

Guide To THE ATLANTIC LARGE WHALE TAKE REDUCTION PLAN

An evolving plan to reduce the risk to North Atlantic large whales (right, humpback, and fin) posed by commercial trap/pot and gillnet fishing gear in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean

Contact:

Large Whale Coordinator
Protected Species Division
NOAA Fisheries Service
(978) 281-9328

John Higgins
Northeast Fisheries Liaison
NOAA Fisheries Service Gear Team
(207) 677-2316
John.Higgins@noaa.gov

Glenn Salvador
Mid/South Atlantic Fisheries Liaison
NOAA Fisheries Service Gear Team
(757) 414-0128
Glenn.Salvador@noaa.gov

December 2010

This document is intended as a guide to measures required under the ALWTRP and is not the legal document detailing the regulations.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview of the Take Reduction Plan	Page 3
ALWTRP-Regulated Trap/Pot Management Areas	Page 4
<u>Northeast Trap/Pot Fisheries</u>	Page 5
Trap/Pot Gear Diagram	Page 6
• Northern Inshore State Trap/Pot Waters	Page 7
• Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area	Page 9
• Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area	Page 11
• Great South Channel Restricted Trap/Pot Area	Page 13
• Northern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters	Page 15
• Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters	Page 17
• Offshore Trap/Pot Waters	Page 19
<u>Mid-Atlantic Trap/Pot Fisheries</u>	Page 21
Trap/Pot Gear Diagram	Page 22
• Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters	Page 23
• Offshore Trap/Pot Waters	Page 25
<u>Southeast Trap/Pot Fisheries</u>	Page 27
Trap/Pot Gear Diagram	Page 28
• Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters	Page 29
• Offshore Trap/Pot Waters	Page 31
ALWTRP-Regulated Gillnet Management Areas	Page 33
Drift and Anchored Gillnet Diagrams	Page 34
<u>Northeast Gillnet Fisheries</u>	Page 35
Gillnet Options for Net Panel Weak Links	Page 36
• Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area	Page 37
• Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area	Page 39
• Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area (including the Sliver Area)	Page 41
• Other Northeast Gillnet Waters	Page 43
<u>Mid-Atlantic Gillnet Fisheries</u>	Page 45
Gillnet Options for Net Panel Weak Links	Page 46
• Other Northeast Gillnet Waters	Page 47
• Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters	Page 49
<u>Southeast Gillnet Fisheries</u>	Page 51
Gillnet Options for Net Panel Weak Links	Page 52
• Southeast U.S. Restricted Area North	Page 53
• Southeast U.S. Restricted Area South	Page 55
• Other Southeast Gillnet Waters	Page 57
• Southeast U.S. Monitoring Area	Page 59
Regulations that Apply to Trap/Pot, Anchored and Drift Gillnet Fisheries	Page 61
Regulated and Exempted Waters	Page 61
Supplemental Information	Page 66
Trap/Pot Gear Marking	Page 66
Trap/Pot Gear Diagram	Page 67
Gillnet Gear Marking	Page 68
Gillnet Options for Net Panel Weak Links	Page 69
ALWTRP Definitions	Page 70

OVERVIEW OF THE ALWTRP

The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) is a program to reduce the risk of serious injury to or mortality of large whales due to incidental entanglement in U.S. commercial fishing gear. The plan is required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and has been developed by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The ALWTRP focuses on the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, but is also intended to reduce entanglements of endangered humpback and fin whales and to benefit non-endangered minke whales. Under the protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Federal agencies are required to ensure that permitted activities (such as fishing) do not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species. Since the ALWTRP measures are intended to reduce entanglements of right, humpback, and fin whales in fishing gear, these measures also help to avoid the likelihood that Federally permitted fishing activities will cause harm to or jeopardize the continued existence of these whales.

The ALWTRP affects specific Category I and Category II fisheries, as described in the MMPA List of Fisheries, and includes the following:

- Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot;
- Atlantic blue crab trap/pot;
- Atlantic mixed species trap/pot which includes, but is not limited to: crab (red, Jonah, and rock), hagfish, finfish (black sea bass, scup, tautog, cod, haddock, pollock, redfish (ocean perch), and white hake), conch/whelk, and shrimp;
- Northeast sink gillnet;
- Northeast anchored float gillnet;
- Northeast drift gillnet;
- Mid-Atlantic gillnet;
- Southeastern US Atlantic shark gillnet; and
- Southeast Atlantic gillnet.

The plan was developed with the help of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT), which consists of fishing industry representatives, environmentalists, state and federal officials, and other interested parties. Information about the process and the ALWTRT is available on the Whale TRP website (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/>).

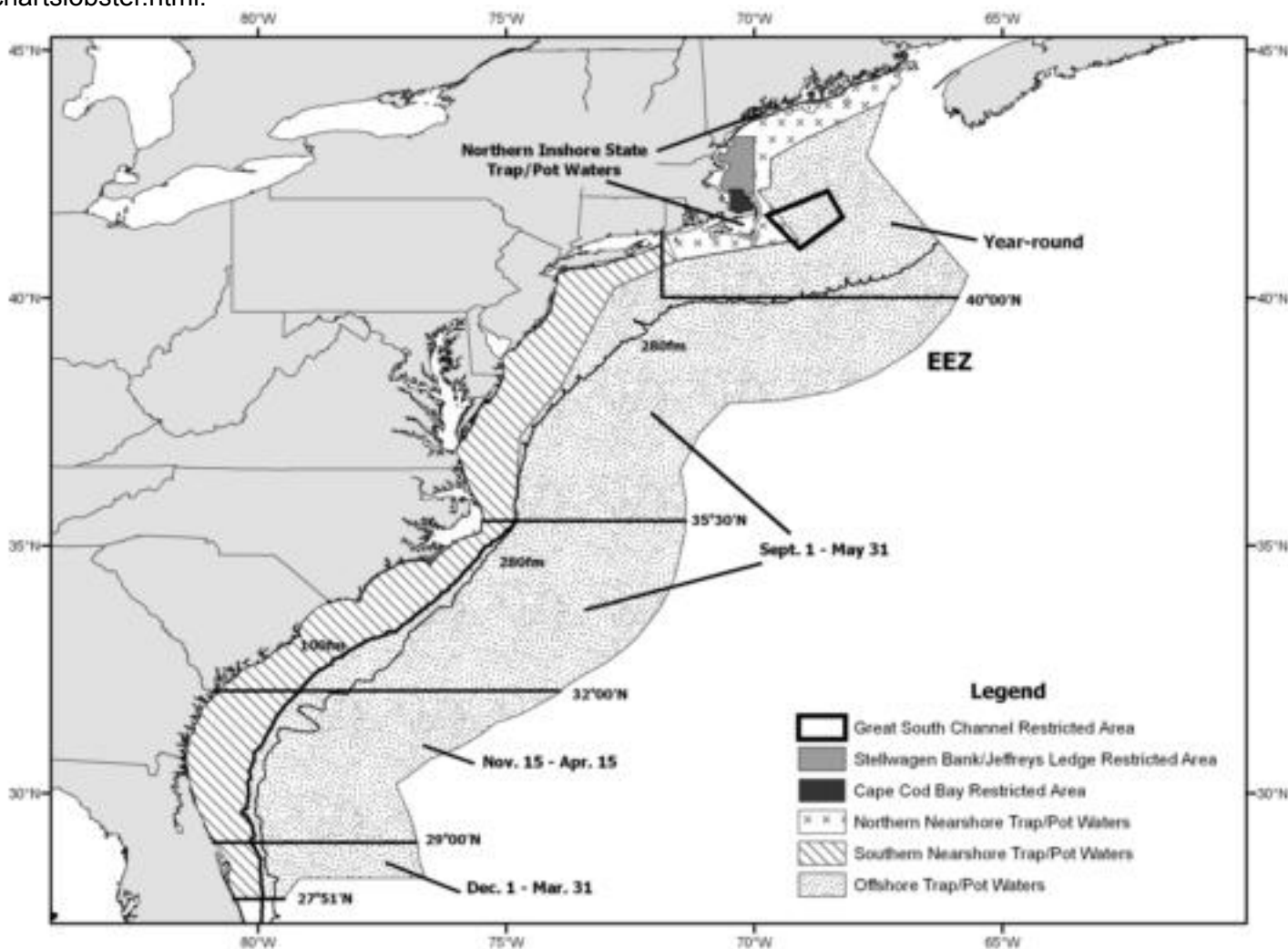
The ALWTRP is an evolving plan that changes as NMFS and the ALWTRT learn more about why whales become entangled and how fishing practices might be modified to reduce the risk of entanglement. It has several components including restrictions on where and how gear can be set; research into whale populations and whale behavior, as well as fishing gear interactions and modifications; outreach to inform and collaborate with fishermen; and a disentanglement program. The first ALWTRP went into effect in 1997, published in the *Federal Register* as an Interim Final Rule. The regulations contained in that rule were updated in February 1999, and again in December of 2000. In January 2002, NMFS published three rules that (1) made further modifications to commercial fishing gear, (2) established a system for restricting fishing in areas where unexpected aggregations of right whales are observed, and (3) established restricted areas based on the annual, predictable aggregations of right whales. In June 2007, NMFS published a final rule expanding the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area and prohibiting gillnet fishing or possession during the right whale calving season, with some exceptions.

