

NOAA
FISHERIES

Compliance Guide for Commercial Fisherman off Washington, Oregon, and California

A plain language guide to the changes in closed areas resulting from
Amendment 28 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

DECEMBER 2019

This document serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with
section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.



INTRODUCTION

NOAA Fisheries published a final rule on November 19, 2019 (84 FR 63966) implementing changes to area closures for commercial vessels fishing in Federal waters off Washington, Oregon, and California, effective January 1, 2020.

This final rule:

- Establishes the Deep-water Ecosystem Conservation Area (DECA) closure (>3,500 meters);
- Changes the coastwide network of essential fish habitat conservation areas (EFHCAs).
- Removes the groundfish bottom trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (trawl RCA) off of Oregon and California and replaces it with a tool called Block Area Closures (BACs).
- Includes clarifications regarding regulations for vessels fishing with limited entry midwater trawl gear.

Closed areas revised by Amendment 28 are specific to gear types used, so do not necessarily apply to everyone. See the next page for sections of this guide that may apply to you.



GUIDE NAVIGATION

VARIOUS GEAR TYPES

PAGE REFERENCE

COMMERCIAL

SECTION 1: *Page 4*

Bottom Gear | Read Section 1 if you fish with any commercial gears designed to contact the bottom in federal waters off the coast of California.

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COMMERCIAL BOTTOM TRAWL

SECTION 1: *Page 4*
SECTION 2: *Page 5*

Bottom Trawl Gear | Read Sections 1 and 2 if you fish with bottom trawl gear in federal water off the West Coast.

GROUNDFISH BOTTOM TRAWL

SECTION 1: *Page 4*
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Groundfish Bottom Trawl Gear | Read Sections 1 through 3 if you fish with limited entry bottom trawl gear in the groundfish fishery off the West Coast.

GROUNDFISH MIDWATER TRAWL

SECTION 4: *Page 14*

Groundfish Midwater Trawl | Read Section 4 for regulatory text clarifications that affect groundfish midwater trawl vessels.



SECTION 1

Deep-water Ecosystem Conservation Area

A new closed area for vessels fishing with bottom contacting gears.

This final rule created a new deep-water closure to prohibit fishing with certain gears to protect deep-water habitats, including deep sea corals. This closure covers over 123,000 square miles and includes all federal waters (from 3 nautical miles to 200 nautical miles offshore) south of Mendocino Ridge, and seaward (west) of approximately 1,900 fathoms (see Figure 1).

Q: What fishing activities are prohibited in the Deep-water Ecosystem Conservation Area?

A: *This closure prohibits vessels from fishing with any gear designed to contact the bottom of the ocean. We define these gear types as “bottom contact gear.” The existing regulatory definition of bottom contact gear includes, but is not limited to, bottom trawl, dredge, long-leader hook and line gear, and fixed gears like longline, trap or pot, set net, and stationary hook-and-line gears.*

If you fish with non-trawl gears, this is the only Section of this guide that applies to you. Other closed areas in your fishing area remain unchanged.

Q: What important ocean features or habitats does the Deep-water Ecosystem Conservation Area protect?

A: *The Deep-water Ecosystem Conservation Area is a precautionary closure that protects sensitive deep-sea ecosystems, such as deep-sea corals, from potential damage from fishing with bottom contact gear. Our analysis indicates that no fishing with bottom contact gear occurs in the conservation area. However, deep-sea ecosystems are fragile and slow to recover. To prevent fishing activity with bottom contact gear from expanding into this area in the future, vessels are prohibited from using bottom contact gears after January 1, 2020. Vessel owners interested in experimental or prospective fishing opportunities in this area must apply for an exempted fishing permit.*

