

§ 654.25

50 CFR Ch. VI (10–1–98 Edition)

(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

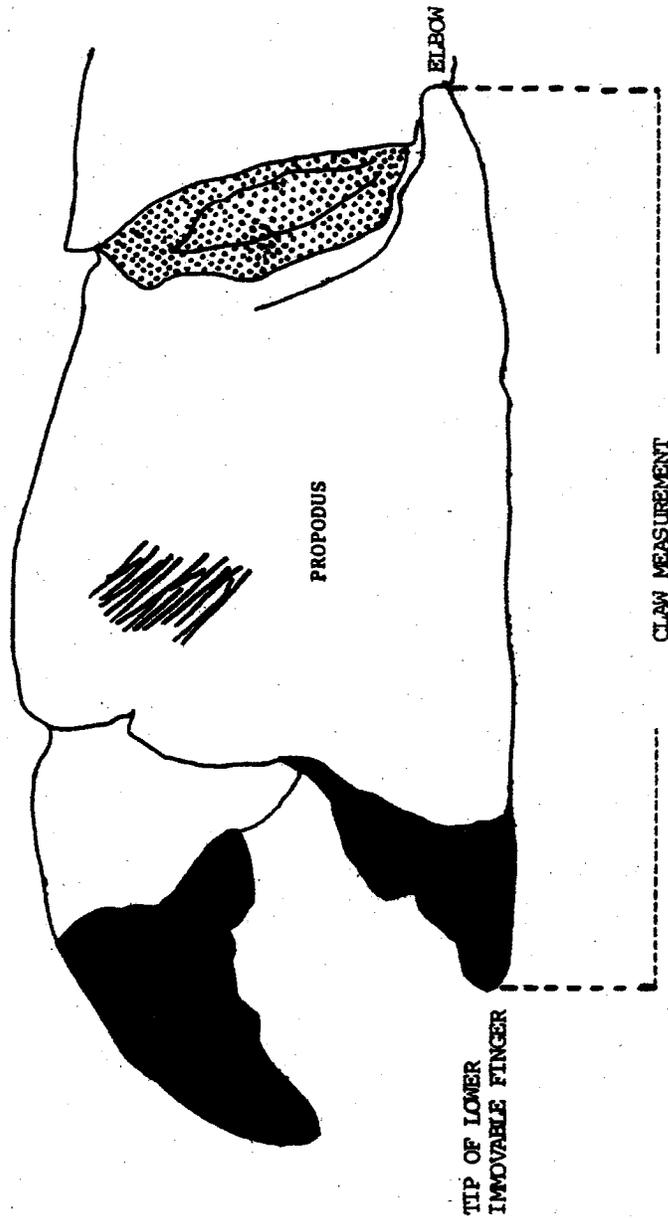


FIGURE 1. STONE CRAB CLAW

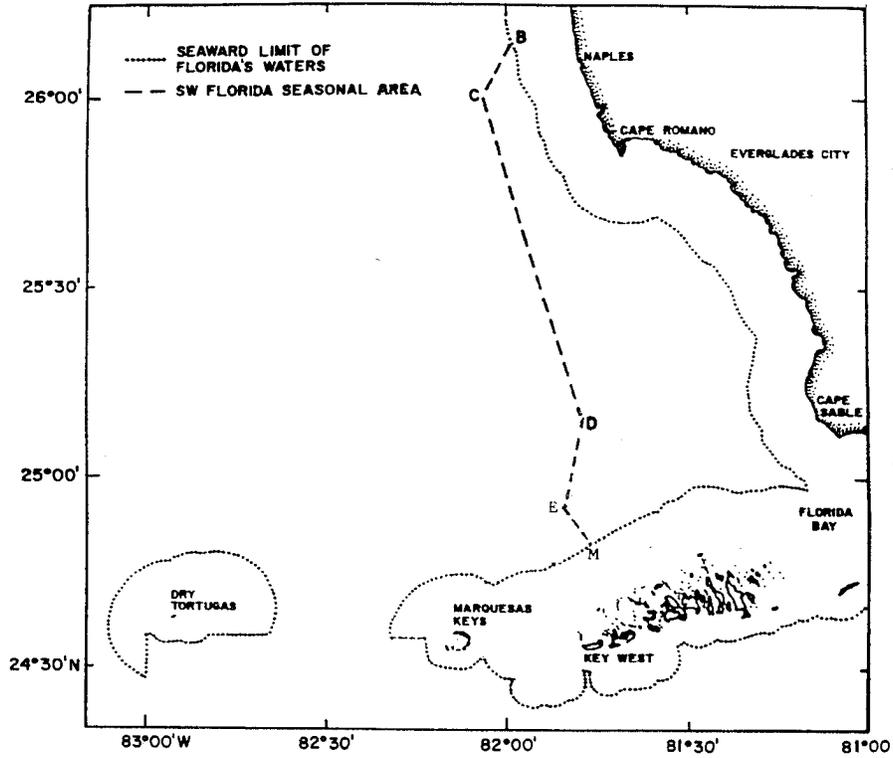


