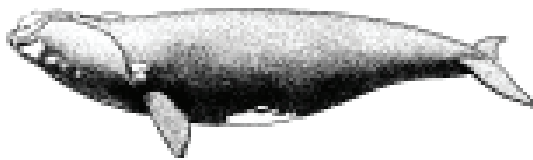


NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE FACT SHEET

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions About Complying with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)

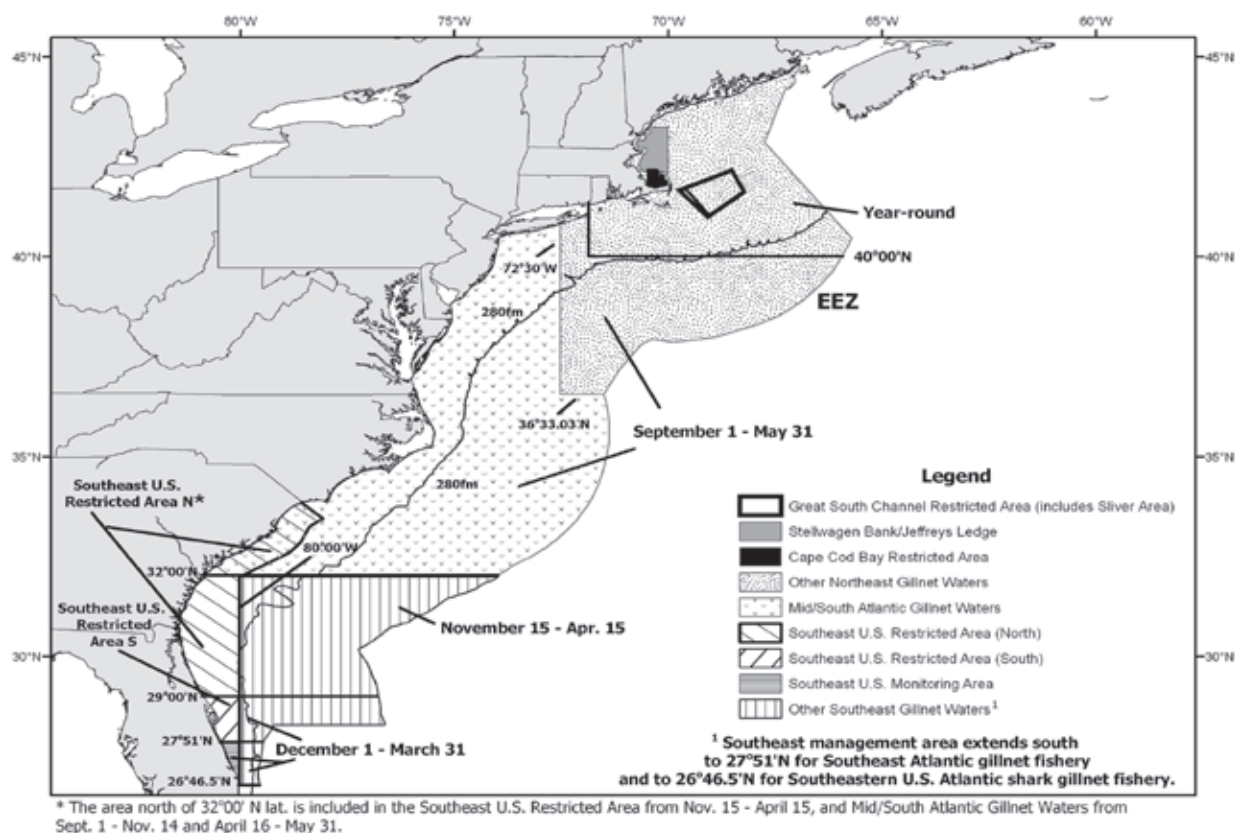


The ALWTRP is intended to reduce the incidental mortality and serious injury of three strategic stocks of marine mammals (North Atlantic right, humpback, and fin whales) in commercial gillnet and trap/pot fisheries. Although not considered strategic, minke whales are also benefit from regulations under the ALWTRP, as they are known to be incidentally taken in commercial fisheries.

