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involving law enforcement, search and rescue, or public safety.

(B) Vessels participating with a Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) and following a Traffic Separation Scheme or complying with a VTS Measure of Direction. This also includes support vessels escorting ships in the traffic lanes, such as tug boats.

(C) Vessels engaged in an activity, such as scientific research, authorized through a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under part 222, subpart C, of this chapter (General Permit Procedures) or through a similar National Marine Fisheries Service authorization.

(D) Vessels lawfully engaged in commercial or treaty Indian fishing that are actively setting, retrieving, or closely tending fishing gear.

(E) Vessel operations necessary to avoid an imminent and serious threat to a person, vessel or the environment, including when necessary for overall safety of navigation and to comply with the Navigation Rules.

(ii) [Reserved]

(4) *Affirmative defense*. In connection with any action alleging a violation of the prohibitions of paragraph (e)(2) of this section, any person claiming the benefit of any exception listed in paragraph (e)(3) of this section has the burden of raising, pleading, and proving such affirmative defense.

(b) [Reserved]

[64 FR 14066, Mar. 23, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 29509, May 31, 2001; 69 FR 69537, Nov. 30, 2004; 70 FR 1832, Jan. 11, 2005; 76 FR 20890, Apr. 14, 2011]

§ 224.104 Special requirements for fishing activities to protect endangered sea turtles.

(a) Shrimp fishermen in the southeastern United States and the Gulf of Mexico who comply with rules for threatened sea turtles specified in § 223.206 of this chapter will not be subject to civil penalties under the Act for incidental captures of endangered sea turtles by shrimp trawl gear.

(b) Summer flounder fishermen in the Summer flounder fishery-sea turtle protection area who comply with rules for threatened sea turtles specified in § 223.206 of this chapter will not be subject to civil penalties under the Act for incidental captures of endangered sea turtles by summer flounder gear.

(c) Special prohibitions relating to sea turtles are provided at § 223.206(d).

[64 FR 14066, Mar. 23, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 44552, Aug. 24, 2001; 66 FR 67496, Dec. 31, 2001; 68 FR 8471, Feb. 21, 2003; 69 FR 18453, Apr. 7, 2004; 72 FR 31757, June 8, 2007]

§ 224.105 Speed restrictions to protect North Atlantic Right Whales.

(a) The following restrictions apply to: All vessels greater than or equal to 65 ft (19.8 m) in overall length and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and all other vessels greater than or equal to 65 ft (19.8 m) in overall length entering or departing a port or place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. These restrictions shall not apply to U.S. vessels owned or operated by, or under contract to, the Federal Government. This exemption extends to foreign sovereign vessels when they are engaging in joint exercises with the U.S. Department of the Navy. In addition, these restrictions do not apply to law enforcement vessels of a State, or political subdivision thereof, when engaged in law enforcement or search and rescue duties.

(1) *Southeast U.S.* (south of St. Augustine, FL to north of Brunswick, GA): Vessels shall travel at a speed of 10 knots or less over ground during the period of November 15 to April 15 each year in the area bounded by the following: Beginning at 31°27′00.0″ N–080°51′36.0″ W; thence west to charted mean high water line then south along charted mean high water line and inshore limits of COLREGS limit to a latitude of 29°45′00.0″ N thence east to 29°45′00.0″ N–080°51′36.0″ W; thence back to starting point. (Fig. 1).