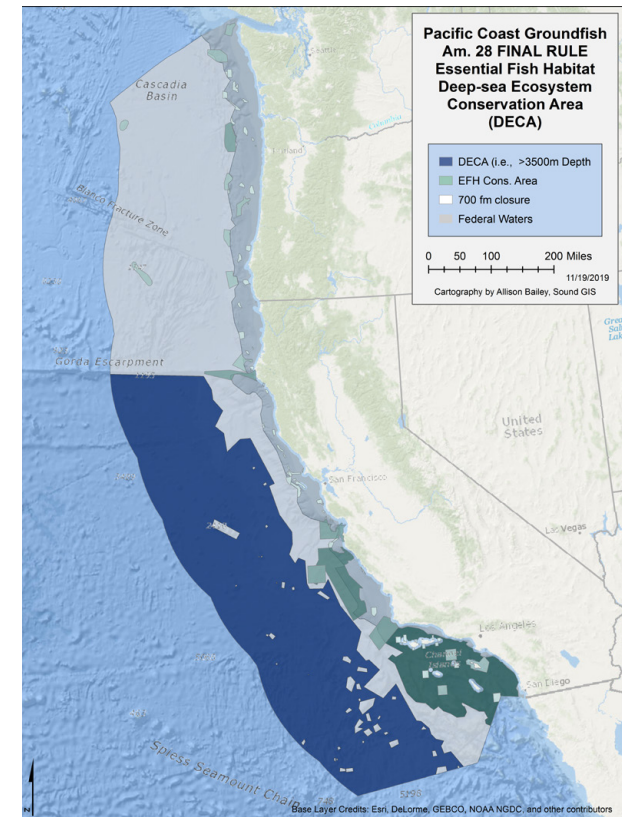


Figure 1: The new Deep-water Ecosystem Conservation Area is closed to bottom-contacting gear.

SECTION 2

Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas

New and revised areas closed to bottom trawling

This final rule adjusted the coastwide network of habitat closures, called essential fish habitat conservation areas, or EFHCAs, off the U.S West Coast (see Figure 2). New closures protect a variety of ocean floor types designated as groundfish essential fish habitat. Changes revise existing and create new EFHCAs where bottom trawling is prohibited. Bottom trawling damages groundfish essential fish habitat.

Q: What fishing activities are prohibited in EFHCA closures?

A: Vessels are prohibited from fishing with bottom trawl gear in EFHCAs. Vessels that participate in a number of fisheries use bottom trawl gear. The EFHCA closures apply to vessels that use bottom trawl to fish for:

- Groundfish (i.e. in the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota Program);
- Sea cucumber;
- Pink shrimp;
- Ridgeback prawn; and
- California halibut.

Some existing EFHCAs prohibit fishing with bottom contact gear, and none of those EFHCAs are revised with this action. Closures with this gear restriction are included in Table 1.

Q: How did this rule change the groundfish EFHCAs?

A: This action creates new EFHCAs and revises existing EFHCAs.

- Twenty seven new areas are closed off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California.
- Nineteen existing areas are revised, including closures, re-openings, and a re-location.

These EFHCA changes close an additional 12,000 square miles of federal water and re-open over 200 square miles of federal water to bottom trawl gear, for a coastwide net total of 10,000 square miles newly closed.

Q: Are there changes to EFHCAs in the federal waters next to my home state?

A: Yes. This action changes EFHCAs along the entire coast. See Table 1 below, organized from north to south, to see what EFHCAs have changed or been added in the federal waters next to your home state.

See Table 1 on the next page, organized from north to south, to see what EFHCAs have changed or been added in the federal waters next to your home state.

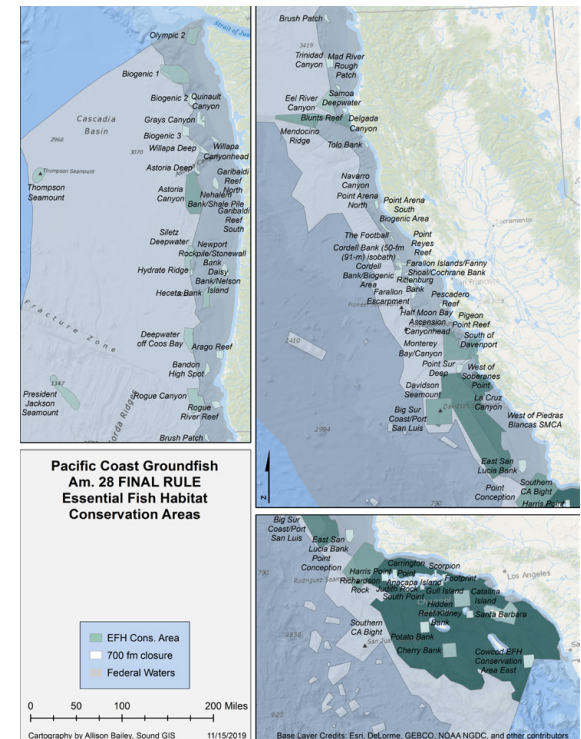


Figure 2: Changes to the existing coastwide network of essential fish habitat conservation areas.

