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**Opportunities for Improving Inclusion of Fisheries-Based Knowledge in Marine Spatial Management Practices**

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Marine spatial planning efforts, including the Regional Planning Bodies' development of ocean plans in the United States, often rely on characterizing existing ocean uses in order to identify locations that are suitable for development. However, the product of these efforts is often a simple snapshot of fishing activity over a given period of time. Fishermen frequently have to change fishing locations intra- and interannually due to factors including environmental conditions, fuel prices, spawning activity, and climate change, and consider their areas of access to include historic fishing grounds even when they do not fish in a specific area in a certain time period. Projects that nip and tuck at this access can have serious impacts to: (1) fishing participants and communities, in terms of overall catch limits, market stability, infrastructure support, and fairness; and (2) the environment, including changes in bycatch composition, habitat impacts from concentration of fishing effort, and resultant ecosystem-level effects. These conditions make it extremely difficult to include fisheries data in typical spatial planning processes, and to accurately assess the impacts of a given project. It is largely ineffective to allocate fisheries' access based upon areas of a map, like one might with other user groups; therefore, the full range of potential impacts have often been overlooked both in regional planning efforts and in the review of individual offshore projects in recent years.

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