In October 2007, NMFS issued a final rule which implements broad-based gear modifications to replace the programs described in numbers (2) and (3) above. This broad-based gear modification strategy includes expanded weak link and sinking groundline requirements; additional gear marking requirements; changes in boundaries; seasonal restrictions for gear modifications; expanded exempted areas; and regulatory language changes for the purposes of clarification and consistency.

This document is a summary of ALWTRP regulations as they effect where, when and how gear can be set. Please also refer to the ALWTRP Gear Compliance Guide and its supplement to review acceptable techniques on how to accurately mark lines and surface buoys, create and configure weak links, as well as how to appropriately anchor gillnet gear. Note, this guide includes federal requirements only for state and federal waters; contact your state fishery office for any additional requirements for state waters. Should any regulations overlap with the ALWTRP regulations, the more restrictive regulations will apply.

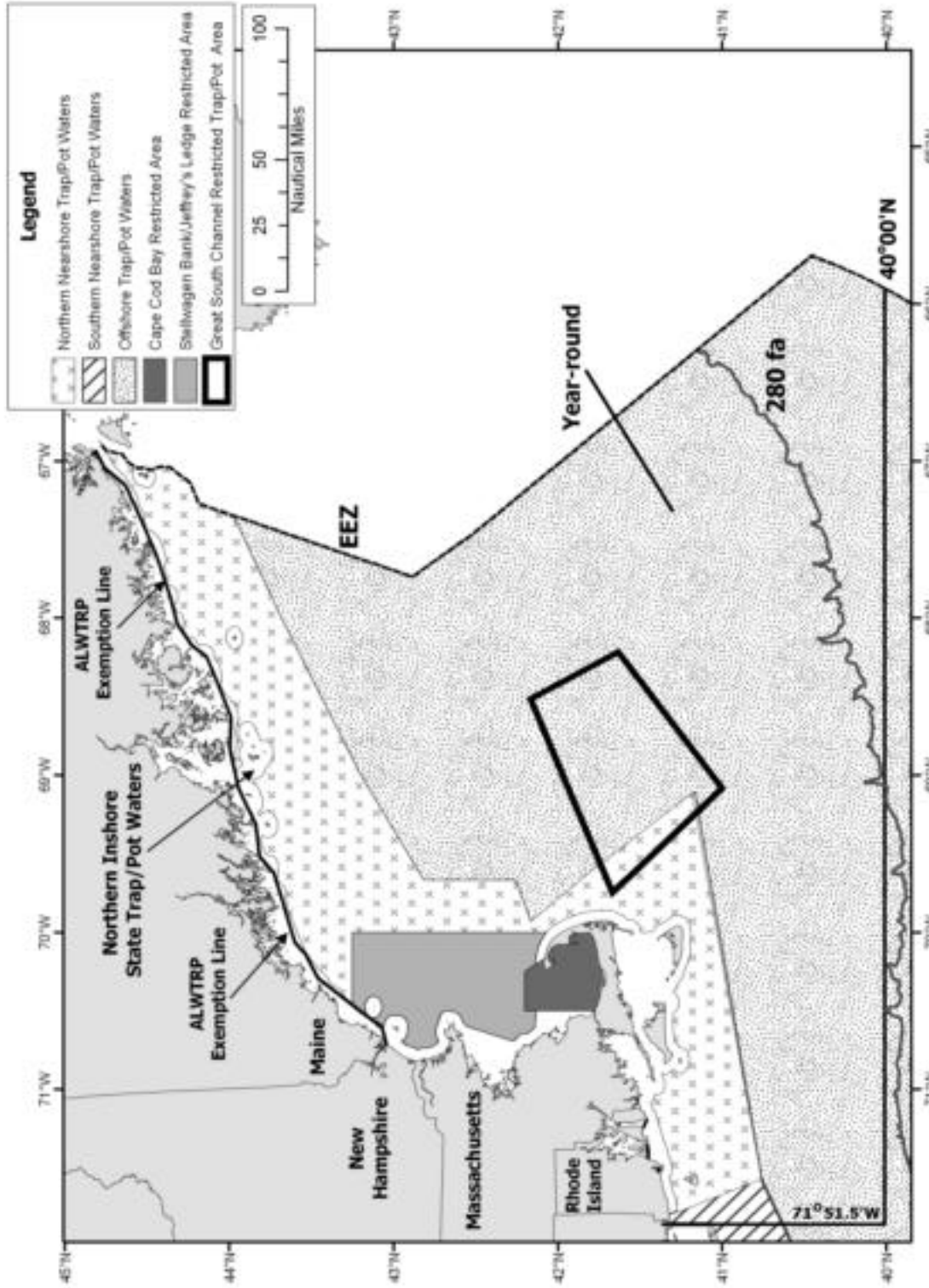
REGULATED TRAP/POT AREAS

The trap/pot gear requirements in the ALWTRP vary by geographic area. The Plan currently recognizes seven trap/pot areas: Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area, Great South Channel Restricted Area, Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area, Northern Inshore State Trap/Pot Waters, Northern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters, Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters, and Offshore Trap/Pot Waters. Many of these areas overlap the Lobster Management Areas (LMA) described in the Federal American lobster regulations found at 50 CFR Part 697 Subpart B. An outreach document, including specific area coordinates, can be found at www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/fishermen/chartslobster.html.