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Table 1: Complete list of all EFHCAs (after Amendment 28 changes) and the gear restrictions that apply within them.

State:	Gear Restriction:	EFHCA Name (ordered north to south; BOLD = new, <u>Underline</u> = revised)
Coastwide	Bottom trawl - Fishing with bottom trawl gear is prohibited	Seaward of the boundary line approximating the <u>700 fm depth contour</u> . The 700 fm depth contour line has minor changes to the latitude and longitude coordinates that define it off northern California (Spanish Canyon) and off Monterey Bay, California.
Washington (North of 46°16' N. lat.)	Bottom trawl - Fishing with bottom trawl gear is prohibited	Olympic 2, Biogenic 1, Biogenic 2, Quinault Canyon , <u>Grays Canyon</u> , Biogenic 3, Willapa Canyonhead , and Willapa Deep
Oregon (46°16' N. lat. to 42°00' N. lat.)	Bottom trawl - Fishing with bottom trawl gear is prohibited	Astoria Deep , <u>Astoria Canyon</u> , <u>Nehalem Bank/Shale Pile</u> , Garibaldi Reef North , Garibaldi Reef South , Siletz Deepwater, <u>Daisy Bank/Nelson Island</u> , <u>Newport Rockpile/Stonewall Bank</u> , Hydrate Ridge , <u>Heceta Bank</u> , Deepwater off Coos Bay, Arago Reef , <u>Bandon High Spot</u> , Rogue Canyon, and Rogue River Reef
Oregon (46°16' N. lat. to 42°00' N. lat.)	Bottom contacting gear - Fishing with bottom contacting gear is prohibited	Thompson Seamount, President Jackson Seamount
California - off northern (42°00' N. lat. to 40°10' N. lat.)	Bottom trawl - Fishing with bottom trawl gear, except demersal seine, is prohibited	Brush Patch , Trinidad Canyon , Mad River Rough Patch , Samoa Deepwater , <u>Eel River Canyon</u> , <u>Blunts Reef</u> , <u>Mendocino Ridge</u>
California - off north-central (40°10' N. lat. to Point San Pedro at 37°35.67' N. lat.)	Bottom trawl - Fishing with bottom trawl gear, except demersal seine, is prohibited	<u>Delgada Canyon</u> , Tolo Bank, Navarro Canyon , Point Arena North, <u>Point Arena South</u> <u>Biogenic Area</u> , The Football , Gobbler's Knob , Point Reyes Reef , <u>Cordell Bank/Biogenic Area</u> , Rittenburg Bank , <u>Farallon Islands/Fanny Shoal/Cochrane Bank</u> , Farallon Escarpment
California - off south-central and southern, south of Point Arena 38°57.50' N. lat.	Bottom contacting gear - Fishing with bottom contacting gear is prohibited	Cordell Bank (50-fm (91-m) isobath), Harris Point, Richardson Rock, Scorpion, Painted Cave, Anacapa Island, Carrington Point, Judith Rock, Skunk Point, Footprint, Gull Island, South Point, and Santa Barbara

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Table 1: (Complete list of all EFHCAs (after Amendment 28 changes) and the gear restrictions that apply within them.

State:	Gear Restriction:	EFHCA Name (ordered north to south; BOLD = new, <u>Underline</u> = revised)
California - off south-central (Point San Pedro at 37°35.67' N. lat. to 34°27' N. lat.)	Bottom trawl - Fishing with bottom trawl gear, except demersal seine, is prohibited	Half Moon Bay, Pescadero Reef , Pigeon Point Reef , Ascension Canyonhead , South of Davenport , <u>Monterey Bay/Canyon</u> , West of Sobranes Point , Point Sur Deep , Big Sur Coast/Port San Luis , La Cruz Canyon , West of Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area , East San Lucia Bank
California - off south-central (36°00' N. lat. to 34°27' N. lat.)	Bottom contacting gear - Fishing with bottom contact gear (defined at § 660.11), or any other gear that is deployed deeper than 500-fm (914-m), is prohibited	Davidson Seamount
California - off southern (south of 34°27' N. lat.)	Bottom trawl - Fishing with bottom trawl gear, except demersal seine, is prohibited	Point Conception, Hidden Reef/Kidney Bank (within Cowcod Conservation Area West), Catalina Island, <u>Potato Bank (within Cowcod Conservation Area West)</u> , Cherry Bank (within Cowcod Conservation Area West), Cowcod EFHCA Conservation Area East, and Southern California Bight .

