

EFH Areas Protected from Fishing in the Pacific

Section 303(a)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to take steps to minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects of fishing on essential fish habitat (EFH). NMFS works with the Pacific Fishery Management Council to protect EFH in support of healthy ecosystems and sustainable fisheries in the U.S. Pacific Ocean.

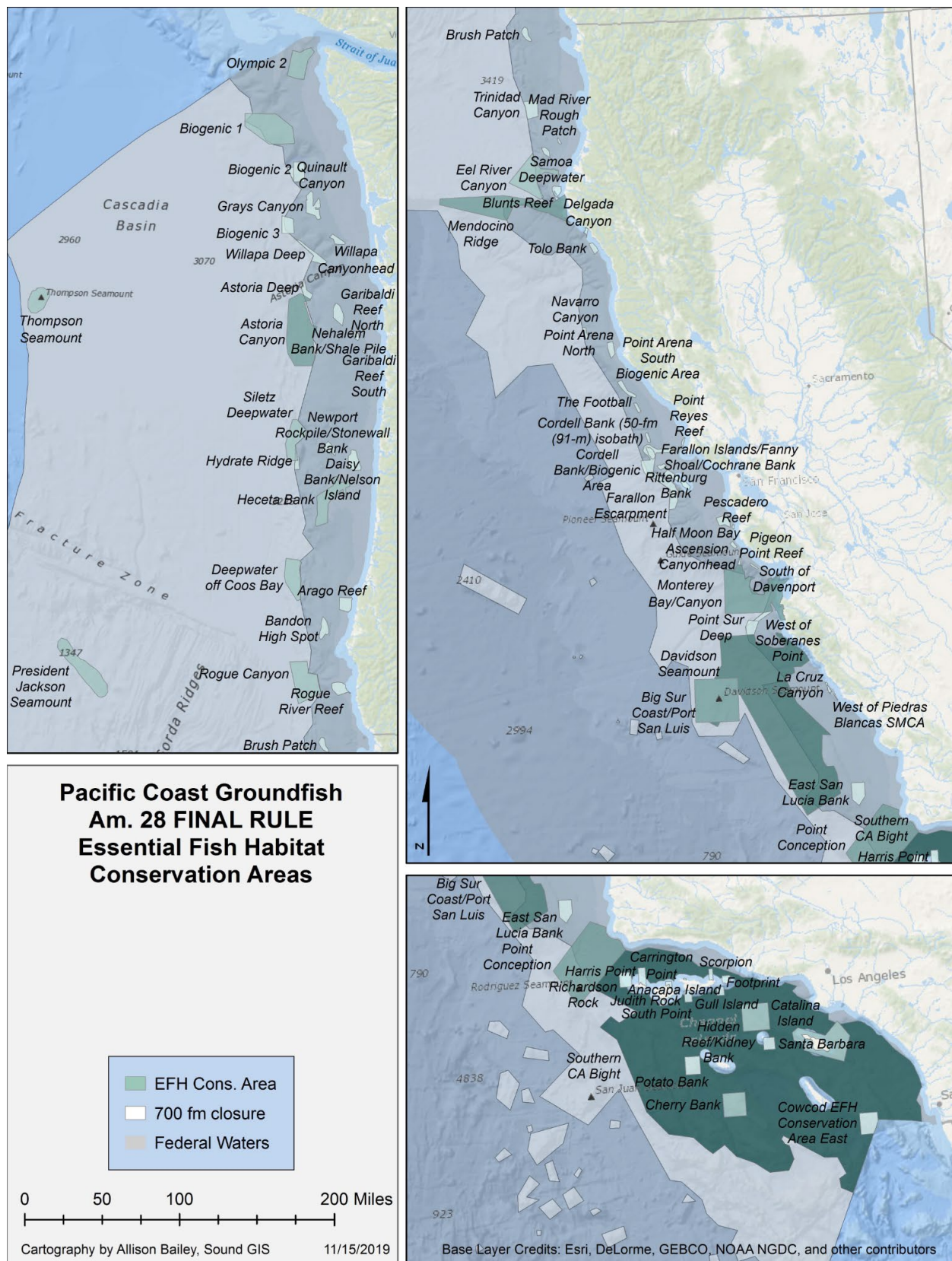


Figure 1. Areas with gear restrictions and Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) closed to certain types of fishing off the U.S. West Coast under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, as amended through Amendment 28 (2020). Shades of green for EFHCAs (listed in Tables 2 through 6 below) vary by the size of the closure, with larger area closures appearing darker.