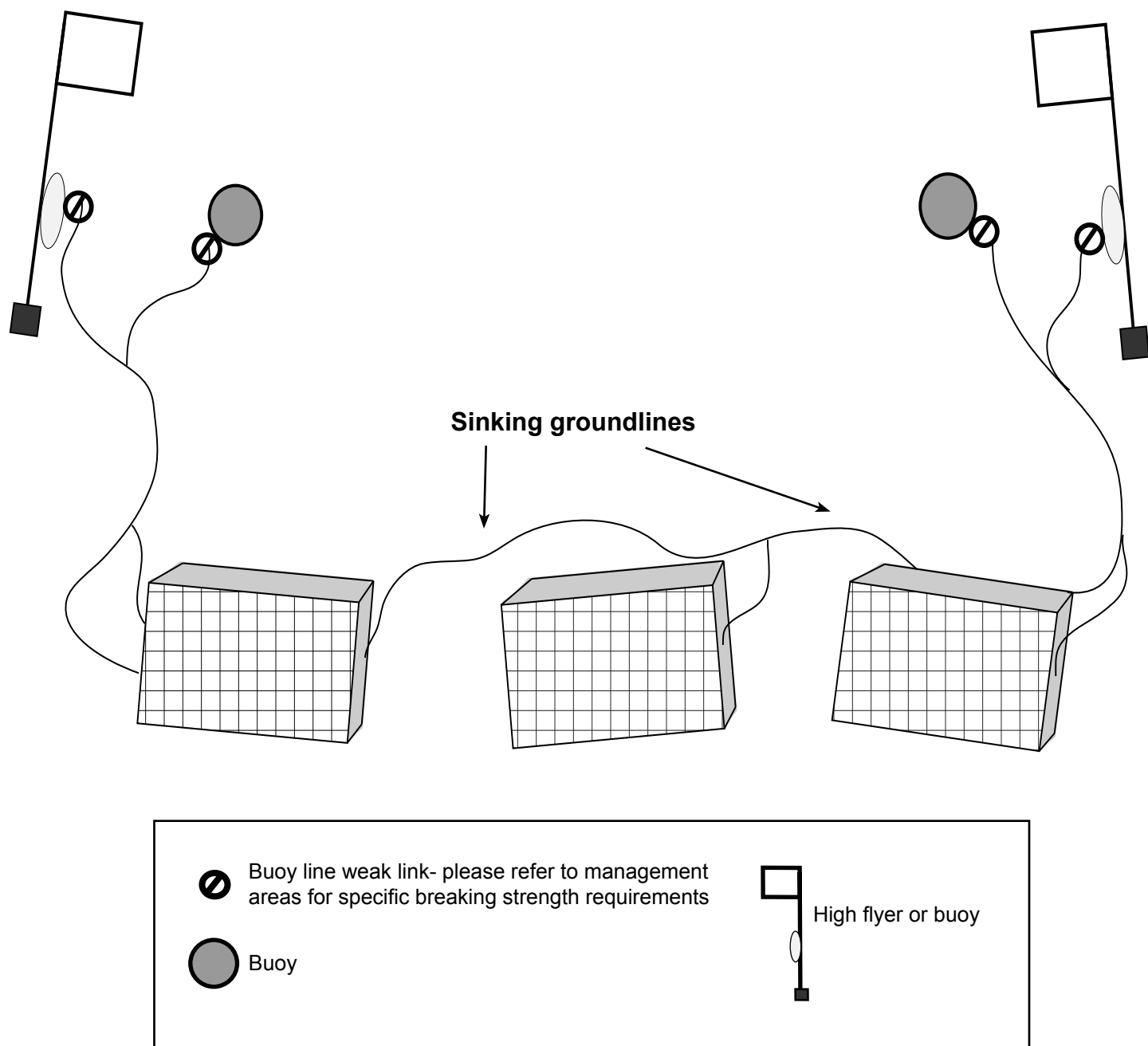
ALWTRP REGULATIONS	AMERICAN LOBSTER FISHERY REGULATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters - Northern Inshore Trap/Pot Waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobster Management Area 1 (except Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge, and Cape Cod Bay) • Lobster Management Area 2 • Outer Cape Lobster Management Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobster Management Area 4 • Lobster Management Area 5 • Lobster Management Area 6 (only near the mouth of Long Island Sound)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offshore Trap/Pot Waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobster Management Area 3 • Lobster Management Area 2/3 Overlap • Lobster Management Area 3/5 Overlap

NORTHEAST REGION: TRAP/POT FISHERIES



Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area, Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area, Great South Channel Restricted Area, Northern Inshore State Trap/Pot Waters, Northern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters, Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters, and Offshore Trap/Pot Waters

TRAP/POT GEAR DIAGRAM



This graphic depicts a general trap/pot gear configuration, which may vary. Please see individual ALWTRP Management Areas for information regarding specific weak link, gear marking and/or any other ALWTRP requirements.

NORTHERN INSHORE STATE TRAP/POT WATERS

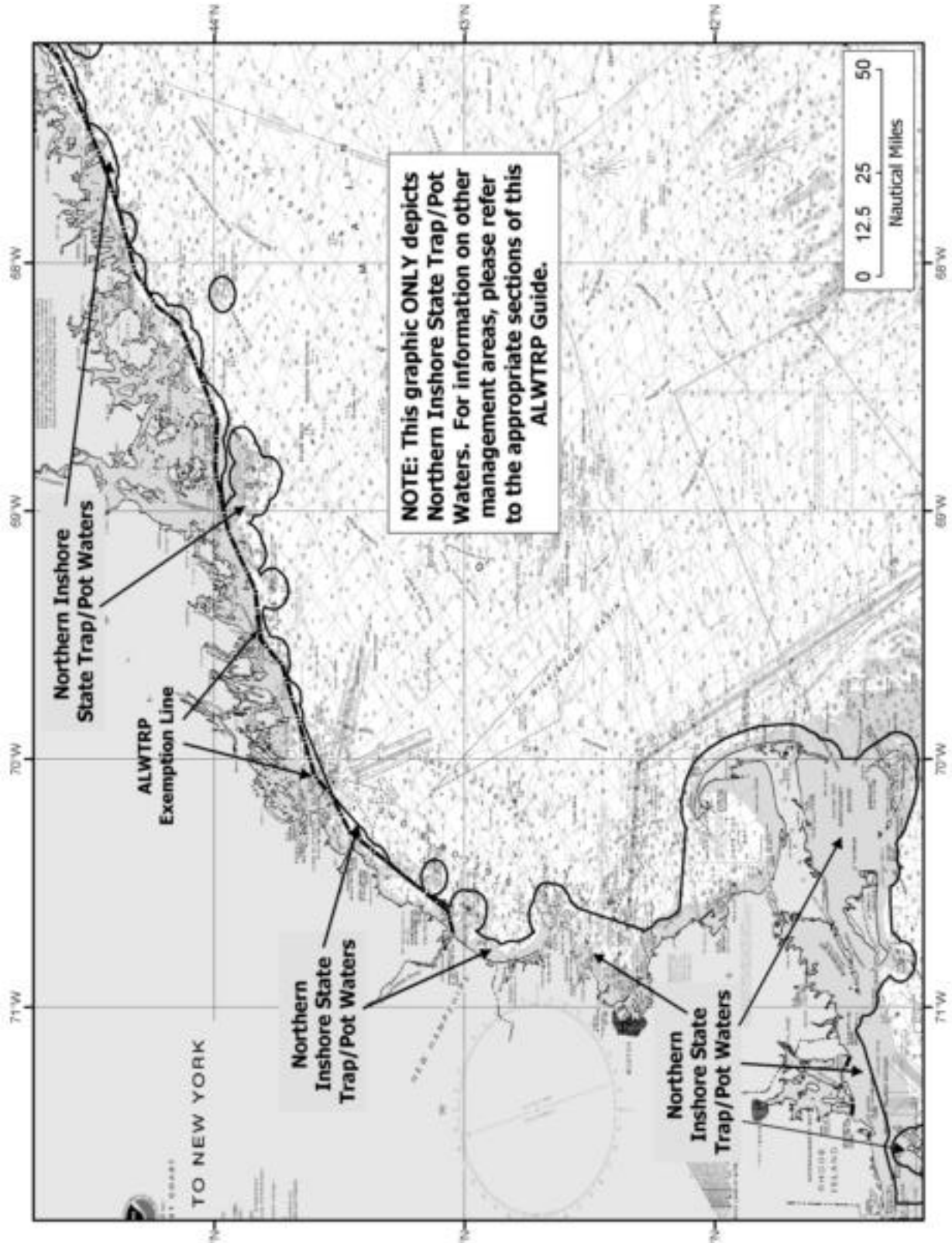
Northern Inshore State Trap/Pot Waters includes the state waters of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, with the exception of the Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area and the exempted waters as described on page 61.

