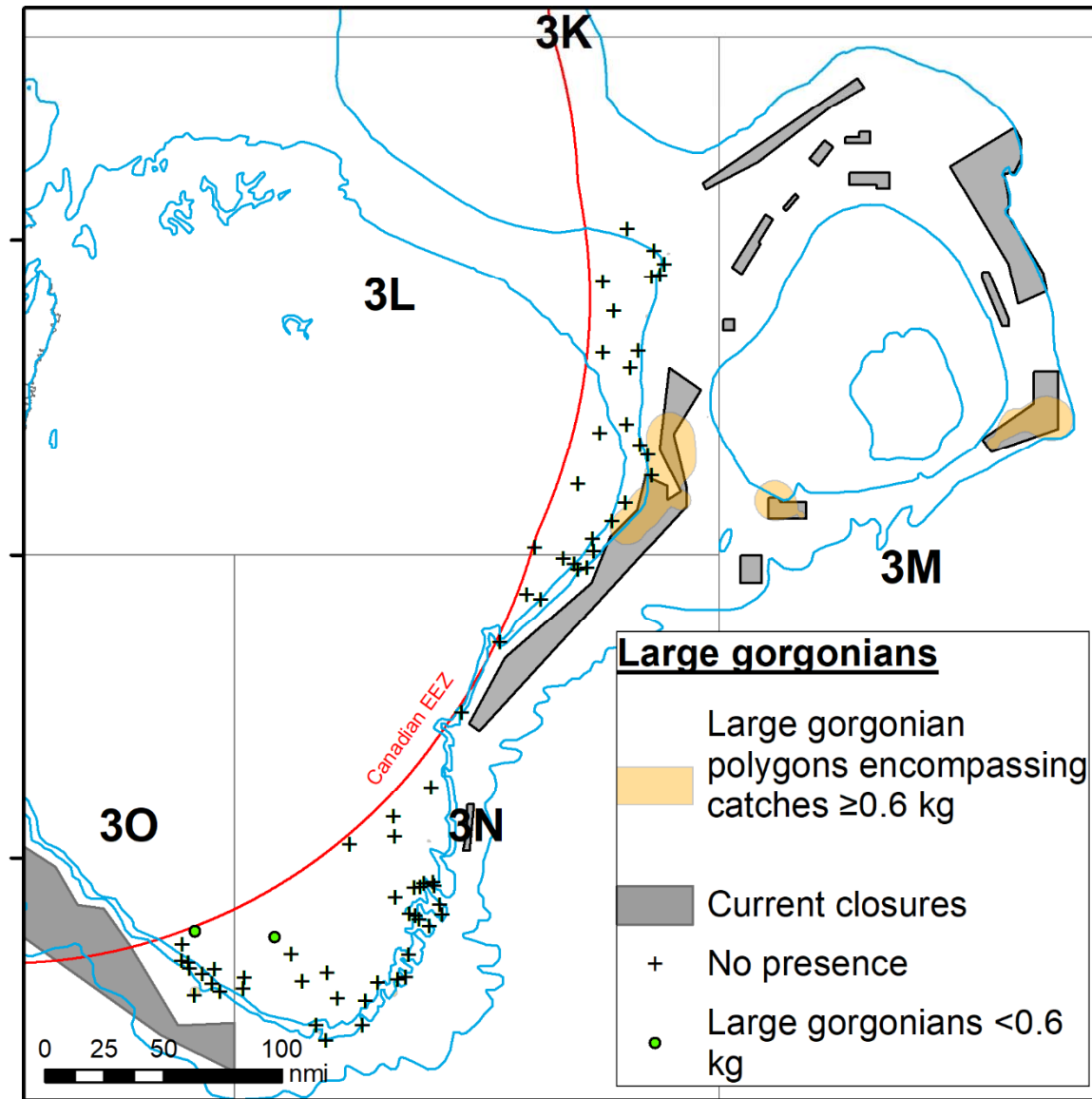
Sponges



Recorded in 35 tows of
71 tows

No significant catches

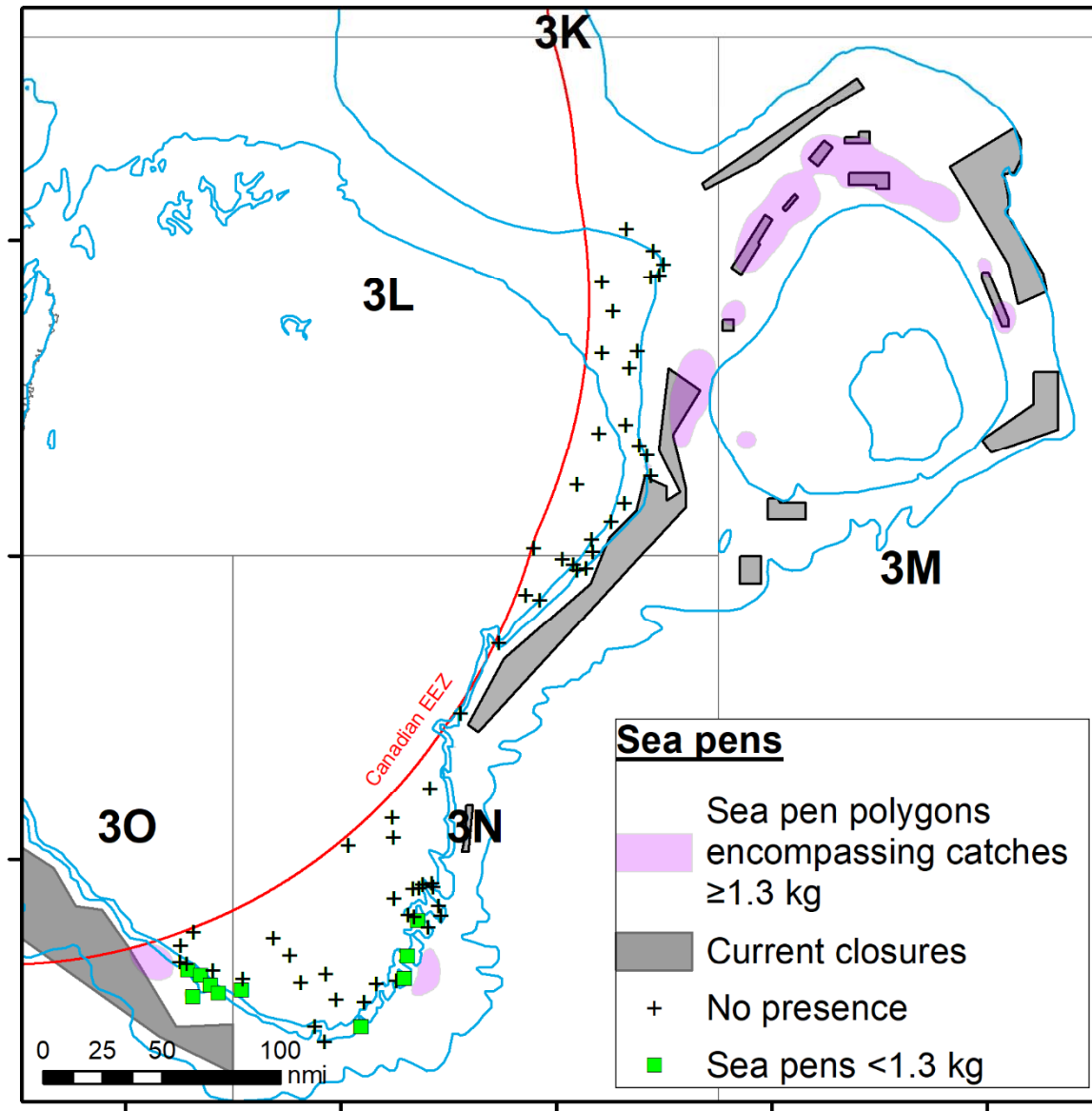
Large gorgonians



Recorded in 2 tows of
71 tows

No significant catches

Sea pens



Recorded in 10 tows of
71 tows

No significant catches

Summary of deep-water corals and sponges records for the NRA from 2020 EU-Spain and Portugal survey and 2019 Fall Canadian surveys.

EU-Spain and Portugal data 2020	Presence Significant and Non-Significant (# of tows)	Total Tows (% of tows)	Significant Concentrations (# of tows)	Significant Concentrations (% of tows)	Significant Concentrations inside KDE corresponding polygon
Sponges	47	25.5%	0	0%	0
Large Gorgonians	2	1%	0	0%	0
Small Gorgonians	15	8.15%	0	0%	0
Sea Pens	59	32%	0	0%	0
Canadian data 2019 (Fall)					
Sponges	35	49%	0	0%	0
Large Gorgonians	2	2.8%	0	0%	0
Sea Pens	10	14%	0	0%	0