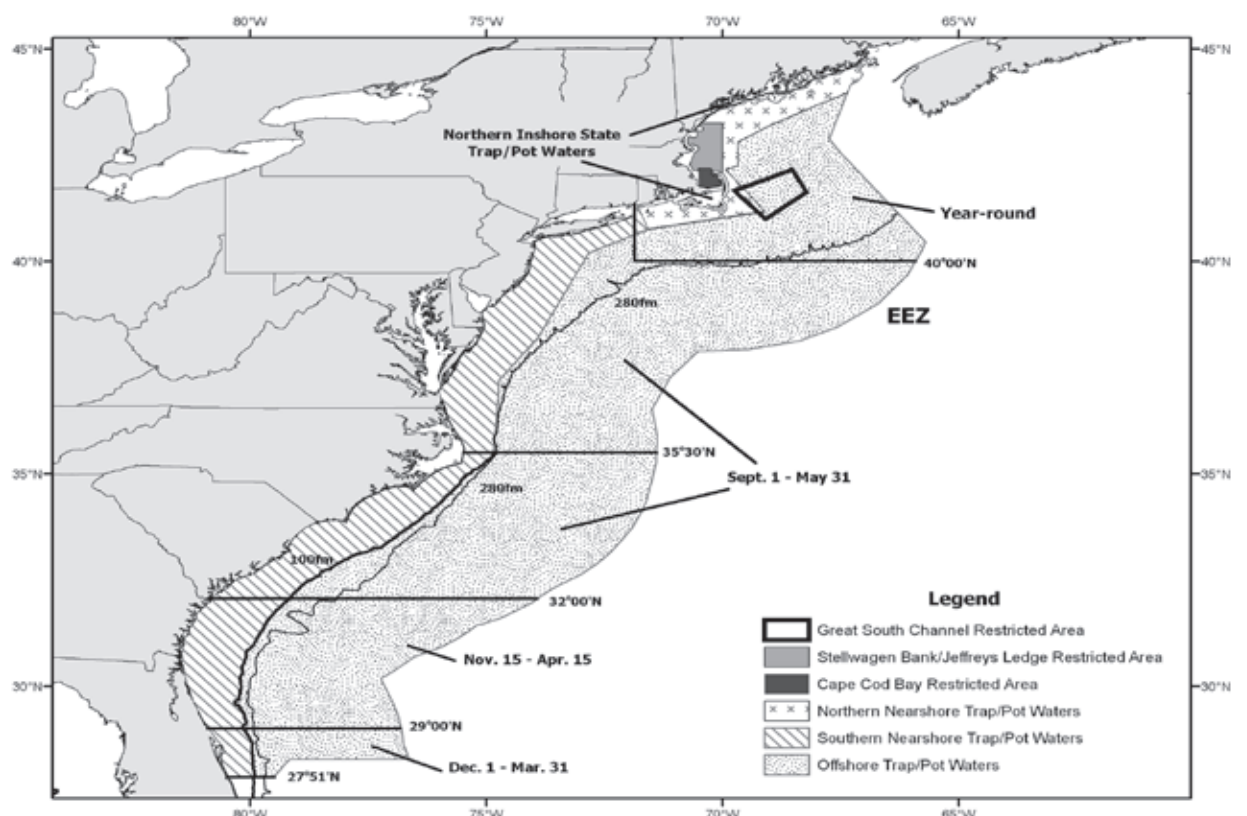
General Information

- Q:** What are the seasonal and area boundaries of the regulations?
A: The requirements are year-round in the northeast, and seasonal in the mid- and south Atlantic. See the charts at right for more details.
- Q:** What about the Seasonal Area Management (SAM) and Dynamic Area Management (DAM) programs?
A: Both have been eliminated.
- Q:** Does the ALWTRP close any areas to fishing?
A: Yes, seasonally. Recent changes to the plan did not add any new closure areas.
- Q:** What's the best way to review specifics about the plan?
A: A comprehensive, illustrated guide to the plan is available online at www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/. You may also contact any member of the NOAA Fisheries ALWTRP Team.
- Q:** If I fish inside the ALWTRP exempted waters, do I have to comply with any other regulations?
A: If you fish in ALWTRP exempted waters, you are exempt from the federal the ALWTRP requirements only. Many states have their own gear regulations, and you should contact your state agency to find out if there are any state requirements for these areas.

