§ 654.25 Prevention of gear conflicts.

(a) Zone I is enclosed by rhumb lines connecting, in order, points A, B, C, D, T, E, F, G, H, I, and J, plus the shore-line 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, U, V, 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, S, T, R, U, S, and P. It is unlawful to trawl in that part of Zone IV that is in the EEZ during the period October 5 through May 20, each year.

(1) It is unlawful to place a stone crab trap in that part of Zone IV that is in the EEZ during the period 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 period 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 separation zones for shrimp trawling and the use of fixed gear as may be necessary and appropriate to prevent gear conflicts. Necessary prohibitions or restrictions will be published in the Federal Register.


§ 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
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point A at 24°40′00″ N. lat., 83°06′00″ W. long., to point B at 24°46′00″ N. lat., 83°06′00″ W. long., to point C at 24°46′00″ N. lat., 83°00′00″ W. long.; thence along the line denoting the seaward limit of Florida’s waters, as shown on the current edition of NOAA chart 11438, to point A at 24°40′00″ N. lat., 83°06′00″ W. long.

(b) Tortugas South. The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point</th>
<th>North lat.</th>
<th>West long.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>24°33′00″</td>
<td>83°05′00″</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>24°33′00″</td>
<td>83°05′00″</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>24°18′00″</td>
<td>83°09′00″</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>24°33′00″</td>
<td>83°09′00″</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[67 FR 47469, July 19, 2002]

APPENDIX A TO PART 654—FIGURES

Figure 1—Stone Crab Claw
Figure 2—Southwest Florida Seasonal Trawl Closure
Figure 3—Shrimp/Stone Crab Separation Zones