

Fishery Conservation and Management

§ 654.24

(c) *Gear belonging to others.* No fisherman may willfully tend, open, pull, or otherwise molest another fisherman's trap, buoy, or line in the management area without the prior written consent of that fisherman.

**§654.23 Southwest Florida seasonal trawl closure.**

From January 1 to 1 hour after sunset (local time) May 20, each year, the area described in this section is closed to trawling, including trawling for live bait. The area is that part of the management area shoreward of a line connecting the following points (see Appendix A, Figure 2, of this part):

Point	North Latitude	West Longitude
B <sup>1</sup> .....	26°16'	81°58.5'
C .....	26°00'	82°04'
D .....	25°09'	81°47.6'
E .....	24°54.5'	81°50.5'
M <sup>1</sup> .....	24°49.3'	81°46.4'

<sup>1</sup> On the seaward limit of Florida's waters.

**§654.24 Shrimp/stone crab separation zones.**

Five zones are established in the management area and Florida's waters off Citrus and Hernando Counties for the separation of shrimp trawling and stone crab trapping. The zones are as shown in Appendix A, Figure 3, of this part. Although Zone II is entirely within Florida's waters, it is included in this section and Appendix A, Figure 3, of this part for the convenience of fishermen. Restrictions that apply to Zone II and those parts of the other zones that are in Florida's waters are contained in Rule 46-38.001, Florida Administrative Code. Geographical coordinates of the points referred to in this paragraph and shown in Appendix A, Figure 3, of this part are as follows (loran readings are unofficial and are included only for the convenience of fishermen):

Point	North latitude	West longitude	Loran Chain 7980			
			W	X	Y	Z
A .....	28°59'30"	82°45'36"	14416.5	31409.4	45259.1	62895.3
B .....	28°59'30"	83°00'10"	14396.0	31386.3	45376.8	63000.0
C .....	28°26'01"	82°59'47"	14301.5	31205.9	45103.2	63000.0
D .....	28°26'01"	82°56'54"	14307.0	31212.2	45080.0	62981.3
E .....	28°41'39"	82°55'25"	14353.7	31300.2	45193.9	62970.0
F .....	28°41'39"	82°56'09"	14352.4	31298.6	45199.4	62975.0
G .....	28°48'56"	82°56'19"	14372.6	31337.2	45260.0	62975.0
H .....	28°53'51"	82°51'19"	14393.9	31371.8	45260.0	62938.7
I .....	28°54'43"	82°44'52"	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
J .....	28°51'09"	82°44'00"	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
K .....	28°50'59"	82°54'16"	14381.6	31351.8	45260.0	62960.0
L .....	28°41'39"	82°53'56"	14356.2	31303.0	45181.7	62960.0
M .....	28°41'39"	82°38'46"	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
N .....	28°41'39"	82°53'12"	14357.4	31304.4	45176.0	62955.0
O .....	28°30'51"	82°55'11"	14323.7	31242.4	45104.9	62970.0
P .....	28°40'00"	82°53'08"	14352.9	31295.7	45161.8	62955.0
Q .....	28°40'00"	82°47'58"	14361.3	31305.4	45120.0	62920.0
R .....	28°35'14"	82°47'47"	14348.6	31280.6	45080.0	62920.0
S .....	28°30'51"	82°52'55"	14327.7	31247.0	45086.6	62955.0
T .....	28°27'46"	82°55'09"	14315.2	31225.8	45080.0	62970.0
U .....	28°30'51"	82°52'09"	14329.1	31248.6	45080.0	62949.9

<sup>1</sup> Crystal River Entrance Light 1A.

<sup>2</sup> Long Pt. (southwest tip).

<sup>3</sup> Shoreline.

(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 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, U, 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.

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(d) *Zone IV* is enclosed by rhumb lines connecting, in order, points E, N, S, 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 it 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.

**§ 654.25 Prevention of gear conflicts.**

(a) No person may knowingly place in the management area any article, including fishing gear, that interferes with fishing or obstructs or damages fishing gear or the fishing vessel of another; or knowingly use fishing gear in such a fashion that it obstructs or

damages the fishing gear or fishing vessel of another.

(b) In accordance with the procedures and limitations of the Fishery Management Plan for the Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, the Regional Director may modify or establish 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.

**§ 654.26 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 Director 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/removal 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 Director may authorize, for the acquisition of information and data, activities otherwise prohibited by the regulations in this part.

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