All Pot/Trap Areas



All Gillnet Areas

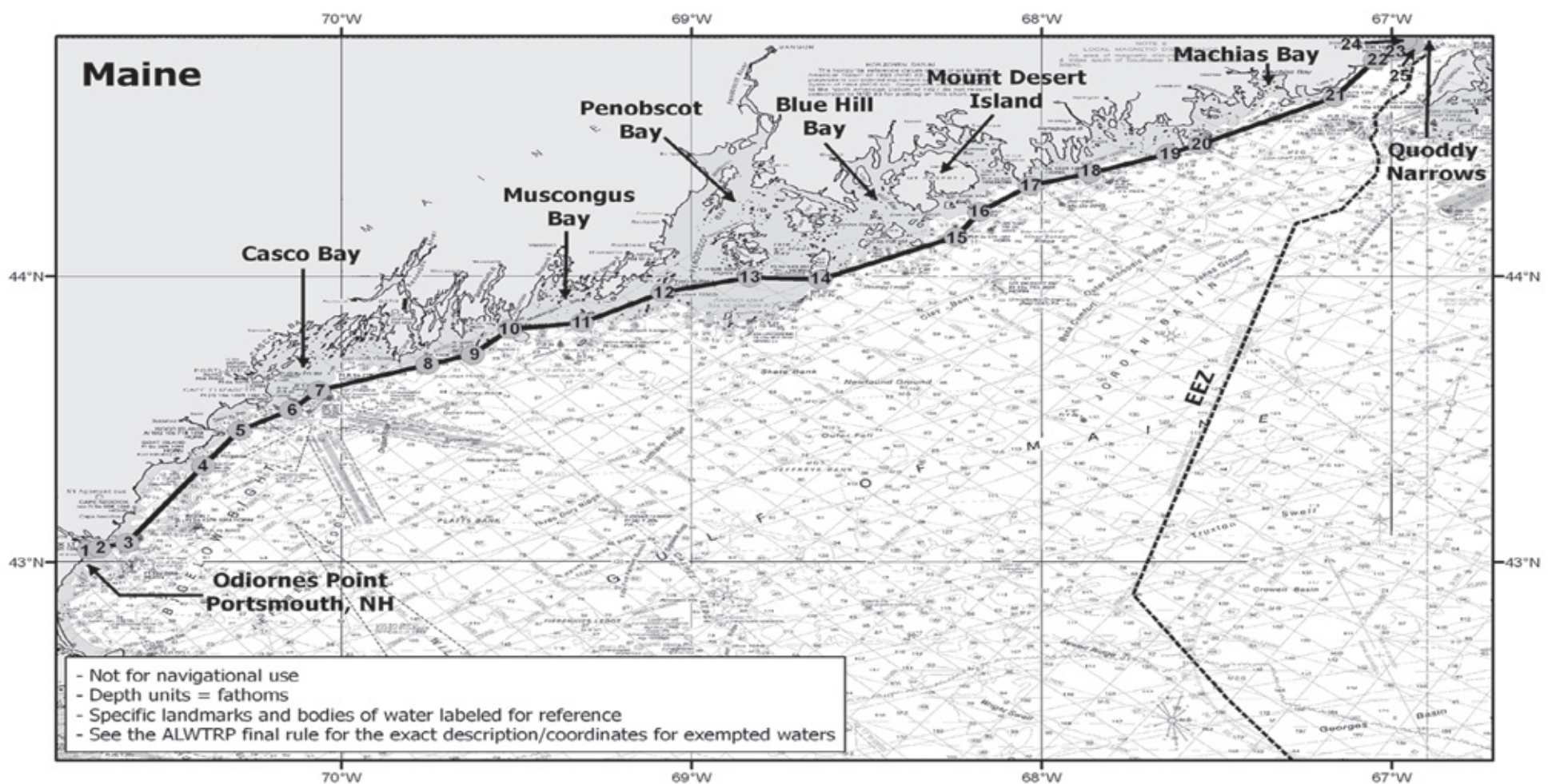


Affected Fisheries

All Commercial Gillnet and Trap/Pot

- Northeast sink gillnet
- Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot
- Mid-Atlantic gillnet
- Southeast Atlantic gillnet
- Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet
- Northeast anchored float gillnet
- Northeast drift gillnet
- Atlantic blue crab
- Atlantic mixed species trap/pot fisheries for fish, crabs, conch, whelk, shrimp and other species