FIGURE 2. SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SEASONAL TRAWL CLOSURE

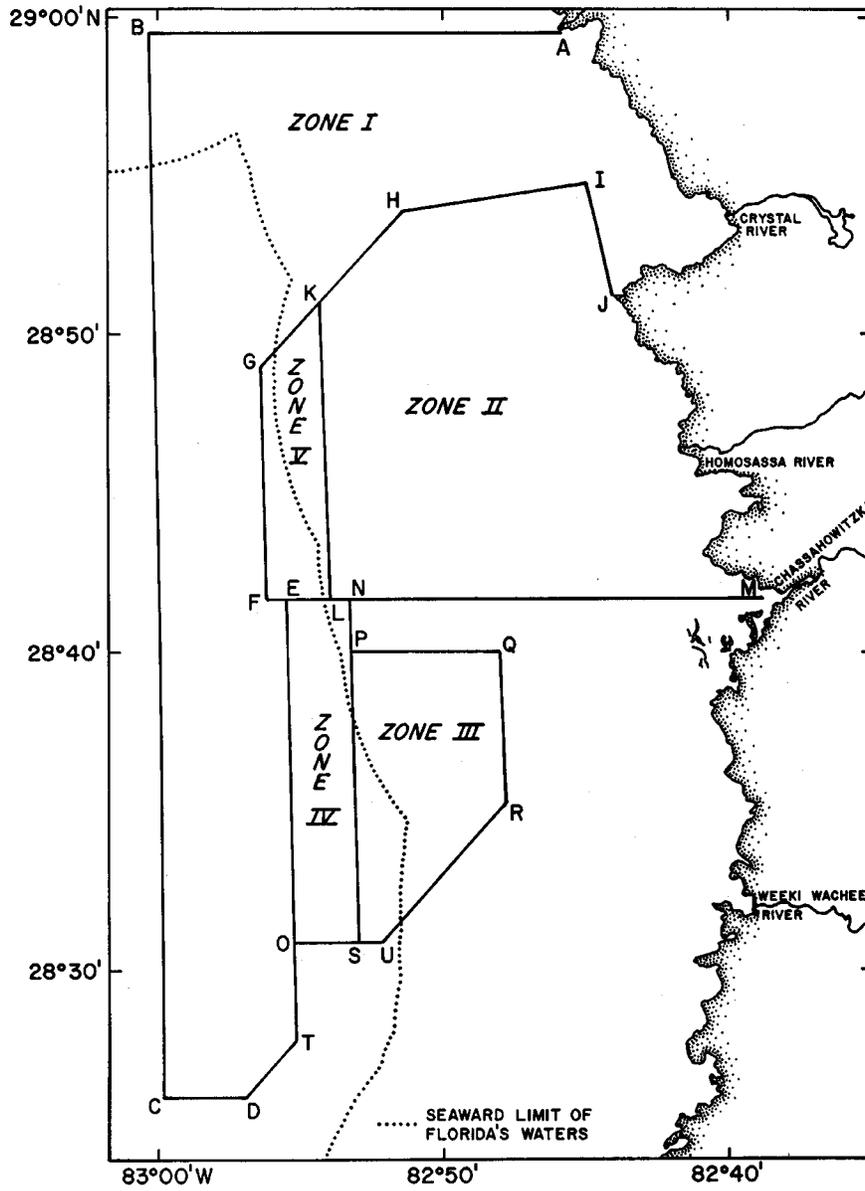


Figure 3. Shrimp/stone crab separation zones.