EFH Areas Protected from Fishing, established by Amendment 19 and Amendment 28 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery management Plan, Tables 1-6

Table 1. Coastwide Areas with fishing restrictions, added in Amendment 19. These areas, by regulatory definition, are not EFHCAs. However, they are areas where certain types of fishing gear or fishing activities are prohibited to mitigate the impacts of fishing on designated EFH.

	Site Name	Area (acres)	Regulation(s) at 50 CFR
1	Designated groundfish EFH in the Pacific Coast EEZ	117,487,236	660.12 (a)(12), (13), 660.75, 660.112(a)(5)
2	Groundfish EFH in the Pacific Coast EEZ, seaward of 700 fm	81,561,298	660.76 (b), 660.112(a)(5)
3	Groundfish EFH in the Pacific Coast EEZ, shoreward of 100 fm	9,308,272	660.73 (a), 660.112(a)(5)

Table 2. Areas closed to bottom trawl fishing off the Washington Coast.

	Site Name	Area (mi ²)	Regulation(s) at 50 CFR
1	Olympic 2	135,302	660.77 (b), 660.112(a)(5)
2	Biogenic 1	304,765	660.77 (c), 660.112(a)(5)
3	Biogenic 2	57,806	660.77 (d), 660.112(a)(5)
4	Quinault Canyon†	13,297	660.77 (e), 660.112(a)(5)
5	Grays Canyon*	65,042	660.77 (f), 660.112(a)(5)
6	Biogenic 3	50,792	660.77 (g), 660.112(a)(5)
7	Willapa Canyonhead†	19,534	660.77 (h), 660.112(a)(5)
8	Willapa Deep†	40,189	660.77 (i), 660.112(a)(5)

* indicates site was added in Amendment 28; unmarked were added in Amendment 19

† indicates site was added in Amendment 19 and modified in Amendment 28

Table 3. Areas closed to bottom trawl fishing off the Oregon Coast.

	Site Name	Area (mi ²)	Regulation(s) at 50 CFR
1	Astoria Canyon	438,223	660.78 (d), 660.112(a)(5)
2	Astoria Deep†	25,101	660.78 (b), 660.112(a)(5)
3	Nehalem Bank/Shale Pile*	41,503	660.78 (e), 660.112(a)(5)
4	Garibaldi Reef N†	9,482	660.78 (f), 660.112(a)(5)
5	Garibaldi Reef S†	1,721	660.78 (g), 660.112(a)(5)
6	Siletz Deepwater	132,926	660.78 (h), 660.112(a)(5)
7	Daisy Bank/Nelson Island*	27,845	660.78 (i), 660.112(a)(5)
8	Newport Rockpile/Stonewall Bank*	50,376	660.78 (j), 660.112(a)(5)
9	Hydrate Ridge†	12,466	660.78 (k), 660.112(a)(5)
10	Heceta Bank*	165,003	660.78 (l), 660.112(a)(5)
11	Deepwater off Coos Bay	139,508	660.78 (m), 660.112(a)(5)
12	Arago Reef†	43,094	660.78 (n), 660.112(a)(5)
13	Bandon High Spot*	34,225	660.78 (o), 660.112(a)(5)
14	Rogue Canyon	218,711	660.78 (q), 660.112(a)(5)
15	Rogue River Reef†	40,578	660.78 (r), 660.112(a)(5)

* indicates site was added in Amendment 28; unmarked were added in Amendment 19

† indicates site was added in Amendment 19 and modified in Amendment 28

Table 4. Areas closed to fishing with bottom trawl gear, other than demersal seine, off the California Coast.