Q: What are the boundaries of these EFHCAs?

A: The EFHCA boundaries are defined with coordinates. For 13 EFHCAs, the state water line (3 nautical miles offshore) defines part of the boundary of the closed area. Digital downloads of latitude and longitude coordinates for all EFHCAs, including new and revised EFHCAs, are available on our website. This digital download has all of the latitude and longitude

coordinates, organized from north to south. You can transfer this data file to your vessel plotters. Download the file, open it, scroll down to the latitudes that you fish, copy and paste those coordinates into your plotter software. Problems? Contact us using the information at the end of this guide.

For interested parties, NOAA Fisheries has also generated shapefiles of all the closed areas described in this guide that go into effect on January 1, 2020. These files may be input into mapping software to illustrate the shape, size, and location of these area closures. See "For More Information" on page 16 for links to these resources.

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SECTION 3

Rockfish Conservation Area and Block Area Closures

Changes to closed areas where limited entry bottom trawling is prohibited

This final rule removes area closures for vessels fishing with groundfish bottom trawl gear off Oregon and California. These changes include: (1) re-opening the groundfish bottom trawl Rockfish Conservation Area, or trawl RCA (see Figures 3a through 3c), and (2) adding a new management tool that may be used to close areas on a smaller scale called Block Area Closures, or BACs.

The trawl RCA previously covered depths of approximately 100 fm to either 150 fm or 200 fathoms coastwise (defined with boundary lines not the bathymetry). After January 1, 2020:

- **there will be no change to the trawl RCA off Washington (North of 46° 16' N. lat.)** – vessels must stow groundfish bottom trawl gear if the vessel is operating (anything other than continuous transiting through) in the trawl RCA; large footrope gear is prohibited shoreward of the trawl RCA. See Figure 3a.
- **this action removes the trawl RCA off Oregon and California (South of 46° 16' N. lat.), re-opening federal waters** – large footrope gear is prohibited shoreward of the 100 fm line; between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat., selective flatfish trawl gear is required shoreward of the 100 fm line and fishing with all other types of small footrope trawl gear is prohibited in that area.
- **NOAA Fisheries may implement BACs off Oregon and California (South of 46° 16' N. lat.)**. This final rule does not implement any BACs at this time, but the Pacific Fishery Management

Council (Council) may recommend that NOAA Fisheries implement BACs in the future to meet various management goals.

Q: Which groundfish vessels are affected by the changes to the trawl RCA?

A: *The changes in this action do not directly affect groundfish vessel operations in federal waters off Washington. This means that the trawl RCA is still closed to groundfish bottom trawling and that the trawl RCA does not apply to vessels fishing with midwater trawl gear during the primary whiting fishery. Large footrope trawl gear is still prohibited shoreward of the 100 fm line.*

Groundfish vessels that have a limited entry permit with a trawl endorsement and fish with bottom trawl gear, including large and small footrope bottom trawl gears will now be allowed to fish the areas described in Table 2 (unless otherwise prohibited by other applicable state or federal rules). Depth-based restrictions regarding footrope size remain unchanged, as described above.

Q: What area is re-opened?

A: *The past trawl RCA boundaries in the federal waters off Oregon and California in 2019 are described in Table 2 below. Bottom trawling was prohibited in this area. After January 1, 2020, approximately 2,000 square miles of historical fishing grounds are re-opened to groundfish bottom trawl fishing.*

