

B.C.'s Globally Unique Hexactinellid Sponge Reefs now have greater protection from
Bottom Trawling

The 2006-07 Groundfish Trawl Management Plan reveals that DFO has expanded protection for the 9,000 year old glass sponges thought to be unique to British Columbia.

While four sponge reefs in Hecate Strait were protected in 2002, analysis of trawl observer data by Living Oceans Society revealed that the closures were too small and did not incorporate large sections of the reefs. Multibeam surveys by the Geological Survey of Canada between 2003 and 2005 confirmed our research. The move by DFO to protect all of these four large reefs is commendable, and we look forward to similar protection for B.C.'s deep sea corals.

To learn more about the Hexactinellid Sponges and BC's Deep Sea Corals, click here (please link the "click here" to this link on our website:

http://www.livingoceans.org/fisheries/bc_coral.shtml