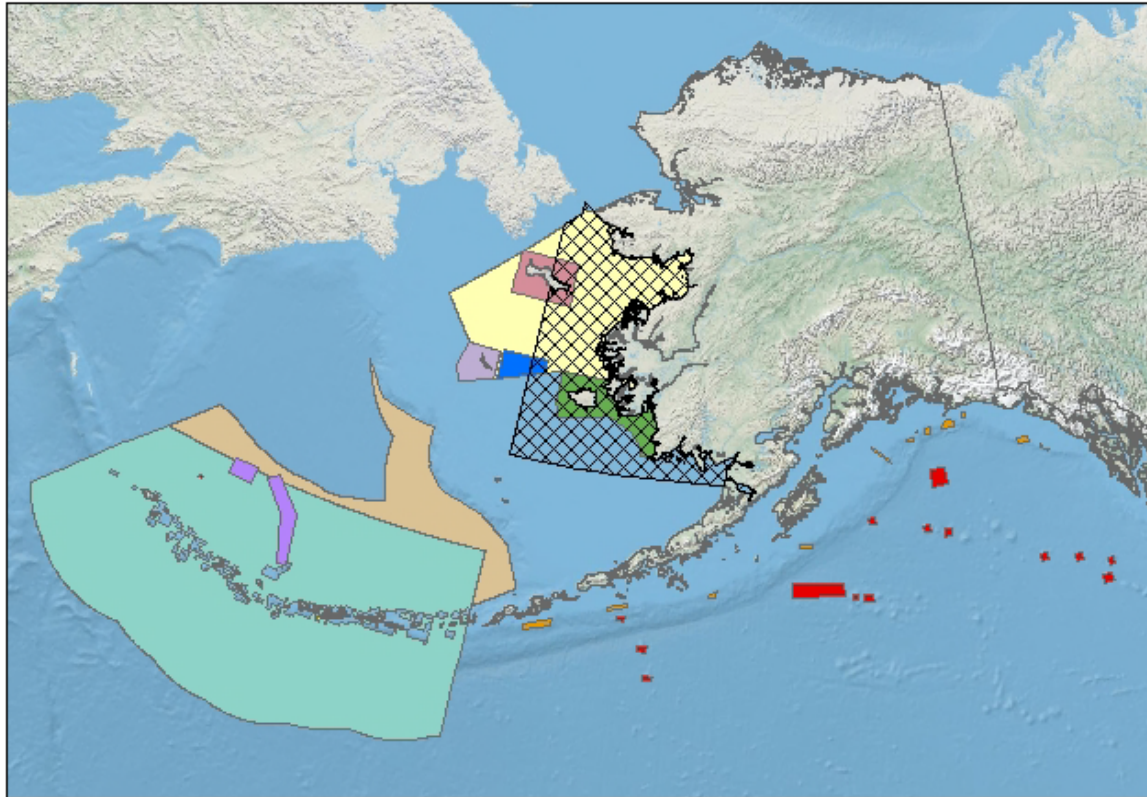















EFH Areas Protected from Fishing in the U.S. North Pacific

Section 303(a)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires NOAA Fisheries to take steps to minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects of fishing on essential fish habitat (EFH).

Fisheries works with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to protect EFH in support of healthy ecosystems and sustainable fisheries in the U.S. North Pacific Ocean.



Site Name (Acres)

| | |
|--|---|
|  Bering Sea subarea 514 (73,374,839) |  Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Areas (1,767,984) |
|  Alaska Seamount Habitat Protection Area (4,516,581) |  Modified Gear Trawl Zone (2,784,938) |
|  Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Area (93,230) |  Northern Bering Sea Research Area (52,486,158) |
|  Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area (236,826,874) |  Nunivak Island, Etolin Strait, Kuskokwim Bay (8,286,474) |
|  Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Area (39,937,296) |  St. Lawrence Island Habitat Conservation Area (7,042,936) |
|  Bowers Ridge Habitat Conservation Zone (4,480,137) |  St. Matthews Island Habitat Conservation Area (3,483,421) |
|  Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection Area (11,441) | |

Essential fish habitat (EFH) means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity

For more information on how NMFS protects essential fish habitat, visit
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/habitat-conservation/essential-fish-habitat>