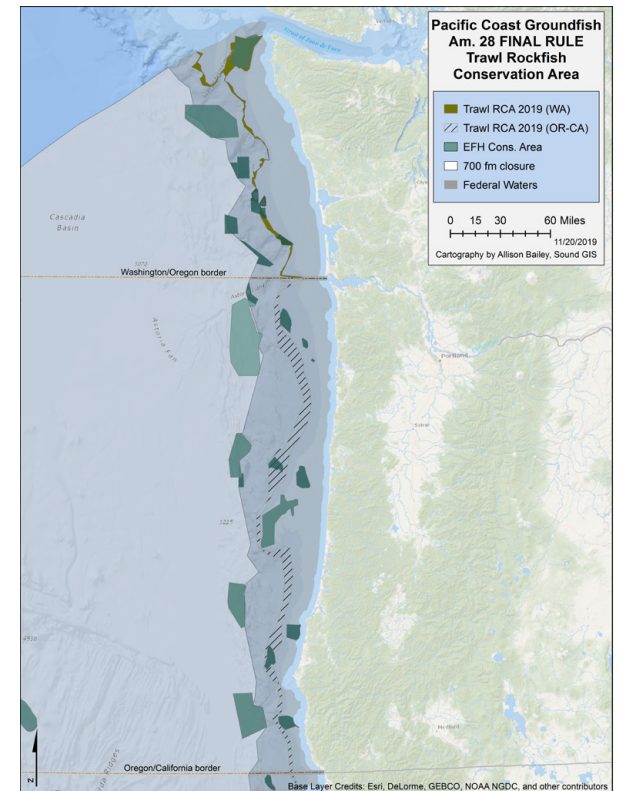


Figure 3a: The trawl RCA closed approximately 4,000 square miles off Oregon and California. Accounting for overlapping closures that remain, approximately 2,000 square miles is re-opened to groundfish bottom trawling.

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SECTION 3 | Rockfish Conservation Area and Block Area Closures - *Changes to closed areas where limited entry bottom trawling is prohibited*

Table 2: Trawl RCA boundaries for the areas that are re-opened to groundfish bottom trawl fishing off Oregon and California on January 1, 2020.

State/Latitudes	Trawl RCA Boundaries
Oregon - 46°16' N. lat. to 45°46' N. lat.	100 fm line - 150 fm line
Oregon and N. California - 45°46' N. lat. to 40°10' N. lat.	100 fm line - modified 200 fm line
California - South of 40°10' N. lat.	100 fm line - 150 fm line along mainland coast; shoreline to 150 fm line around islands.

There are no changes to any other gear or area restrictions that overlap with the area previously closed with the trawl RCA. For example, the Daisy Bank EFHCA off central Oregon is closed to bottom trawling and overlaps with the trawl RCA. Daisy Bank remains closed, even though the trawl RCA is re-opened. The “approximately 2,000 square miles” calculation takes into account areas that are re-opened by the trawl RCA but remain closed to groundfish bottom trawling by some other mechanism (e.g., EFHCAs, etc.).

Generally, areas that used to be closed by the trawl RCA are re-opened to large and small footrope groundfish bottom trawl gear, unless otherwise restricted by other overlapping closed areas or gear restrictions. See Section 4 for clarifications on status quo restrictions for vessels fishing with midwater trawl gear.

Please note that the boundary lines approximating depth contours are still defined in regulations, are unchanged, and may be used to define BACs (See Q&A's regarding BACs below).

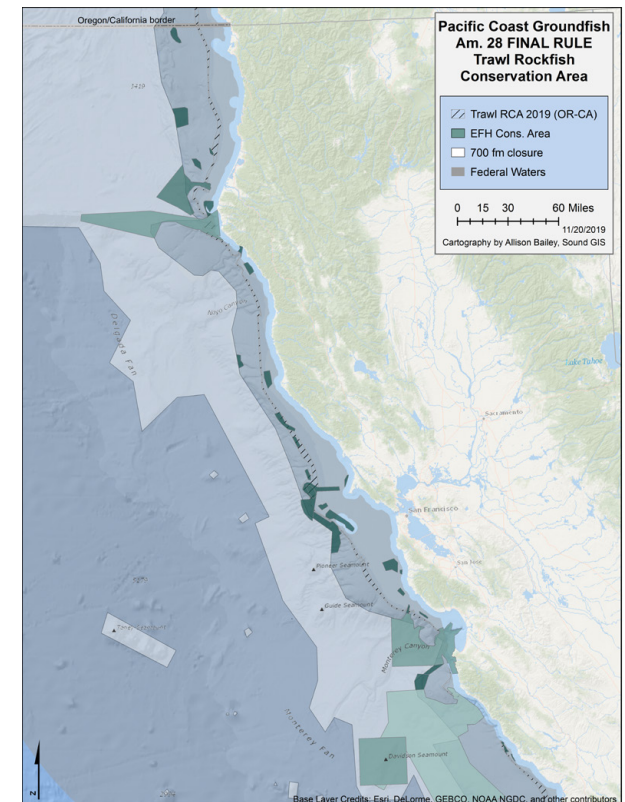


Figure 3b: The trawl RCA closed approximately 4,000 square miles off Oregon and California. Accounting for overlapping closures that remain, approximately 2,000 square miles is re-opened to groundfish bottom trawling.