(2) *Mid-Atlantic U.S.* (from north of Brunswick, Georgia to Rhode Island): Vessels shall travel 10 knots or less over ground in the period November 1 to April 30 each year:

(i) In the area bounded by the following: 33°56′42.0″ N–077°31′30.0″ W; thence along a NW bearing of 313.26° True to charted mean high water line then south along mean high water line and inshore limits of COLREGS limit to a latitude of 31°27′00.0″ N; thence east to 31°27′00.0″ N–080°51′36.0″ W; thence to 31°50′00.0″ N–080°33′12.0″ W;

thence to 32°59′06.0″ N–078°50′18.0″ W; thence to 33°28′24.0″ N–078°32′30.0″ W; thence to 33°36′30.0″ N–077°47′06.0″ W; thence back to starting point.;

(ii) Within a 20-nm (37 km) radius (as measured seaward from COLREGS delineated coast lines and the center point of the port entrance) (Fig. 2) at the

(A) Ports of New York/New Jersey: 40°29′42.2″ N–073°55′57.6″ W;

(B) Delaware Bay (Ports of Philadelphia and Wilmington): 38°52′27.4″ N–075°01′32.1″ W;

(C) Entrance to the Chesapeake Bay (Ports of Hampton Roads and Baltimore): 37°00′36.9″ N–075°57′50.5″ W; and

(D) Ports of Morehead City and Beaufort, NC: 34°41′32.0″ N–076°40′08.3″ W; and

(iii) In Block Island Sound, in the area bounded by the following coordinates: Beginning at 40°51′53.7″ N–70°36′44.9″ W; thence to 41°20′14.1″ N–70°49′44.1″ W; thence to 41°04′16.7″ N–71°51′21.0″ W; thence to 40°35′56.5″ N–71°38′25.1″ W; thence back to starting point. (Fig. 2).

(3) *Northeast U.S. (north of Rhode Island):*

(i) *In Cape Cod Bay, MA:* Vessels shall travel at a speed of 10 knots or less over ground during the period of January 1 to May 15 in Cape Cod Bay, in an area beginning at 42°04′56.5″ N–070°12′00.0″ W; thence north to 42°12′00.0″ N–070°12′00.0″ W; thence due west to charted mean high water line; thence along charted mean high water within Cape Cod Bay back to beginning point. (Fig. 3).

(ii) *Off Race Point:* Vessels shall travel at a speed of 10 knots or less over ground during the period of March 1 to April 30 each year in waters bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated (Fig. 3): 42°30′00.0″ N–069°45′00.0″ W; thence to 42°30′00.0″ N–070°30′00.0″ W; thence to 42°12′00.0″ N–070°30′00.0″ W; thence to 42°12′00.0″ N–070°12′00.0″ W; thence to 42°04′56.5″ N–070°12′00.0″ W; thence along charted mean high water line and inshore limits of COLREGS limit to a latitude of 41°40′00.0″ N; thence due east to 41°41′00.0″ N–069°45′00.0″ W; thence back to starting point.

(iii) *Great South Channel:* Vessels shall travel at a speed of 10 knots or less over ground during the period of April 1 to July 31 each year in all waters bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated (Fig. 3):

42°30′00.0″ N–069°45′00.0″ W
41°40′00.0″ N–069°45′00.0″ W
41°00′00.0″ N–069°05′00.0″ W
42°09′00.0″ N–067°08′24.0″ W
42°30′00.0″ N–067°27′00.0″ W
42°30′00.0″ N–069°45′00.0″ W

(b) Except as noted in paragraph (c) of this section, it is unlawful under this section:

(1) For any vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to violate any speed restriction established in paragraph (a) of this section; or

(2) For any vessel entering or departing a port or place under the jurisdiction of the United States to violate any speed restriction established in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) A vessel may operate at a speed necessary to maintain safe maneuvering speed instead of the required ten knots only if justified because the vessel is in an area where oceanographic, hydrographic and/or meteorological conditions severely restrict the maneuverability of the vessel and the need to operate at such speed is confirmed by the pilot on board or, when a vessel is not carrying a pilot, the master of the vessel. If a deviation from the ten-knot speed limit is necessary, the reasons for the deviation, the speed at which the vessel is operated, the latitude and longitude of the area, and the time and duration of such deviation shall be entered into the logbook of the vessel. The master of the vessel shall attest to the accuracy of the logbook entry by signing and dating it.

(d) This final rule expires on December 9, 2013.