	Site Name	Area (mi ²)	Regulation(s) at 50 CFR
1	Brush Patch†	19,468	660.79 (b), 660.112(a)(5)
2	Trinidad Canyon†	56,244	660.79 (c), 660.112(a)(5)
3	Mad River Rough Patch†	3,257	660.79 (d), 660.112(a)(5)
4	Samoa Deepwater†	12,170	660.79 (e), 660.112(a)(5)
5	Eel River Canyon*	219,978	660.79 (f), 660.112(a)(5)
6	Blunts Reef*	20,150	660.79 (g), 660.112(a)(5)
7	Mendocino Ridge*	472,185	660.79 (h), 660.112(a)(5)
8	Delgada Canyon*	4,933	660.79 (i), 660.112(a)(5)
9	Tolo Bank	13,655	660.79 (j), 660.112(a)(5)
10	Navarro Canyon†	11,737	660.79 (k), 660.112(a)(5)
11	Point Arena North	21,765	660.79 (l), 660.112(a)(5)
12	Point Arena South Biogenic Area*	23,111	660.79 (m), 660.112(a)(5)
13	The Football†	7,776	660.79 (n), 660.112(a)(5)
14	Gobblers Knob†	7,405	660.79 (o), 660.112(a)(5)
15	Point Reyes Reef†	4,854	660.79 (p), 660.112(a)(5)
16	Cordell Bank/Biogenic Area*	104,510	660.79 (q),

			660.112(a)(5)
17	Rittenburg Bank†	8,155	660.79 (s), 660.112(a)(5)
18	Farallon Islands/Fanny Shoal/Cochrane Bank*	39,359	660.79 (t), 660.112(a)(5)
19	Farallon Escarpment†	80,828	660.79 (u), 660.112(a)(5)
20	Half Moon Bay	31,726	660.79 (v), 660.112(a)(5)
21	Pescadero Reef†	1,975	660.79 (w), 660.112(a)(5)
22	Pigeon Point Reef†	6,239	660.79 (x), 660.112(a)(5)
23	Ascension Canyonhead†	3,883	660.79 (y), 660.112(a)(5)
24	South of Davenport†	4,002	660.79 (z), 660.112(a)(5)
25	Monterey Bay/Canyon*	535,073	660.79 (aa), 660.112(a)(5)
26	West of Sobranes Point†	15,520	660.79 (bb), 660.112(a)(5)
27	Point Sur Deep*	38,228	660.79 (cc), 660.112(a)(5)
28	Big Sur Coast/Port San Luis*	2,929,732	660.79 (dd), 660.112(a)(5)
29	La Cruz Canyon†	5,694	660.79 (ff), 660.112(a)(5)
30	West of Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area†	1,735	660.79 (gg), 660.112(a)(5)
31	East San Lucia Bank	67,352	660.79 (hh), 660.112(a)(5)
32	Point Conception	809,875	660.79 (ii), 660.112(a)(5)
33	Hidden Reef/Kidney Bank	190,626	660.79 (vv), 660.112(a)(5)

34	Catalina Island	293,742	660.79 (ww), 660.112(a)(5)
35	Potato Bank*	70,930	660.79 (yy), 660.112(a)(5)
36	Cherry Bank	138,918	660.79 (zz), 660.112(a)(5)
37	Cowcod Conservation Area East	94,113	660.79 (aaa), 660.112(a)(5)
38	Southern California Bight†	11,110,740	660.79 (bbb), 660.112(a)(5)

* indicates site was added in Amendment 28; unmarked were added in Amendment 19

† indicates site was added in Amendment 19 and modified in Amendment 28

Table 5. Areas closed to fishing with bottom contacting gears off the Oregon Coast, added in Amendment 19.

	Site Name	Area (mi ²)	Regulation(s) at 50 CFR
1	Thompson Seamount	105,813	660.12 (a)(16), 660.78 (c)
2	President Jackson Seamount	243,694	660.12 (a)(16), 660.78 (p)

Table 6. Areas closed to fishing with bottom contacting gears off the California Coast, added in Amendment 19.