EFH Areas Protected from Fishing in the U.S North Pacific Ocean

| | Site Name | Area (Acres) | Fishery Mgmt Action | FMP | 50 CFR | Regs published |
|----|--|--------------|--|--|--|---|
| 1 | Alaska Seamount Habitat Protection Area | 4,516,582 | Bottom contact gear and anchoring prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 78 & 65 GOA Groundfish Am 73 & 65 BSAI King and Tanner Crab Am 16 & 12 Scallop Am 7 & 9 Salmon in AK EEZ Am 7 & 8 | 679.7 (a)(20), 679.22 (a)(12), 679.22 (b)(8) | 6/28/2006 |
| 2 | Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Area | 93,230 | Bottom contact gear and anchoring prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 78 & 65 GOA Groundfish Am 73 & 65 BSAI King and Tanner Crab Am 16 & 12 Scallop Am 7 & 9 Salmon in AK EEZ Am 7 & 8 | 679.2, 679.7 (a)(20), 679.22 (a)(13) | 6/28/2006 11/9/2007 |
| 3 | Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area | 236,826,873 | Nonpelagic trawl gear prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 78 & 65 GOA Groundfish Am 73 & 65 BSAI King and Tanner Crab Am 16 & 12 Scallop Am 7 & 9 Salmon in AK EEZ Am 7 & 8 | 679.2, and 679.22 (a)(14) | 6/28/2006 11/9/2007 2/19/2008 |
| 4 | Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Area | 39,937,297 | Nonpelagic trawl gear prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 89 | 679.22 (a)(16) | 7/25/2008 |
| 5 | Bering Sea Subarea | 73,374,839 | Modified nonpelagic trawl gear required for directed flatfish fishing | BSAI Groundfish Am 94 | 679.7 (c)(5) | 10/6/2010 |
| 6 | Bowers Ridge Habitat Conservation Zone | 4,480,137 | Mobile bottom contact gear prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 78 & 65 GOA Groundfish Am 73 & 65 BSAI King and Tanner Crab Am 16 & 12 Scallop Am 7 & 9 Salmon in AK EEZ Am 7 & 8 | 679.22 (a)(15) | 6/28/2006 |
| 7 | Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection Area | 11,442 | Bottom contact gear and anchoring prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 78 & 65 GOA Groundfish Am 73 & 65 BSAI King and Tanner Crab Am 16 & 12 Scallop Am 7 & 9 Salmon in AK EEZ Am 7 & 8 | 679.7 (a)(20), 679.22 (b)(9) | 6/28/2006 |
| 8 | Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Area | 1,767,985 | Nonpelagic trawl gear prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 78 & 65 GOA Groundfish Am 73 & 65 BSAI King and Tanner Crab Am 16 & 12 Scallop Am 7 & 9 Salmon in AK EEZ Am 7 & 8 | 679.22 (b)(10) | 6/28/2006 |
| 9 | Modified Gear Trawl Zone | 2,784,938 | Directed fishing for groundfish prohibited unless using modified nonpelagic trawl gear | BSAI Groundfish Am 94 | 679.22 (a)(21) | 10/6/2010 |
| 10 | Northern Bering Sea Research Area | 52,486,158 | Nonpelagic trawl gear prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 89 | 679.22 (a)(17) | 7/25/2008 10/6/2010 |
| 11 | Nunivak Island, Etolin Strait, and Kuskokwim Bay Habitat Conservation Area | 8,286,474 | Nonpelagic trawl gear prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 89 | 679.22 (a)(18) | 7/25/2008 |
| 12 | St. Lawrence Island Habitat Conservation Area | 6,033,426 | Nonpelagic trawl gear prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 89 | 679.22 (a)(19) | 7/25/2008 |
| 13 | St. Matthews Island Habitat Conservation Area | 3,483,421 | Nonpelagic trawl gear prohibited | BSAI Groundfish Am 89 | 679.22 (a)(20) | 7/25/2008 10/6/2010 |

Bottom contact gear means nonpelagic trawl, dredge, dinglebar, pot, or hook-and-line gear.

Mobile bottom contact gear means nonpelagic trawl, dredge, or dinglebar gear.

Modified nonpelagic trawl gear means gear modified to minimize impacts to bottom habitats and meeting the standards established at §679.24 (f).



Measures to Protect EFH from Fishing Impacts in the U.S. North Pacific

Alaska Seamount Habitat Protection Area

Established in 2006 Amendments 78 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI); Amendments 73 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA); Amendments 16 and 12 to the FMP for BSAI King and Tanner Crabs; Amendments 7 and 9 to the FMP for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska; Amendments 7 and 8 to the FMP for Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska.

§ 679.7 Prohibitions. (a)(20) *Anchoring in a habitat protection area.* Anchor any federally permitted vessel in any habitat protection area described in Tables 22, 23, and 26 of this part.

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(12) *Alaska Seamount Habitat Protection Areas.* No federally permitted vessel may fish with bottom contact gear in the Alaska Seamount Habitat Protection Areas.

(b)(8) *Alaska Seamount Habitat Protection Areas.* No federally permitted vessel may fish with bottom contact gear in the Alaska Seamount Habitat Protection Areas.

Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Area

Established in 2006 Amendments 78 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI); Amendments 73 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA); Amendments 16 and 12 to the FMP for BSAI King and Tanner Crabs; Amendments 7 and 9 to the FMP for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska; Amendments 7 and 8 to the FMP for Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska.

§ 679.7 Prohibitions. (a)(20) *Anchoring in a habitat protection area.* Anchor any federally permitted vessel in any habitat protection area described in Tables 22, 23, and 26 of this part.

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(13) *Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Areas.* No federally permitted vessel may fish with bottom contact gear in the Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Areas.

Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area

Established in 2006 Amendments 78 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI); Amendments 73 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA); Amendments 16 and 12 to the FMP for BSAI King and Tanner Crabs; Amendments 7 and 9 to the FMP for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska; Amendments 7 and 8 to the FMP for Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska.

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(14) *Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area.* Except within those areas identified as opened to nonpelagic trawl gear fishing in Table 24 to this part, no federally permitted vessel may fish with nonpelagic trawl gear in the Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area.

Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Area

Established in 2008 Amendment 89 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the BSAI Management Area

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(16) *Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Area.* No federally permitted vessel may fish with nonpelagic trawl gear in the Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Area.

Bering Sea Subarea

Gear requirements established in 2010 Amendment 94 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the BSAI Management Area

§ 679.7 Prohibitions. In addition to the general prohibitions specified in §600.725 of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following: (c)(5) Conduct directed fishing for flatfish as defined in § 679.2 with a vessel required to be federally permitted in any reporting area of the Bering Sea subarea as described in Figure 1 to this part without meeting the requirements for modified nonpelagic trawl gear specified in § 679.24(f).

Bowers Ridge Habitat Conservation Zone

Established in 2006 Amendments 78 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI); Amendments 73 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA); Amendments 16 and 12 to the FMP for BSAI King and Tanner Crabs; Amendments 7 and 9 to the FMP for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska; Amendments 7 and 8 to the FMP for Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska.

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(15) *Bowers Ridge Habitat Conservation Zone.* No federally permitted vessel may fish with mobile bottom contact gear in the Bowers Ridge Habitat Conservation Zone.

Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection Area

Established in 2006 Amendments 78 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI); Amendments 73 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA); Amendments 16 and 12 to the FMP for BSAI King and Tanner Crabs; Amendments 7 and 9 to the FMP for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska; Amendments 7 and 8 to the FMP for Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska.

§ 679.7 Prohibitions. (a)(20) *Anchoring in a habitat protection area.* Anchor any federally permitted vessel in any habitat protection area.

§ 679.22 Closures. (b)(9) *Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection Areas.* No federally permitted vessel may fish with bottom contact gear in the Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection Areas.

Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Areas

Established in 2006 Amendments 78 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI); Amendments 73 and 65 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA); Amendments 16 and 12 to the FMP for BSAI King and Tanner Crabs; Amendments 7 and 9 to the FMP for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska; Amendments 7 and 8 to the FMP for Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska.

§ 679.22 Closures. (b)(10) *Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Areas.* No federally permitted vessel may fish with nonpelagic trawl gear in the Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Areas.

Modified Gear Trawl Zone

Established in 2010 Amendment 94 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the BSAI Management Area

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(21) *Modified Gear Trawl Zone.* No vessel required to be federally permitted may fish with nonpelagic trawl gear in the Modified Gear Trawl Zone specified at Table 51 to this part, except for federally permitted vessels that are directed fishing for groundfish using modified nonpelagic trawl gear that meets the standards at §679.24(f).

Northern Bering Sea Research Area

Established in 2008 Amendment 89 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the BSAI Management Area; boundaries revised in Amendment 94.

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(17) *Northern Bering Sea Research Area.* No federally permitted vessel may fish with nonpelagic trawl gear in the Northern Bering Sea Research Area.

Nunivak Island, Etolin Strait, and Kuskokwim Bay Habitat Conservation Area

Established in 2008 Amendment 89 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the BSAI Management Area

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(18) *Nunivak Island, Etolin Strait, and Kuskokwim Bay Habitat Conservation Area*. No federally permitted vessel may fish with nonpelagic trawl gear in the Nunivak Island, Etolin Strait, and Kuskokwim Bay Habitat Conservation Area.

St. Lawrence Island Habitat Conservation Area

Established in 2008 Amendment 89 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the BSAI Management Area

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(19) *St. Lawrence Island Habitat Conservation Area*. No federally permitted vessel may fish with nonpelagic trawl gear in the St. Lawrence Island Habitat Conservation Area.

St. Matthew Island Habitat Conservation Area

Established in 2008 Amendment 89 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the BSAI Management Area; boundaries revised in Amendment 94.

§ 679.22 Closures. (a)(20) *St. Matthew Island Habitat Conservation Area*. No federally permitted vessel may fish with nonpelagic trawl gear in the St. Matthew Island Habitat Conservation Area.