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Q: What is a Block Area Closure (BAC)?

A: The Council may recommend that NOAA Fisheries close certain areas, called Block Area Closures (BAC), to bottom trawl fishing to meet various management goals, including preventing overfishing or reducing impacts of fishing on protected species. Areas will be bounded on the north and south by a line of latitude or the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) boundary, and on the east and west by boundary lines that approximate depth contours. See Table 3 for a full list of the potential boundaries. We may also implement BACs either “seaward” or “shoreward” of a certain depth contour. BAC seaward of a depth contour would result in a closed area where the western boundary would be the EEZ. A BAC shoreward of or a depth contour would result in a closed area where the eastern boundary would be 3 nm from shore.

Q: What fishing activities are prohibited in BACs?

A: BACs, when implemented, prohibit fishing with bottom trawl gear. Within BACs, vessels are also prohibited from operating, except for the purposes of continuous transiting, with bottom trawl gear on board that is not stowed.

BACs apply to your vessel if:

- The vessel is registered to a limited entry permit with a trawl endorsement and;
- You have bottom trawl gear on board.
- If you are operating in a BAC, your bottom trawl gear must be stowed unless you are transiting

through the BAC at a constant heading and speed. If the vessel operates within a BAC for any other purpose besides continuous transit then all bottom trawl gear must be stowed.

Q: When will a BAC be closed?

A: No BACs are closed on January 1, 2020. The Council may recommend that NOAA Fisheries close one or more BACs at any Council meeting under the groundfish inseason agenda item. NOAA Fisheries will publish a Federal Register Notice announcing the BAC and the effective dates. The Council can recommend BACs be in effect for a limited time period, or recommend that the BAC stay in effect until removed through Council action.

Q: Why will a BAC (or BACs) be closed?

A: BACs may be used to meet various fishery management goals. These goals include reducing protected species (such as Chinook salmon) bycatch and preventing overfishing for groundfish stocks. Beginning in 2020, BACs can only prohibit groundfish bottom trawling.

Q: How will I know if any BACs are in effect?

A: We will publish the BAC boundaries and effective dates in the Federal Register, announce the BACs through the “wcgroundfish” e-mail list server and include a bulletin on our website. More details on the process for recommending and implementing BACs is described in the final rule.

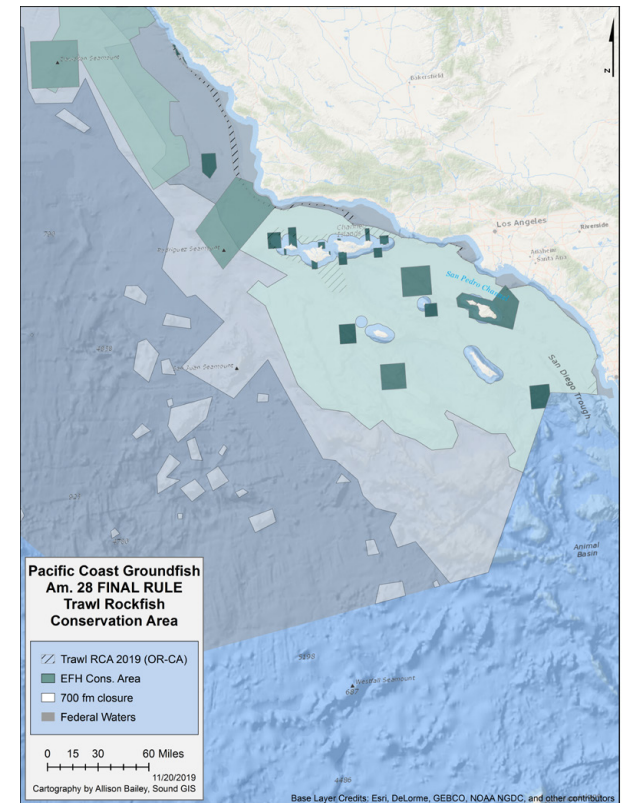


Figure 3c: The trawl RCA closed approximately 4,000 square miles off Oregon and California. Accounting for overlapping closures that remain, approximately 2,000 square miles is re-opened to groundfish bottom trawling.