Maine Exemption Line



Final areas are those landward of a line which connects the points below:

1. Odiornes Pt. Portsmouth NH: 43° 02.55' N 70°43.33' W
2. R 2KR Whistle – Kittery Point: 43°02.93' N 70°41.47' W
3. N 2MR – Murray Rock: 43°04.06' N 70°36.70' W
4. RW CP Whistle – Cape Porpoise: 43°20.23' N 70°23.64' W
5. RW WI Whistle – Wood I: 43°27.63' N 70°17.48' W
6. G 1 – East Hue and Cry: 43°31.94' N 70°08.68' W
7. RG N BS – Bulwark Shoal: 43°36.04' N 70°03.98' W
8. R 20ML Bell - Mile Ledge: 43°41.44' N 69°45.27' W
9. R 2BR Bell – Bantam Rock: 43°43.64' N 69°37.58' W

10. GR C PL – Pemaquid Ledge: 43°48.96' N 69°31.15' W
11. R 2 OM Whistle – Old Man Ledge: 43°50.28' N 69°18.86' W
12. G 5TB Bell – Two Bush Channel: 43°56.72' N 69°04.89' W
13. R 2A Bell – Old Horse Ledge: 43°59.83' N 68°50.06' W
14. R 2 Bell – Roaring Bull Ledge, Isle Au Haut: 43°59.36' N 68°37.95' W
15. Southern point Great Duck I: 44°08.36' N 68°14.75' W
16. R 8BI Whistle – Baker I: 44°13.55' N 68°10.71' W

17. R 2S Bell – Schoodic I: 44°19.08' N 68° 02.05' W
18. R N 2 – Petit Manan I: 44°21.66' N 67°51.78' W
19. R 2SR Bell – Seahorse Rock, west of Great Wass I: 44°25.74' N 67° 38.39' W
20. Freeman Rock – east of Great Wass I: 44°27.77' N 67°32.86' W
21. Obstruction – southeast of Cutler: 44°37.70' N 67°09.75' W
22. R 28M Whistle – Baileys Mistake: 44°45.51' N 67°02.87' W
23. R N 2 – Morton Ledge: 44°47.36' N 66°59.25' W
24. G 1 Whistle – West Quoddy Head: 44°48.64' N 66°56.43' W
25. R N 2 – Quoddy Narrows: 44°49.67' N 66°57.77' W

Q: Am I limited to using 1/3 float rope in my buoy line?

A: In Cape Cod Bay only, from January 1-May 15, trap/pot buoy lines must be made of sinking line, except for the bottom 1/3 which may be floating

Q: What is the definition of “groundline”?

A: For gillnet gear, a “groundline” is the line that connects a gillnet or gillnet bridle to an anchor; for trap/pot gear, it is the line that connects traps/pots in a trawl (or the line to which each trap’s gangion connects.) Where and when sinking groundline is required, the attachment of flotation devices is prohibited.

Q: What is neutrally buoyant line?

A: Neutrally buoyant line is a term used by manufacturer’s to inform fishermen as to the type of sink line.

Q: Can low-profile line be used as a sink line?

A: No. “Low profile” line can be used where float rope is allowed, but not where sink rope is required.

Q: Do all buoys need a weak link?

A: Yes. All buoys, flotation devices, and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line using a weak link. Please see the ALWTRP Guide and website or contact a NOAA ALWTRP Team member.

Q: What are the requirements for marking surface buoys in all ALWTRP-regulated trap/pot and gillnet areas?

A: All trap/pot and gillnet surface buoys need to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery. For details, Please see the ALWTRP Guide and website or contact a NOAA ALWTRP Team member.

Contact the NOAA ALWTRP Team

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www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/

Download the illustrated ALWTRP Guide at
www.nero.noaa.gov/plan/2008ALWTRPGuideVs32.pdf