Figure 1. Southeast United States.

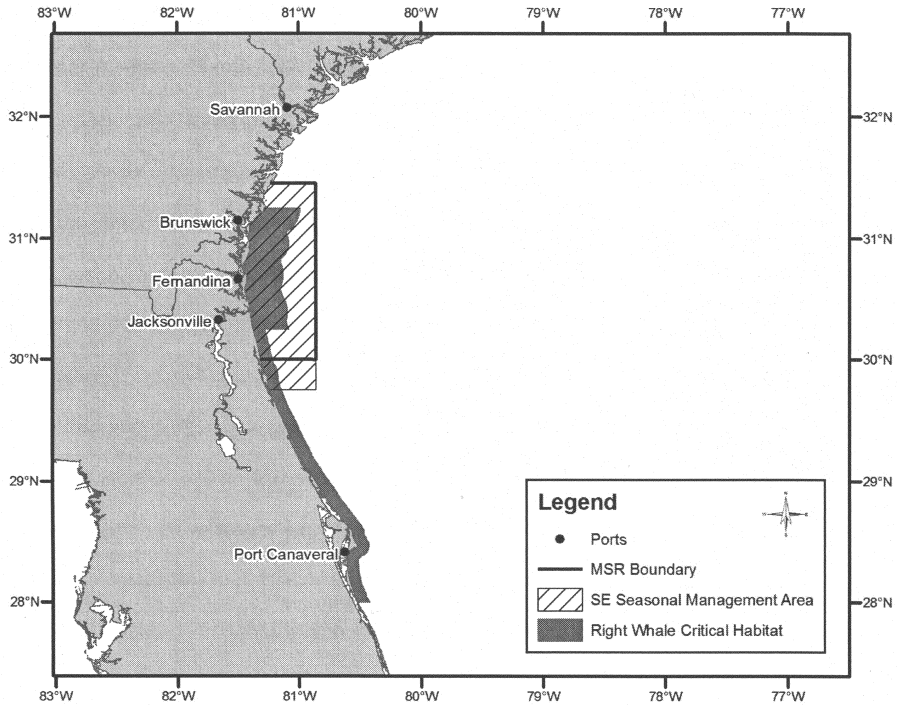


Figure 2. Mid-Atlantic United States.

