§ 654.25  Prevention of gear conflicts.

(a) Zone I is enclosed by rhumb lines connecting, in order, points A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J, plus the shoreline between points A and J. It is unlawful to trawl in that part of Zone I that is in the EEZ during the period October 5 through May 20, each year.

(b) Zone II is enclosed by rhumb lines connecting, in order, points J, I, H, K, L, and M, plus the shoreline between points J and M.

(c) Zone III is enclosed by rhumb lines connecting, in order, points P, Q, R, S, and P. It is unlawful to trawl in that part of Zone III that is in the EEZ during the period October 5 through May 20, each year.

(d) Zone IV is enclosed by rhumb lines connecting, in order, points E, N, O, and E.

(1) It is unlawful to place a stone crab trap in that part of Zone IV that is in the EEZ during the periods October 5 through December 1, and April 2 through May 20, each year.

(2) It is unlawful to trawl in that part of Zone IV that is in the EEZ during the period December 2 through April 1, each year.

(e) Zone V is enclosed by rhumb lines connecting, in order, points F, G, K, L, and F.

(1) It is unlawful to place a stone crab trap in that part of Zone V that is in the EEZ during the periods October 5 through November 30, and March 16 through May 20, each year.

(2) It is unlawful to trawl in that part of Zone V that is in the EEZ during the period December 1 through March 15, each year.

(f) A stone crab trap, float, or rope in the management area during a period not authorized by this section will be considered unclaimed or abandoned property and may be disposed of in any manner considered appropriate by the Assistant Administrator or an authorized officer. An owner of such trap, float, or rope remains subject to appropriate civil penalties. A stone crab trap will be presumed to be the property of the most recently documented owner.

§ 654.26  Adjustment of management measures.

In accordance with the procedures and limitations of the fishery management plan for the Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, the Regional Administrator may establish or modify the following management measures: Limitations on the number of traps that may be fished by each vessel; construction characteristics of traps; gear and vessel identification requirements; gear that may be used or prohibited in a directed fishery; bycatch levels in non-directed fisheries; seasons; soak/withdrawal periods and requirements for traps; use, possession and handling of stone crabs aboard vessels; and minimum legal sizes.

§ 654.27  Specifically authorized activities.

The Regional Administrator may authorize, for the acquisition of information and data, activities otherwise prohibited by the regulations in this part.

§ 654.28  Tortugas marine reserves.

The following activities are prohibited within the Tortugas marine reserves: Fishing for any species and anchoring by fishing vessels.

(a) EEZ portion of Tortugas North. The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points: From