Year-round:

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **RED**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 600 lb*;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHEAST REGION: NORTHERN INSHORE STATE TRAP/POT WATERS



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: West Quoddy Head to New York
Chart ID: 13006_1

CAPE COD BAY RESTRICTED AREA

The Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area includes the area bounded by: 42°04.8'N / 70°10'W; 42°12'N / 70°15'W; 42°12'N / 70°30'W; 41°46.8'N / 70°30'W; and on the south and east by the interior shoreline of Cape Cod, MA.

January 1-May 15 (State and Federal waters):

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days)
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Compliance with **Gear Marking Requirements:**
 - » Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
 - » Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **RED**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 500 lb*;
- All buoy lines must be made of sinking line, except for the bottom 1/3 which may be floating line;
- Only multiple traps will be permitted (no single traps or 3-trap trawls) where trawls are to be set in a 2-trap string or a trawl of 4 or more traps (2-trap strings can have only one buoy line);
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

May 16-December 31 (State waters only):

- Compliance with the **Universal and Gear Marking Requirements** (see above).
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 600 lb*;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

May 16-December 31 (Federal waters only):

- Compliance with the **Universal and Gear Marking Requirements** (see above).
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 600 lb*;
- Only multiple traps will be permitted (no single traps) where all traps are to be set in trawls of 2 or more traps (trawls up to and including 5 or fewer traps can have only one buoy line);
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHEAST REGION: CAPE COD BAY RESTRICTED AREA



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: West Quoddy Head to New York
Chart ID: 13006_1

STELLWAGEN BANK JEFFREY'S LEDGE RESTRICTED AREA

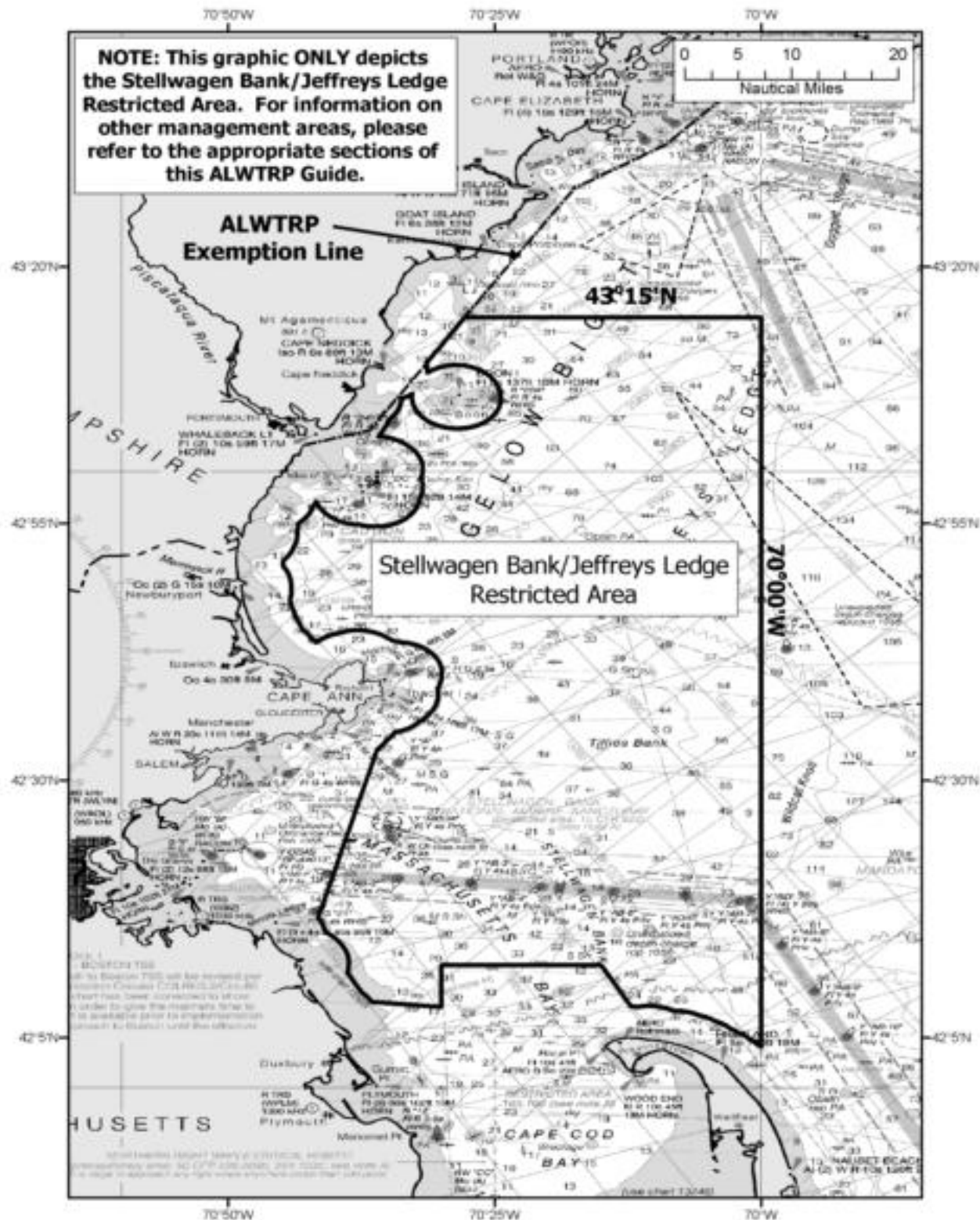
The Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area includes all federal waters of the Gulf of Maine (except those designated as the Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area) that lie south of 43°15'N and west of 70°00'W.

Year-round:

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **RED**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices, and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 600 lb*;
- Only multiple traps will be permitted (no single traps) where all traps are to be set in trawls of 2 or more traps (trawls up to and including 5 or fewer traps can have only one buoy line);
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

-
- ★ Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - ★ Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHEAST REGION: STELLWAGEN BANK/ JEFFREYS LEDGE RESTRICTED AREA



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: West Quoddy Head to New York
Chart ID: 13006_1

GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL RESTRICTED TRAP/POT AREA

The Great South Channel Restricted Trap/Pot Area includes the area bounded by: 41°40'N/ 69°45'W; 41°00'N / 69°05'W; 41°38'N / 68°13'W; and 42°10'N / 68°31'W.

April 1- June 30:

The Great South Channel Restricted Area is **closed** to **all** trap/pot fishing.

July 1- March 31:

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **RED**, mark midway along the buoy line (overlapping with Lobster Management Area (LMA) 2 and/or the Outer Cape LMA), or **BLACK** (overlapping with the LMA 2/3 Overlap and/or LMA 3).
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of:
 - » no greater than 600 lb* in areas that overlap with LMA 2 and/or the Outer Cape LMA;
 - » no greater than 1,500 lb* in areas that overlap with the LMA 2/3 Overlap and/or LMA 3.
- Only multiple traps will be permitted (no single traps) where all traps are to be set in trawls of 2 or more traps (trawls up to and including 5 or fewer traps can have only 1 buoy line) in areas overlapping with LMA 2 and/or the Outer Cape LMA.
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

* Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.

* Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHERN NEARSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS

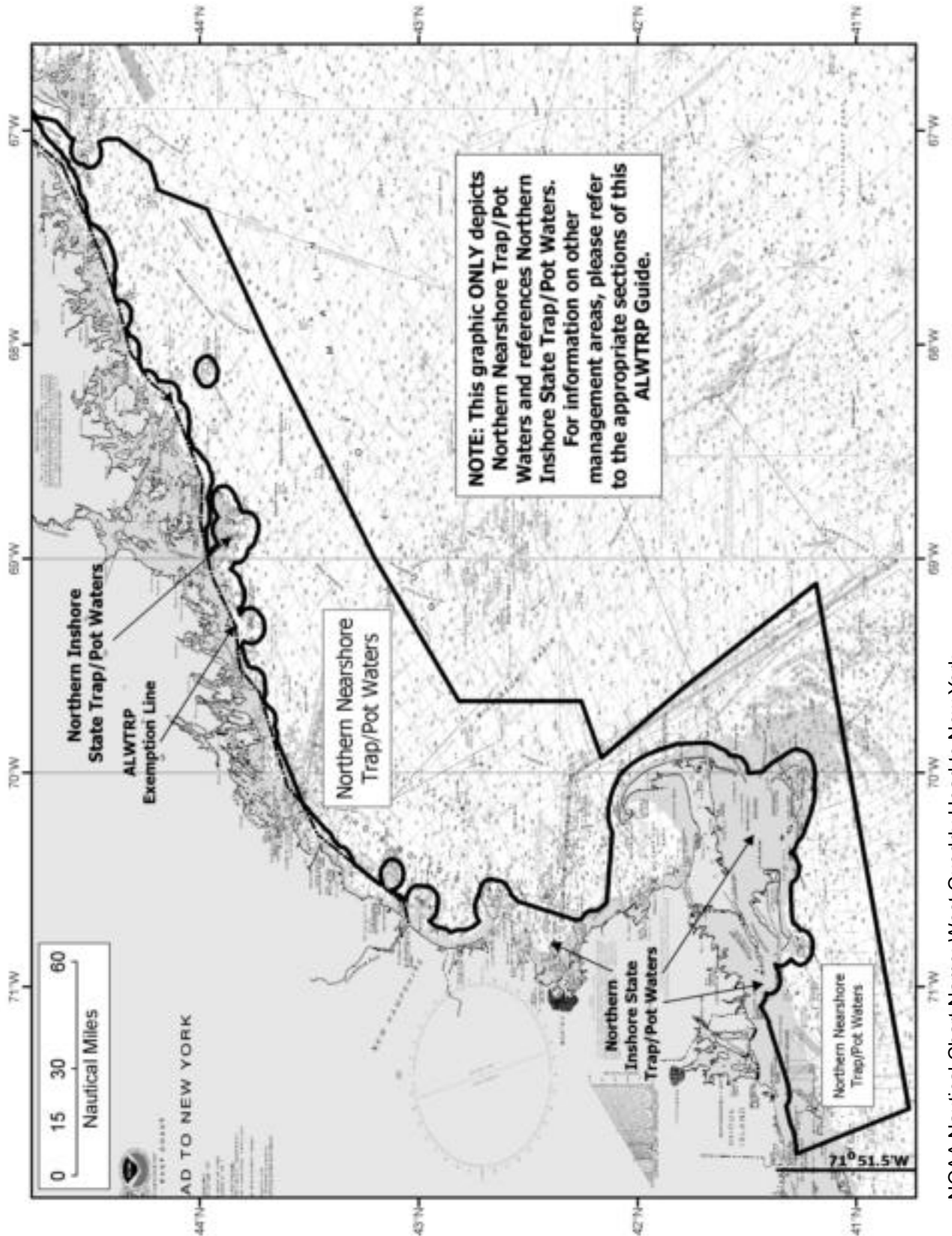
Northern Nearshore Lobster Waters includes all Federal waters of EEZ Nearshore Management Area 1, Area 2, and the Outer Cape Lobster Management Area (as defined in the American Lobster Fishery regulations at 50 CFR 697.18), with the exception of the Great South Channel Restricted Trap/Pot Area, Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area, Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area, and exempted waters as described on page 61.

Year-round (see following map for corresponding area):

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **RED**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices, and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 600 lb*;
- Only multiple traps will be permitted (no single traps) where all traps are to be set in trawls of 2 or more traps (trawls up to and including 5 or fewer traps can have only one buoy line);
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHEAST REGION: NORTHERN NEARSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: West Quoddy Head to New York
Chart ID: 13006_1

SOUTHERN NEARSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS

Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters includes all state and Federal waters which fall within EEZ Nearshore Management Area 4, EEZ Nearshore Management Area 5, and EEZ Nearshore Management Area 6 (as defined in the American Lobster Fishery regulations in 50 CFR 697.18), and inside the 100fa contour line from 35°30' N. lat. south to 27°51' N. lat. and extending inshore to the shoreline or exemption line, with the exception of the exempted waters as described on page 61.

A small portion of these waters includes portions of LMA 6 (near the mouth of Long Island Sound), and hence, have year-round requirements, as noted here. **The remaining waters of the Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters management area will have seasonal requirements as noted in the “Mid-Atlantic” and “Southeast Region Trap/Pot Regulations” to follow.**

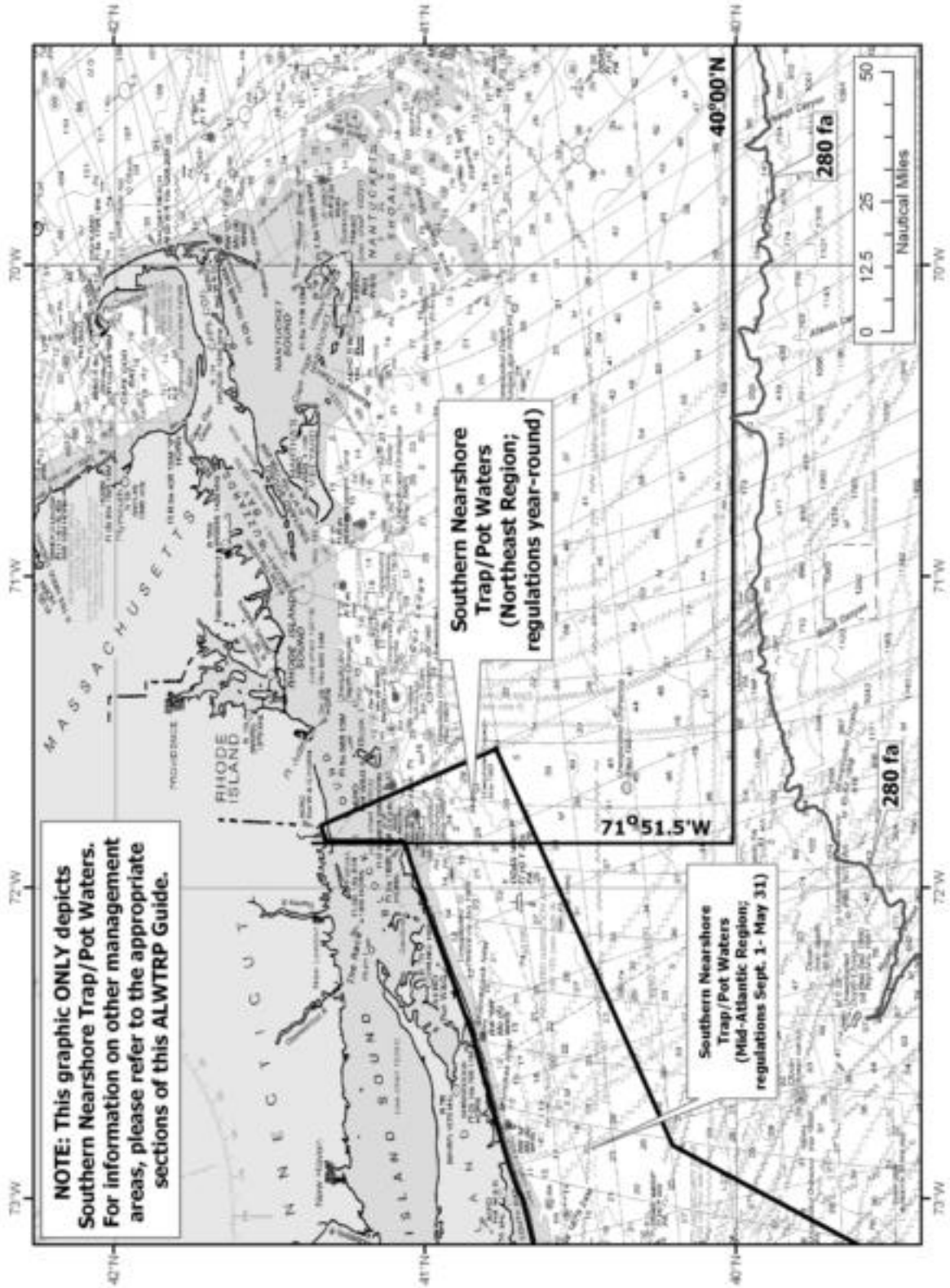
Year-round (see following map for corresponding area):

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **ORANGE**, mark midway along the buoy line;
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 600 lb*;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

* Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.

* Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHEAST REGION: SOUTHERN NEARSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: Cape Sable to Cape Hatteras
Chart ID: 13003_1

OFFSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS

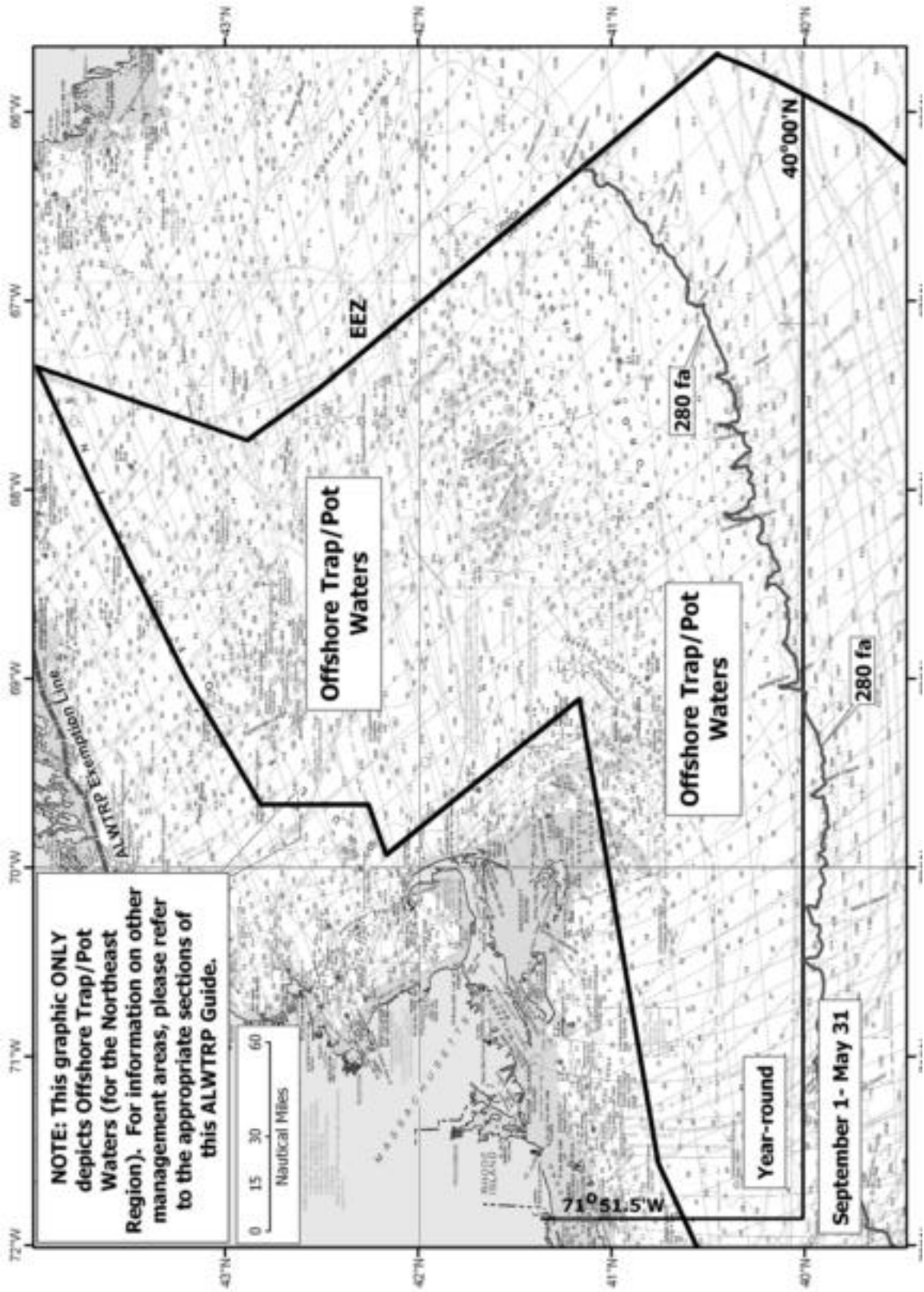
Offshore Trap/Pot Waters includes all Federal waters of the EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 (including the areas known as the Area 2/3 Overlap and 3/5 Overlap, as defined in the American Lobster Fishery regulations found at 50 CFR 697.18), with the exception of the Great South Channel Restricted Trap/Pot Area, and extending south along the 100fa contour line from 35°30' N. lat. south to 27°51' N. lat., and east to the eastern edge of the EEZ.

Year-round (see following map for corresponding area):

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **BLACK**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 1,500 lb*;
 - » For the red crab trap/pot fishery, weak links with a maximum breaking strength of 2,000 lb* are required;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

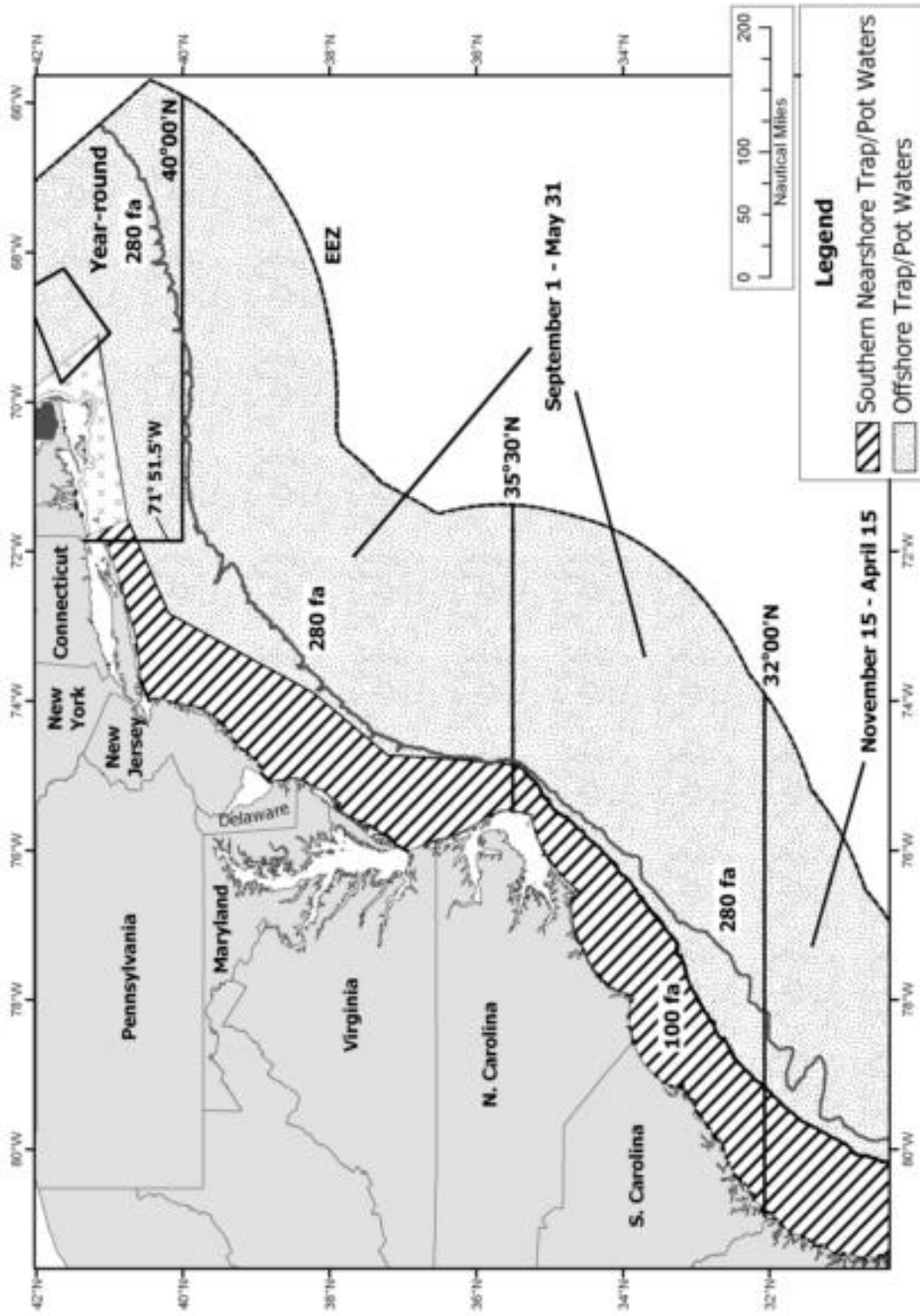
-
- ★ Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - ★ Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHEAST REGION: OFFSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS



