

Fishery Conservation and Management

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MCBLAIR DREDGE EXEMPTION AREA

Point	Longitude	Latitude
1	69°49.255' W	41°25.878' N
2	69°46.951' W	41°25.878' N
3	69°46.951' W	41°19.34' N
4	69°49.187' W	41°19.34' N
1	69°49.255' W	41°25.878' N

(B) The McBlair Dredge Exemption Area is open year-round.

(iii) *Old South Dredge Exemption Area.*

(A) The Old South Dredge Exemption Area is defined by the following points connected in the order listed by straight lines:

OLD SOUTH DREDGE EXEMPTION AREA

Point	Longitude	Latitude
1	69°47' W	41°15' N
2	69°44' W	41°15' N
3	69°44.22' W	41°10.432' N
4	69°45' W	41°7' N
5	69°47' W	41°7' N
6	69°47' W	41°11' N
7	69°49.101' W	41°11' N
8	69°49.116' W	41°12.5' N
9	69°47' W	41°12.5' N
1	69°47' W	41°15' N

(B) The Old South Dredge Exemption Area is open from May 1–October 31, and closed to all mobile bottom-tending gear November 1–April 30.

(iv) *Fishing Rip Dredge Exemption Area.* (A) The Fishing Rip Dredge Exemption Area is defined by the following points connected in the order listed by straight lines:

FISHING RIP DREDGE EXEMPTION AREA

Point	Longitude	Latitude
1	69°28.829' W	41°10.963' N
2	69°27.106' W	41°10.485' N
3	69°29.311' W	41°6.699' N
4	69°27.034' W	41°6.609' N
5	69°27.376' W	41°3.198' N
6	69°29.905' W	41°1.297' N
7	69°32.579' W	41°5.368' N
8	69°31.193' W	41°7.356' N
1	69°28.829' W	41°10.963' N

(B) The Fishing Rip Dredge Exemption Area is open year-round.

(i) *Transiting.* Unless otherwise restricted, a vessel may transit the habitat management areas described in this section provided that its gear is stowed and not available for immediate use as defined in §648.2.

(j) *Other habitat protection measures.* The Inshore Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Restricted Roller Gear Area de-

scribed in §648.80(a)(3)(vii) is considered a habitat protection measure and the restrictions outlined in that section apply to all bottom trawl gear.

(k) *Review of habitat management measures.* The New England Fishery Management Council will develop a strategic process to evaluate the boundaries, scope, characteristics, and timing of habitat and spawning protection areas to facilitate review of these areas at 10-year intervals.

[83 FR 15275, Apr. 9, 2018, as amended at 85 FR 29876, May 19, 2020; 88 FR 17402, Mar. 23, 2023]

§ 648.371 Dedicated Habitat Research Areas.

(a) *Dedicated Habitat Research Area (DHRA) topics.* The areas defined in this section are intended to facilitate coordinated research on gear impacts, habitat recovery, natural disturbance, and productivity.

(b) *Stellwagen Dedicated Habitat Research Area.* (1) The Stellwagen DHRA is defined by the straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

STELLWAGEN DHRA

Point	N latitude	W longitude
SDHRA1	42°15.0' N	70°00.0' W
SDHRA2	42°15.0' N	70°15.0' W
SDHRA3	42°45.2' N	70°15.0' W
SDHRA4	42°46.0' N	70°13.0' W
SDHRA5	42°46.0' N	70°00.0' W
SDHRA1	42°15.0' N	70°00.0' W

(2) Vessels fishing with bottom-tending mobile gear, sink gillnet gear, or demersal longline gear are prohibited from fishing in the Stellwagen DHRA, unless otherwise exempted.

(c) *Georges Bank Dedicated Habitat Research Area.* (1) The Georges Bank DHRA is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

GEORGES BANK DHRA

Point	Latitude	Longitude
GBDHRA1	40°54.95' N	68°53.37' W
GBDHRA2	40°58' N	68°30' W
GBDHRA3	40°45' N	68°30' W
GBDHRA4	40°45' N	68°45' W

(2) Vessels fishing with bottom-tending mobile gear are prohibited from

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fishing in the Georges Bank DHRA, unless otherwise exempted.

(d) *Transiting*. Unless otherwise restricted or specified in this paragraph (d), a vessel may transit the Dedicated Habitat Research Areas of this section provided that its prohibited gear is stowed and not available for immediate use as defined in § 648.2.

(e) *Dedicated Habitat Research Areas review*. (1) The Regional Administrator shall initiate a review of the DHRAs defined in this section three years after implementation.

(2) After initiation of the review and consultation with the New England Fishery Management Council, the Regional Administrator may remove a DHRA. The following criteria will be used to determine if DHRA should be maintained:

(i) Documentation of active and ongoing research in the DHRA area, in the form of data records, cruise reports or inventory samples with analytical objectives focused on the DHRA topics, described in paragraph (a) of this section; and

(ii) Documentation of pending or approved proposals or funding requests (including ship time requests), with objectives specific to the DHRA topics, described in paragraph (a) of this section.

(3) The Regional Administrator will make any such determination in accordance with the APA through notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(f) *Jordan Basin Dedicated Habitat Research Area*. (1) The Jordan Basin DHRA is defined by the following coordinates, connected in the order listed by straight lines:

TABLE 3 TO PARAGRAPH (f)(1)

Point	Longitude	Latitude
DHRA1	–67°51.38'	43°27.47'
DHRA2	–67°47.38'	43°27.46'

BROAD ZONE

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Discrete zone
1	36°33.02' N	71°29.33' W	
2	36°33.02' N	72°00' W	
3	36°33.02' N	73°00' W	
4	36°33.02' N	74°00' W	
5	36°33.02' N	74°42.14' W	
6	36°34.44' N	74°42.23' W	
7	36°35.53' N	74°41.59' W	
8	36°37.69' N	74°41.51' W	
9	36°42.09' N	74°39.07' W	

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TABLE 3 TO PARAGRAPH (f)(1)—Continued

Point	Longitude	Latitude
DHRA3	–67°47.18'	43°16.92'
DHRA4	–67°51.05'	43°17.05'
DHRA1	–67°51.38'	43°27.47'

(2) Fishing vessels, regardless of gear type, may fish within the Jordan Basin DHRA.

[83 FR 15275, Apr. 9, 2018, as amended at 86 FR 33558, June 25, 2021]

§ 648.372 Frank R. Lautenberg Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area.

(a) *Restrictions*. No vessel may fish with bottom-tending gear within the Frank R. Lautenberg Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area described in this section, unless transiting pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, fishing lobster trap gear in accordance with § 697.21 of this chapter, or fishing red crab trap gear in accordance with § 648.264. Bottom-tending gear includes but is not limited to bottom-tending otter trawls, bottom-tending beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, bottom-tending seines, bottom longlines, pots and traps, and sink or anchored gillnets. The Frank R. Lautenberg Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area consists of the Broad and Discrete Deep-Sea Coral Zones defined in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) *Broad Deep-Sea Coral Zone*. The Broad Deep-Sea Coral Zone is bounded on the east by the outer limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, and bounded on all other sides by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated (copies of a chart depicting this area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request). An asterisk (*) in the Discrete Zone column means the point is shared with a Discrete Deep-Sea Coral Zone, as defined in paragraph (c) of this section.