	Site Name	Area (mi ²)	Regulation(s) at 50 CFR
1	Cordell Bank (within 50 fm isobath)	16,882	660.79 (r), 660.12 (a)(16)
2	Harris Point	32,104	660.79 (jj), 660.12 (a)(16)
3	Richardson Rock	46,548	660.79 (ll), 660.12 (a)(16)
4	Scorpion	11,932	660.79 (mm), 660.12 (a)(16)
5	Painted Cave	1,140	660.79 (nn), 660.12 (a)(16)
6	Davidson Seamount (fishing below 500 fm prohibited, see below)	496,300	660.79 (ee), 660.12 (a)(17)

7	Anacapa Island	15,950	660.79 (oo), 660.12 (a)(16)
8	Carrington Point	8,161	660.79 (pp), 660.12 (a)(16)
9	Judith Rock	2,935	660.79 (qq), 660.12 (a)(16)
10	Skunk Point	864	660.79 (rr), 660.12 (a)(16)
11	Footprint	17,209	660.79 (ss), 660.12 (a)(16)
12	Gull Island	22,402	660.79 (tt), 660.12 (a)(16)
13	South Point	9,528	660.79 (uu), 660.12 (a)(16)
14	Santa Barbara	36,309	660.79 (xx), 660.12 (a)(16)

Measures to Protect EFH from Fishing Impacts in the Pacific

Measures described in this section were established in Amendment 19 (2006) and modified and added to in Amendment 28 (2020) to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

Table 7. Regulatory citations and text pertaining to protection of Pacific Coast Groundfish EFH

Regulation Citation	Excerpt of pertinent regulations, as of January 1, 2020; see Code of Federal Regulations for the current regulations. 50 CFR Part 660, Subparts C-G
§660.12 General Groundfish Prohibitions	<p>“...it is unlawful for any person to:</p> <p>(12) Fish with dredge gear (defined in §660.11, subpart C) anywhere within EFH within the EEZ. For the purposes of regulation, EFH within the EEZ is described at §660.75, subpart C.</p> <p>(13) Fish with beam trawl gear (defined in §660.11, subpart C) anywhere within EFH within the EEZ. For the purposes of regulation, EFH within the EEZ is described at §660.75, subpart C.</p> <p>(16) Fish with bottom contact gear (defined at §660.11) within the EEZ in the following EFHCAs (defined at §§660.78 and 660.79): Thompson Seamount, President Jackson Seamount, 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.</p> <p>(17) Fish with bottom contact gear (defined at §660.11), or any other gear that is deployed deeper than 500-fm (914-m), within the Davidson Seamount EFHCA (defined at §660.79).”</p>
§660.73 (a)	<p>Latitude/longitude coordinates defining the 100 fm (183 m) through 150 fm (274 m) depth contours.</p> <p>“(a) The 100-fm (183-m) depth contour used between the U.S. border with Canada and the U.S. border with Mexico is defined by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order stated:</p> <p>(1) 48°15.00’ N. lat., 125°41.00’ W. long.;</p> <p>(2) 48°14.00’ N. lat., 125°36.00’ W. long.;</p> <p>(3) ...”</p>
§660.75 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)	<p>“...EFH for Pacific Coast Groundfish includes all waters and substrate within areas with a depth less than or equal to 3,500 m (1,914 fm) shoreward to the mean higher high water level or the upriver extent of saltwater intrusion...”</p>
§660.76 Coastwide EFHCAs	<p>“(a) General. EFHCAs are defined at §660.11. The boundaries of areas designated as EFHCAs are defined by straight lines connecting a series of latitude and longitude coordinates and other regulatory boundaries. This paragraph provides coordinates outlining the boundaries of the coastwide EFHCA. Coordinates outlining the</p>