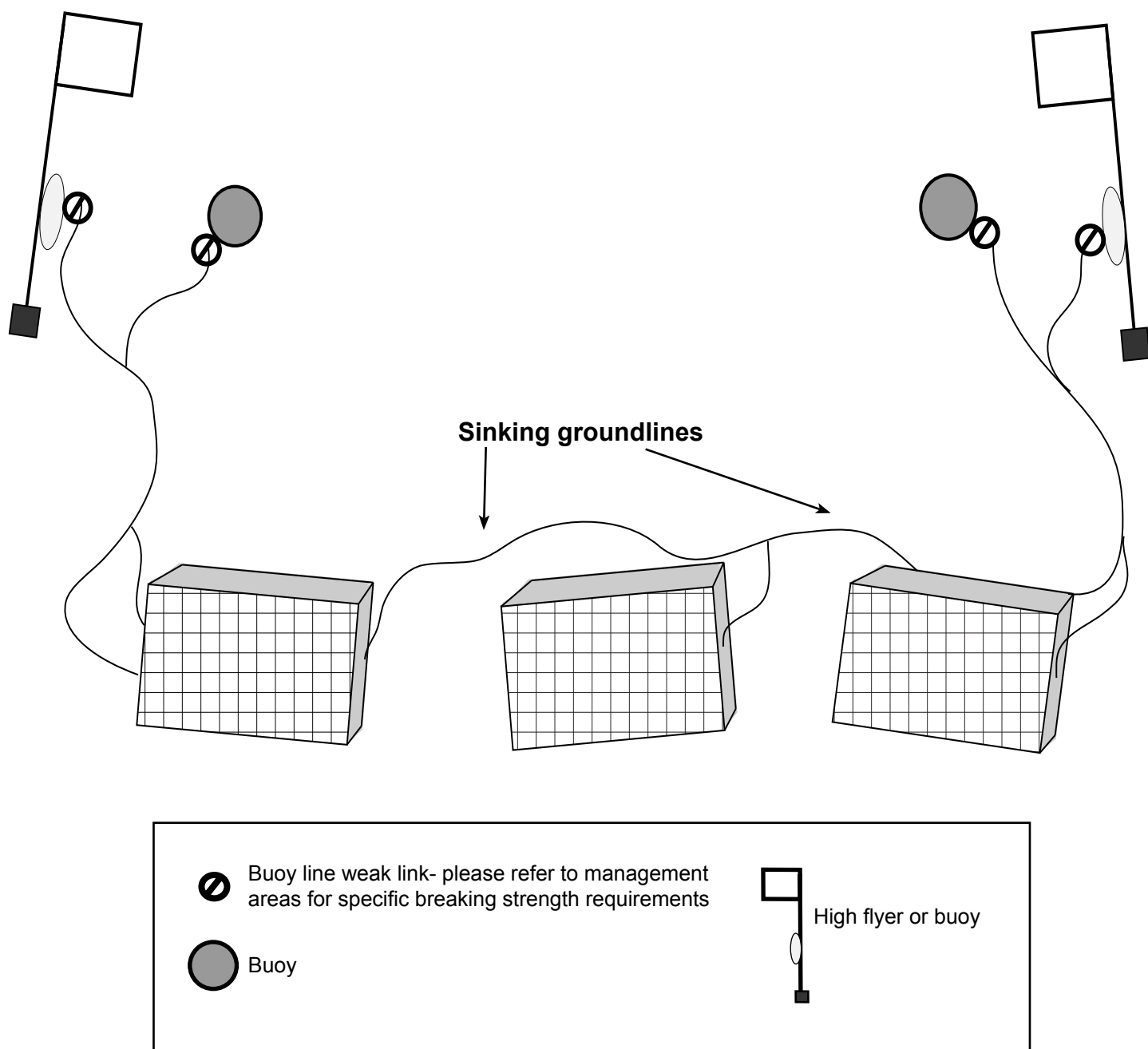
NOAA Nautical Chart Name: Cape Sable to Cape Hatteras
Chart ID: 13003_1

MID-ATLANTIC REGION: TRAP/POT FISHERIES



Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters and Offshore Trap/Pot Waters

TRAP/POT GEAR DIAGRAM



This graphic depicts a general trap/pot gear configuration, which may vary. Please see individual ALWTRP Management Areas for information regarding specific weak link, gear marking and/or any other ALWTRP requirements.

SOUTHERN NEARSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS

Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters includes all state and Federal waters which fall within EEZ Nearshore Management Area 4, EEZ Nearshore Management Area 5, and EEZ Nearshore Management Area 6 (as defined in the American Lobster Fishery regulations in 50 CFR 697.18), and inside the 100fa contour line from 35°30' N. lat. south to 27°51' N. lat. and extending inshore to the shoreline or exemption line, with the exception of the exempted waters as described on page 61.