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Table 3: Geographic coordinates (Latitudes) and depth-based boundary lines that may be used to define the boundaries of BACs off Oregon and Washington

State	Commonly Used Geographic Coordinates (50 CFR 660.11) (North-South boundaries)	Boundary Lines Approximating Depth Contours (50 CFR 660.71-74) (East-West boundaries)
Oregon (OR)	Columbia River—46°16.00' N. lat., Cape Falcon, OR—45°46.00' N. lat., Cape Lookout, OR—45°20.25' N. lat., Cascade Head, OR—45°03.83' N. lat., Heceta Head, OR—44°08.30' N. lat., Cape Arago, OR—43°20.83' N. lat., Cape Blanco, OR—42°50.00' N. lat., Humbug Mountain—42°40.50' N. lat., Marck Arch, OR—42°13.67' N. lat.	20 fm (37 m), 25 fm (46 m), 25 fm (46 m) modified, 30 fm (55 m), 40 fm (73 m), 50 fm (91 m), 60 fm (110 m), 75 fm (137 m), 100 fm (183 m), 125 fm (229 m), 150 fm (274 m), 150 fm (274 m) modified, 180 fm (329 m) coastwide, 200 fm (366 m), 200 fm (366 m) modified, 250 fm (457 m), 250 fm (457 m) modified
California (CA)	Oregon/California border—42°00.00' N. lat., Cape Mendocino, CA—40°30.00' N. lat., North/South management line—40°10.00' N. lat., Cape Vizcaino, CA—39°44.00' N. lat., Point Arena, CA—38°57.50' N. lat., Point San Pedro, CA—37°35.67' N. lat., Pigeon Point, CA—37°11.00' N. lat., Ano Nuevo, CA—37°07.00' N. lat., Point Lopez, CA—36°00.00' N. lat., Point Conception, CA—34°27.00' N. lat., U.S./Mexico Border, southern bound of EEZ	30 fm (55 m), 40 fm (73 m), 50 fm (91 m), 60 fm (110 m), 75 fm (137 m), 100 fm (183 m), 125 fm (229 m), 150 fm (274 m), 150 fm (274 m) modified (northern CA only), 180 fm (329 m) coastwide, 180 fm (329 m) modified, 200 fm (366 m), 200 fm (366 m) modified, 250 fm (457 m), 250 fm (457 m) modified

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Q: Do these regulation changes mean I need to change my previous operations shoreward or seaward of the old trawl RCA?

A: *If you used to fish in federal waters off Oregon and California and shoreward of the old trawl RCA, this rule does not change anything about your fishing operations.*

If you used to fish in federal waters off Oregon and California and seaward of the old trawl RCA, you were required to transit through the trawl RCA on a constant heading and speed. You will no longer have to transit through on a constant heading and speed when going to fish seaward of the 150 fm line or the modified 200 fm line because there is no trawl RCA.

We do note that the trawl RCA served as a landmark and boundary for some gear restrictions. For example, large footrope trawl gear was prohibited shoreward of the trawl RCA. In the federal waters off Oregon and California, those gear restrictions are now described as shoreward of the 100 fm line. This does not reflect a change in substance of those footrope size restrictions, only a change in how we describe the boundary of those gear restrictions. Nothing has changed in the federal waters off Washington.

See Figure 4 on the next page for a quick reference guide to depth-based gear restrictions off Washington, Oregon and California.



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SECTION 3 | Rockfish Conservation Area and Block Area Closures - Changes to closed areas where limited entry bottom trawling is prohibited

State and Latitudes	Between the 150-100 fm lines (or trawl RCA off WA) is closed to:	Shoreward of 100 fm line is closed to:
Washington – North of 46°16' N. lat.	Large footrope ^{1/} Small footrope ^{1/}	Large footrope ^{2/}
Oregon – Between 46°16' N. lat. and 42° N. lat.		Large footrope ^{2/}
Northern California – Between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat.		Large footrope ^{2/} Small footrope, other than selective flatfish trawl
Central and Southern California - South of 40°10' N. lat.	Midwater trawl ^{2/}	Large footrope ^{2/} Midwater trawl ^{2/}



^{1/} Pertinent regulations are in 50 CFR 660.130(e), as part of Groundfish Conservation Area restrictions.