	<p>boundaries of EFHCAs off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California are provided in §§660.77, 660.78, and 660.79, respectively. Fishing activity that is prohibited or permitted within a particular EFHCA is detailed at subparts C through G of this part.</p> <p>(b) Seaward of the 700-fm (1280-m) contour. This area includes all waters designated as EFH within the West Coast EEZ west of a line approximating the 700-fm (1280-m) depth contour which is defined by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order stated:</p> <p>(1) 48°06.97' N lat., 126°02.96' W long.;</p> <p>(2)..."</p>
§660.77 EFHCAs off the Coast of Washington	<p>“(a) General. Boundary line coordinates for EFHCAs off Washington are provided in this section. Fishing activity that is prohibited or permitted within the EEZ in a particular area designated as a groundfish EFHCAs is detailed at §§660.12, 660.112, 660.130, 660.212, 660.230, 660.312, 660.330, and 660.360.</p> <p>(b) Olympic 2. The boundary of the Olympic 2 EFHCA is defined by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order stated and connecting back to 48°21.46' N lat., 124°51.61' W long.:</p> <p>(1) 48°21.46' N lat., 124°51.61' W long.;</p> <p>(2)..."</p>
§660.78 EFHCAs off the Coast of Oregon	<p>“(a) General. Boundary line coordinates for EFHCAs off Oregon are provided in this section. Fishing activity that is prohibited or permitted within the EEZ in a particular area designated as a groundfish EFHCA is detailed at §§660.12, 660.112, 660.130, 660.212, 660.230, 660.312, 660.330, and 660.360.</p> <p>(b) Astoria Deep. The boundary of the Astoria Deep EFHCA is defined by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order stated and connecting back to 46°03.00' N lat., 124°57.36' W long.:</p> <p>(1) 46°03.00' N lat., 124°57.36' W long.;</p> <p>(2)..."</p>
§660.79 EFHCAs off the Coast of California	<p>“(a) General. Boundary line coordinates for EFHCA off California are provided in this section. Fishing activity that is prohibited or permitted within the EEZ in a particular area designated as a groundfish EFHCA is detailed at §§660.12, 660.112, 660.130, 660.212, 660.230, 660.312, 660.330, and 660.360.</p> <p>(b) Brush Patch. The boundary of the Brush Patch EFHCA is defined by straight lines connecting all of the following points in the order stated and connecting back to 41°51.03' N lat., 124°48.65' W long.:</p> <p>(1) 41°51.03' N lat., 124°48.65' W long.;</p> <p>(2)..."</p>

<p>§660.112 Trawl fishery— prohibitions.</p>	<p>“...it is unlawful for any person to:</p> <p>(5) Fishing in conservation areas with trawl gear.</p> <p>(ii) Fish with bottom trawl gear (defined at §660.11) anywhere within EFH seaward of a line approximating the 700-fm (1,280-m) depth contour, as defined in §660.76. For the purposes of regulation, EFH seaward of 700-fm (1,280-m) within the EEZ is described at §660.75.</p> <p>(iii) Fish with bottom trawl gear (defined at §660.11) with a footrope diameter greater than 19 inches (48 cm) (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope) anywhere within EFH within the EEZ. For the purposes of regulation, EFH within the EEZ is described at §660.75.</p> <p>(iv) Fish with bottom trawl gear (defined at §660.11) with a footrope diameter greater than 8 inches (20 cm) (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope) anywhere within the EEZ shoreward of a line approximating the 100-fm (183-m) depth contour (defined at §660.73).</p> <p>(v) Fish with bottom trawl gear (defined at §660.11), within the EEZ in the following EFHCAs areas (defined at §§660.77 and 660.78): Olympic 2, Biogenic 1, Biogenic 2, Quinalt Canyon, Grays Canyon, Willapa Canyonhead, Willapa Deep, Biogenic 3, Astoria Deep, Astoria Canyon, Nehalem Bank/Shale Pile, Garibaldi Reef North, Garibaldi Reef South, Siletz Deepwater, Daisy Bank/Nelson Island, Newport Rockpile/Stonewall Bank, Hydrate Ridge, Heceta Bank, Deepwater off Coos Bay, Arago Reef, Bandon High Spot, Rogue Canyon, and Rogue River Reef.</p> <p>(vi) Fish with bottom trawl gear (defined at §660.11), other than demersal seine, unless otherwise specified in this section or §660.130, within the EEZ in the following EFHCAs areas (defined at §660.79): Brush Patch, Trinidad Canyon, Mad River Rough Patch, Samoa Deepwater, Eel River Canyon, Blunts Reef, Mendocino Ridge, Delgada Canyon, Tolo Bank, Navarro Canyon, Point Arena North, Point Arena South Biogenic Area, The Football, Gobbler's Knob, Point Reyes Reef, Cordell Bank/Biogenic Area, Rittenburg Bank, Farallon Islands/Fanny Shoal/Cochrane Bank, Farallon Escarpment, Half Moon Bay, Pescadero Reef, Pigeon Point Reef, Ascension Canyonhead, South of Davenport, Monterey Bay/Canyon, 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, Point Conception, Hidden Reef/Kidney Bank (within Cowcod Conservation Area West), Catalina Island, Potato Bank (within Cowcod Conservation Area West), Cherry Bank (within Cowcod Conservation Area West), Cowcod EFHCA Conservation Area East, and Southern California Bight.</p> <p>(vii) Fish with bottom contact gear (defined at §660.11) within specific EFHCAs and the DECA, consistent with the prohibitions at §660.12(a)(4), (16) through (18).”</p>
<p>§660.212 Fixed gear fishery— prohibitions.</p>	<p>“...it is unlawful for any person to:</p> <p>(c) Fishing in conservation areas. (2) Fish with bottom contact gear (defined at §660.11) within specific EFHCAs or the DECA, as specified in §660.12(a).”</p>
<p>§660.312 Open access fishery—</p>	<p>“...it is unlawful for any person to:</p> <p>(c) Gear. (2) Fish with dredge gear (defined in §660.11) anywhere within EFH within the EEZ, as defined by latitude/longitude coordinates at §660.75.</p>