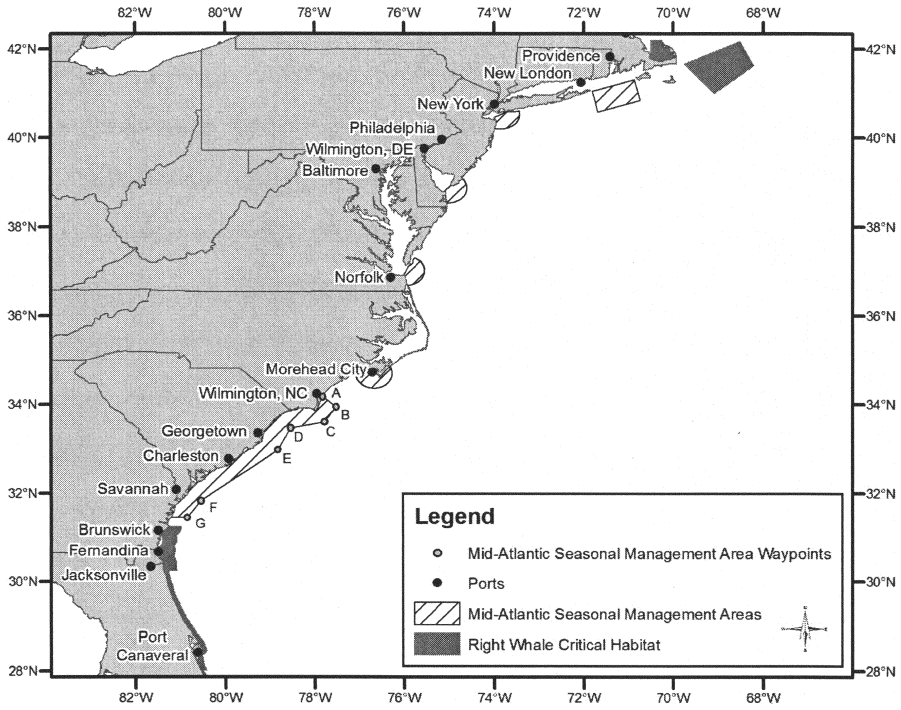
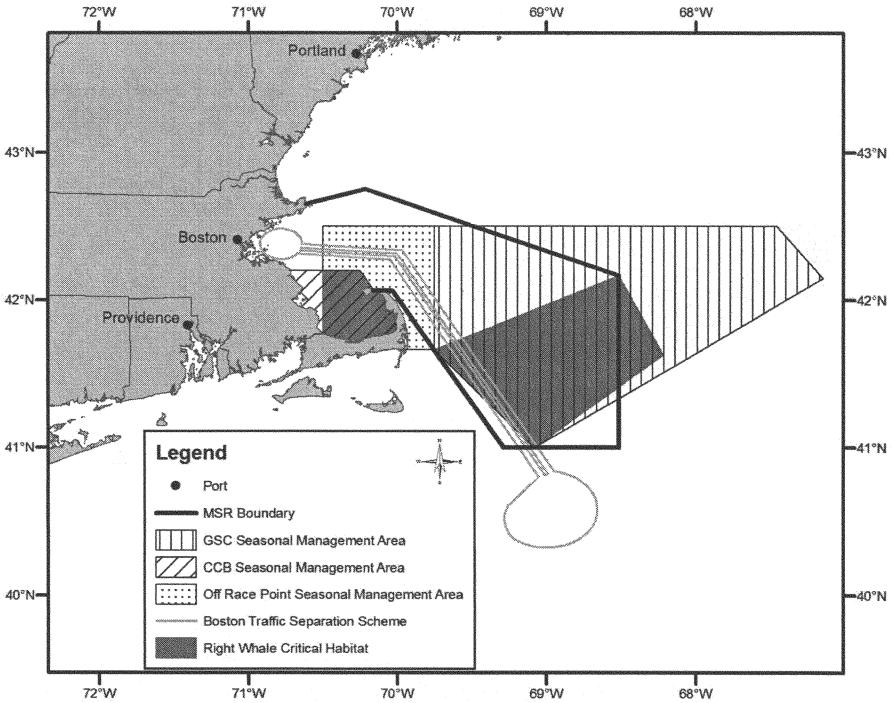


Figure 3. Northeast United States.



[73 FR 60187, Oct. 10, 2008]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: 73 FR 60187, Oct. 10, 2008, §224.105 was added, effective Dec. 9, 2008 through Dec. 9, 2013.

PART 225 [RESERVED]

PART 226—DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT

Sec.

226.101 Purpose and scope.
226.201 Critical habitat for Hawaiian monk seals.
226.202 Critical habitat for Steller sea lions.
226.203 Critical habitat for northern right whales.
226.204 Critical habitat for Sacramento winter-run chinook salmon.
226.205 Critical habitat for Snake River sockeye salmon, Snake River fall chinook salmon, and Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon.
226.206 Critical habitat for the Southern Resident killer whale (*Orcinus orca*).
226.207 Critical habitat for leatherback turtle.
226.208 Critical habitat for green turtle.
226.209 Critical habitat for hawksbill turtle.
226.210 Central California Coast Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*).
226.211 Critical habitat for Seven Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of Salmon (*Oncorhynchus spp.*) in California.
226.212 Critical habitat for 12 Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of salmon and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus spp.*) in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.
226.213 Critical habitat for Johnson's seagrass.
226.214 Critical habitat for Gulf sturgeon.
226.215 Critical habitat for the North Pacific Right Whale (*Eubalaena japonica*).