^{2/} Pertinent regulations are in 50 CFR 660.130(c), as part of gear-specific management measures.

Figure 4: Quick Reference to area-specific groundfish trawl gear restrictions in federal waters off Washington, Oregon, and California

SECTION 4

Midwater Trawl Area Closures

Clarifications on status quo regulations for vessels fishing limited entry midwater trawl south of 40°10' N. lat.

There are no changes to closed areas that regulate when or where vessels can fish with limited entry midwater trawl gear to target either Pacific whiting or other groundfish stocks. However, some midwater trawl closed areas referenced the trawl RCA. We changed the regulations to remove references to the trawl RCA south of 40°10' N. lat.

Q: I fish with midwater trawl. Does this rule change anything about my fishing activity?

A: No.

Below is a summary of the regulation language change (see also 50 CFR 660.130(c)(3)):

- 2019: South of 40°10' N. lat., the trawl RCA and the area shoreward of the trawl RCA is closed to midwater trawling year-round.
- 2020 and beyond: South of 40°10' N. lat., the area shoreward of the 150 fm line is closed to midwater trawling year-round.



GLOSSARY

Groundfish bottom trawl fishery, means vessels registered to federal limited entry permits with a trawl endorsement and fishing in the Shorebased IFQ Program with bottom trawl gear. Interested parties include vessel operators, vessel owners, permit holders or owners, quota share owners, vessel account holders, etc.

Bottom contact gear, means gear designed to make contact with the ocean floor. The definition of bottom contact gear is not revised and includes, but is not limited to, bottom trawl, dredge, long-leader hook and line gear, and fixed gears like longline, trap or pot, set net, and stationary hook-and-line gears.

Digital downloads - Any discrepancy between the digital data and mapping files and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*. Any discrepancy between the digital data and mapping files and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

Final rule – The Amendment 28 final rule published in the *Federal Register* on November 19, 2019 (84 FR 63966) and can be viewed [here](#).

Boundary lines - Unless otherwise noted, all boundary lines that approximate depth contours and are defined with latitude and longitude coordinates in regulations. See those coordinates at 50 CFR 660.71-74 or download a digital coordinate file from our website. Any discrepancy between the digital data boundary lines and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

Stow or stowed, means the subject trawl gear is either stored below deck; or, if the gear cannot readily be moved, must be stowed in a secured and covered manner detached from all towing lines so that it is rendered unusable for fishing; or, if remaining on deck uncovered, must be stowed disconnected from the trawl doors with the trawl doors hung from their stanchions.

MORE INFORMATION

Browse the Amendment 28 website, which has links to lots of pertinent information, including:

- latitude and longitude coordinates (for download);
- shapefiles (for download);
- high resolution maps (link);
- the Environmental Impact Statement (link);
- and
- related WCGroundfish public notices (also called Fishery Bulletins)

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-28-pacific-coast-groundfish-fishery-management-plan>

or

<https://go.usa.gov/xp89s>

For more information on regulations contact:

Gretchen Hanshew
NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region, Seattle
Call: (206) 526-6147
E-mail: Gretchen.Hanshew@noaa.gov

Digital downloads of latitude and longitude coordinates, shapefiles, and other supporting information, including the Environmental Impact Statement and this Compliance Guide, can be found at:

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-28-pacific-coast-groundfish-fishery-management-plan

Boundary lines that approximate depth contours may be used to define Block Area Closures. You can download coordinates for these potential boundary lines in a digital format at:

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/sustainable-fisheries/west-coast-groundfish-closed-areas

To make or change your Vessel Monitoring System declaration report, or if you have enforcement questions call:

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)
West Coast Division: 206-526-6133

Interactive Voice Response system for declaration reports, installation/activation reports:

1-888-585-5518

Get a customized safety checklist of all the U.S. Coast Guard required safety equipment for your vessel at:

<http://fishsafewest.info/checklist/generator.html>

Download high-resolution maps from our website at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/amendment-28-essential-fish-habitat-final-rule-high-resolution-maps>



This compliance guide was last updated on December 12, 2019.

All photos are from NOAA Fisheries unless otherwise noted.