prohibitions.	<p>(3) Fish with beam trawl gear (defined in §660.11) anywhere within EFH within the EEZ, as defined by latitude/longitude coordinates at §660.75.</p> <p>(4) Fish with bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter greater than 19 inches (48 cm) (including rollers, bobbins, or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope) anywhere in EFH within the EEZ, as defined by latitude/longitude coordinates at §660.75.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) Fishing in conservation areas with open access gears. (2) Operate a vessel in an applicable GCA (as defined at §660.330(d) that has nontrawl gear onboard and is not registered to a limited entry permit on a trip in which the vessel is used to take and retain or possess groundfish in the EEZ, possess or land groundfish taken in the EEZ, except for purposes of continuous transiting, with all groundfish nontrawl gear stowed in accordance with §660.330(b), or except as authorized in the groundfish management measures published at §660.330.</p> <p>(3) Fish with bottom contact gear (defined at §660.11) within specific EFHCAs or the DECA, as specified in §660.12(a).</p> <p>(4) Fish with bottom trawl gear (defined at §660.11) anywhere within EFH seaward of a line approximating the 700-fm (1280-m) depth contour, as defined in §660.76. For the purposes of regulation, EFH seaward of 700-fm (1280-m) within the EEZ is described at §660.75.</p> <p>(5) Fish with bottom trawl gear (defined at §660.11) with a footrope diameter greater than 8 inches (20 cm) (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope) anywhere within the EEZ shoreward of a line approximating the 100-fm (183-m) depth contour (defined at §660.73).</p> <p>(6) Fish with bottom trawl gear (defined at §660.11), within the EEZ in the following EFHCAs (defined at §§660.77 and 660.78): Olympic 2, Biogenic 1, Biogenic 2, Quinalt Canyon, Grays Canyon, Willapa Canyonhead, Willapa Deep, Biogenic 3, Astoria Deep, Astoria Canyon, Nehalem Bank/Shale Pile, Garibaldi Reef North, Garibaldi Reef South, Siletz Deepwater, Daisy Bank/Nelson Island, Newport Rockpile/Stonewall Bank, Hydrate Ridge, Heceta Bank, Deepwater off Coos Bay, Arago Reef, Bandon High Spot, Rogue Canyon, and Rogue River Reef.</p> <p>(7) Fish with bottom trawl gear (defined at §660.11), other than demersal seine, unless otherwise specified in this section or §660.330, within the EEZ in the following EFHCAs (defined at §660.79): Brush Patch, Trinidad Canyon, Mad River Rough Patch, Samoa Deepwater, Eel River Canyon, Blunts Reef, Mendocino Ridge, Delgada Canyon, Tolo Bank, Navarro Canyon, Point Arena North, Point Arena South Biogenic Area, The Football, Gobbler's Knob, Point Reyes Reef, Cordell Bank/Biogenic Area, Rittenburg Bank, Farallon Islands/Fanny Shoal/Cochrane Bank, Farallon Escarpment, Half Moon Bay, Pescadero Reef, Pigeon Point Reef, Ascension Canyonhead, South of Davenport, Monterey Bay/Canyon, 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, Point Conception, Hidden Reef/Kidney Bank (within Cowcod Conservation Area West), Catalina Island, Potato Bank (within</p>
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	Cowcod Conservation Area West), Cherry Bank (within Cowcod Conservation Area West), Cowcod EFHCA Conservation Area East, and Southern California Bight.
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