

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is proposed to be amended as follows<sup>[AB1]</sup>:

**PART 622--FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC**

1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

2. In § 622.74, revise the section to read as follows:

**§ 622.74 Area closures to protect Gulf corals.**

For the purposes of this section, fishing gear is deployed if any part of the gear is in contact with the water.

(a) *Florida Middle Grounds HAPC.* Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, dredge, pot, or trap is prohibited year-round in the area bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	28°42.500'	84°24.800'
B	28°42.500'	84°16.300'

C	28°11.000'	84°00.000'
D	28°11.000'	84°07.000'
E	28°26.600'	84°24.800'
A	28°42.500'	84°24.800'

(b) *Tortugas marine reserves HAPC*. Fishing for any species and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the areas of the HAPC.

(1) *EEZ portion of Tortugas North HAPC*. The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order: From point A at 24°40.000' N. lat., 83°06.000' W. long. to point B at 24°46.000' N. lat., 83°06.000' W. long. to point C at 24°46.000' N. lat., 83°00.000' W. long.; then along the line denoting the seaward limit of Florida's waters, as shown on the current edition of NOAA chart 11434, to point A at 24°40.000' N. lat., 83°06.000' W. long.

(2) *Tortugas South HAPC*. The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
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A	24°33.000′	83°09.000′
B	24°33.000′	83°05.000′
C	24°18.000′	83°05.000′
D	24°18.000′	83°09.000′
A	24°33.000′	83°09.000′

(c) *Pulley Ridge South HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the area of the HAPC bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24°58.300′	83°38.550′
B	24°58.300′	83°37.000′
C	24°41.183′	83°37.000′
D	24°40.000′	83°41.367′
E	24°43.917′	83°47.250′

A	24°58.300'	83°38.550'
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(d) *Pulley Ridge South Portion A HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the area of the HAPC bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24°40.000'	83°41.366'
B	24°39.666'	83°42.648'
C	24°47.555'	83°55.240'
D	24°57.065'	83°48.405'
E	24°52.859'	83°41.841'
F	24°43.917'	83°47.250'
A	24°40.000'	83°41.366'

(e) *West Florida Wall HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited

year-round in the area of the HAPC bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	26°28.835'	84°47.955'
B	26°28.816'	84°46.754'
C	26°10.471'	84°42.076'
D	26°10.528'	84°44.577'
E	26°25.028'	84°47.986'
F	26°25.100'	84°47.980'
A	26°28.835'	84°47.955'

(f) *Alabama Alps Reef HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the area of the HAPC bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	29°16.160'	88°20.525'

B	29°15.427'	88°18.990'
C	29°13.380'	88°19.051'
D	29°14.140'	88°20.533'
A	29°16.160'	88°20.525'

(g) *L & W Pinnacles and Scamp Reef HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the area of the HAPC bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	29°18.595'	87°48.757'
B	29°18.484'	87°50.688'
C	29°19.754'	87°52.484'
D	29°20.401'	87°51.449'
E	29°20.095'	87°50.933'
F	29°20.832'	87°46.631'

G	29°21.473'	87°46.326'
H	29°21.314'	87°45.535'
I	29°22.518'	87°43.465'
J	29°21.144'	87°42.632'
K	29°19.269'	87°45.525'
A	29°18.595'	87°48.757'

(h) *Mississippi Canyon 118 HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the area of the HAPC bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	28°53.183'	88°30.789'
B	28°53.216'	88°27.819'
C	28°50.602'	88°27.782'
D	28°48.944'	88°27.759'

E	28°48.962'	88°30.727'
A	28°53.183'	88°30.789'

(i) *Roughtongue Reef HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the area of the HAPC bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	29°27.596'	87°37.527'
B	29°27.621'	87°31.552'
C	29°25.007'	87°31.539'
D	29°24.981'	87°37.510'
A	29°27.596'	87°37.527'

(j) *Viosca Knoll 826 HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the area of the HAPC bounded by rhumb lines



connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	29°10.920'	88°03.509'
B	29°10.877'	87°59.460'
C	29°07.974'	87°59.448'
D	29°08.017'	88°03.532'
A	29°10.920'	88°03.509'

(k) *Viosca Knoll 862/906 HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the area of the HAPC. This prohibition does not apply to a fishing vessel issued a Gulf royal red shrimp endorsement, as specified in § 622.50(c), and while the vessel is fishing for royal red shrimp. The HAPC is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	29°07.640'	88°23.608'

B	29°07.603'	88°20.590'
C	29°03.749'	88°20.554'
D	29°03.734'	88°22.016'
E	29°02.367'	88°21.998'
F	29°02.281'	88°24.972'
G	29°07.568'	88°25.044'
H	29°07.592'	88°25.044'
I	29°07.676'	88°25.045'
A	29°07.640'	88°23.608'

(1) *McGrail Bank HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the HAPC, which is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	27°59.100'	92°37.320'

B	27°59.100'	92°32.290'
C	27°55.925'	92°32.290'
D	27°55.925'	92°37.320'
A	27°59.100'	92°37.320'

(m) *AT 047 HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the HAPC, which is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	27°54.426'	89°49.404'
B	27°54.486'	89°46.464'
C	27°51.874'	89°46.397'
D	27°51.814'	89°49.336'
A	27°54.426'	89°49.404'

(n) *AT 357 HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom

anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the HAPC, which is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	27°36.259'	89°43.068'
B	27°36.315'	89°40.136'
C	27°33.703'	89°40.073'
D	27°33.646'	89°43.004'
A	27°36.259'	89°43.068'

(o) *Green Canyon 852 HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the HAPC, which is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	27°08.354'	91°08.929'
B	27°05.740'	91°08.963'

C	27°05.762'	91°10.610'
D	27°08.376'	91°10.567'
A	27°08.354'	91°08.929'

(p) *West Flower Garden Bank HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the HAPC, which is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	27°55.380'	93°53.160'
B	27°55.380'	93°46.767'
C	27°49.050'	93°46.767'
D	27°49.050'	93°53.160'
A	27°55.380'	93°53.160'

(q) *East Flower Garden Bank HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are

prohibited year-round in the HAPC, which is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	27°59.240'	93°38.970'
B	27°59.240'	93°34.058'
C	27°52.608'	93°34.058'
D	27°52.608'	93°38.970'
A	27°59.240'	93°38.970'

(r) *Stetson Bank HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the HAPC, which is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	28°10.638'	94°18.608'
B	28°10.638'	94°17.105'
C	28°09.310'	94°17.105'

D	28°09.310'	94°18.608'
A	28°10.638'	94°18.608'

(s) *Harte Bank HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the HAPC, which is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	26°40.826'	96°36.590'
B	26°40.789'	96°32.220'
C	26°37.992'	96°32.308'
D	26°38.043'	96°36.636'
A	26°40.826'	96°36.590'

(t) *Southern Bank HAPC*. Deployment of a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the HAPC, which is bounded by rhumb lines

connecting the following points in order:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	27°26.923'	96°31.902'
B	27°26.989'	96°30.881'
C	27°25.958'	96°31.134'
D	27°25.958'	96°31.892'
A	27°26.923'	96°31.902'