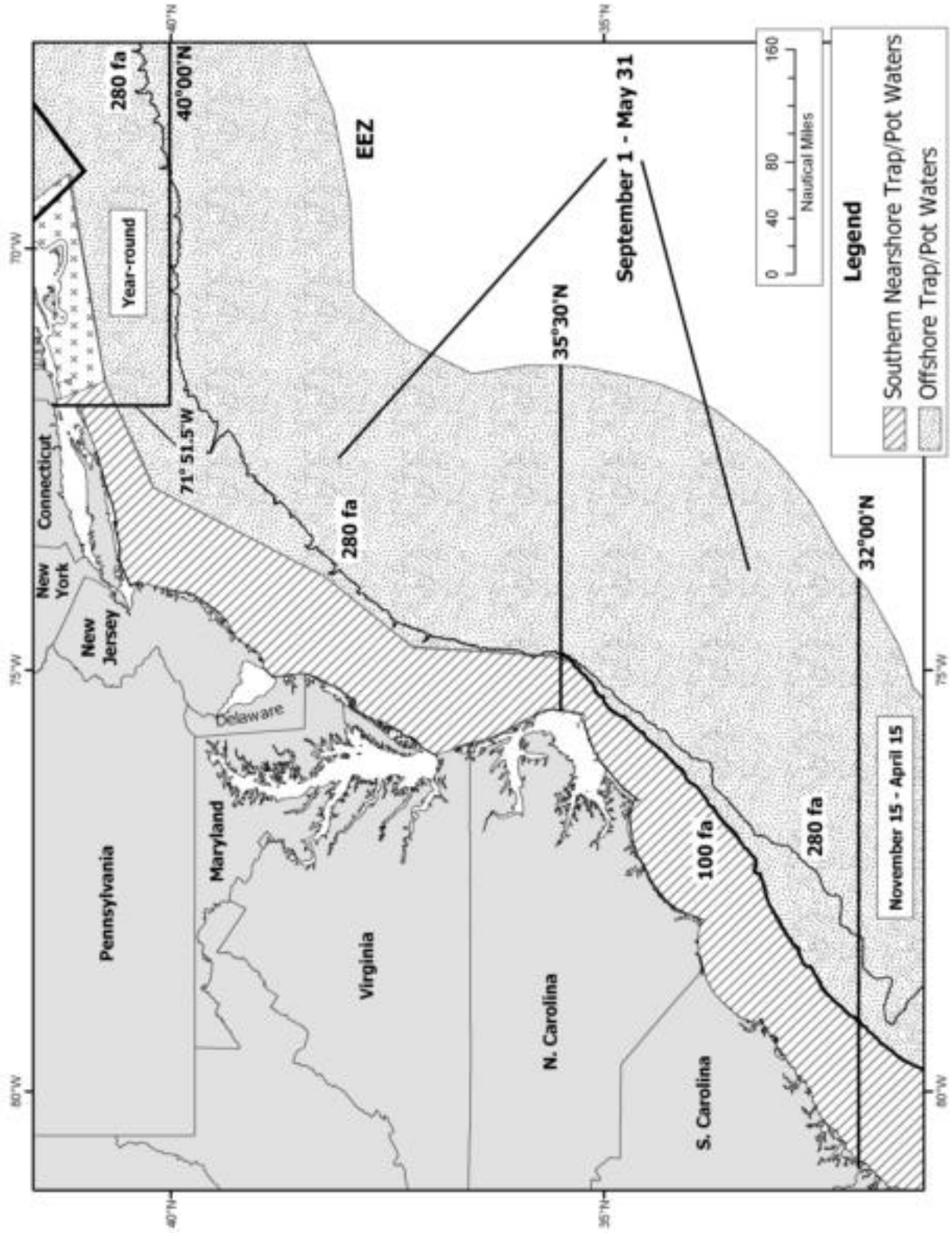
September 1-May 31 (see following map for seasonal boundaries):

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **ORANGE**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 600 lb*;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

➔ Note: a small portion of these waters includes portions of LMA 6 (near the mouth of Long Island Sound). These waters follow year-round regulations as described in the "Northeast Trap/Pot Fisheries Regulations" section of this guide.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION: SOUTHERN NEARSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS*



* Nautical charts could not be effectively applied to the expansive mid-Atlantic region shown here. Thus, nautical charts are not displayed for this region.

OFFSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS

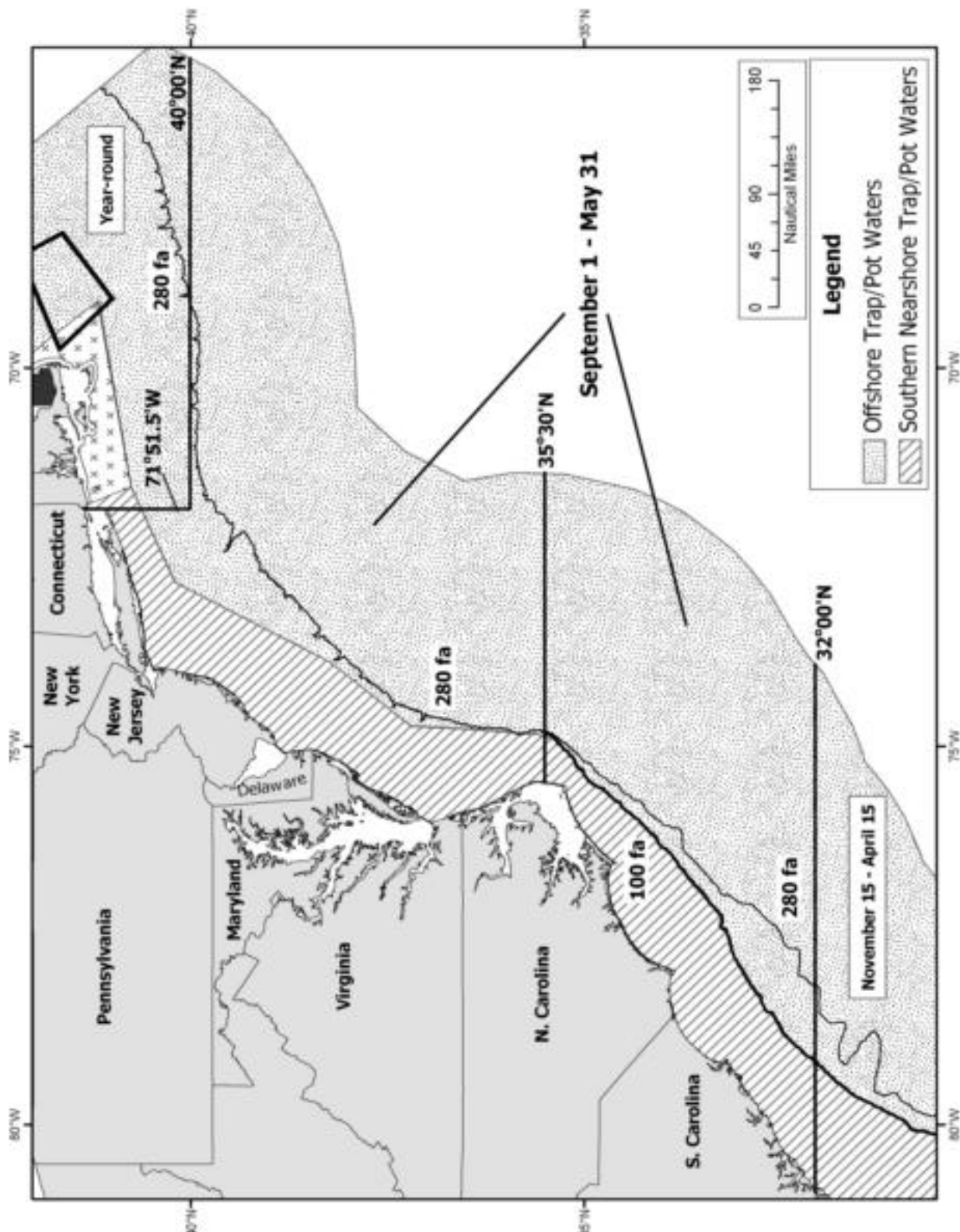
Offshore Trap/Pot Waters includes all Federal waters of the EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 (including the areas known as the Area 2/3 Overlap and 3/5 Overlap, as defined in the American Lobster Fishery regulations found at 50 CFR 697.18), with the exception of the Great South Channel Restricted Trap/Pot Area, and extending south along the 100fa contour line from 35°30' N. lat. south to 27°51' N. lat., and east to the eastern edge of the EEZ.

September 1-May 31 (see following map for seasonal boundaries):

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **BLACK**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 1,500 lb*;
 - » For the red crab trap/pot fishery, weak links with a maximum breaking strength of 2,000 lb* are required;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

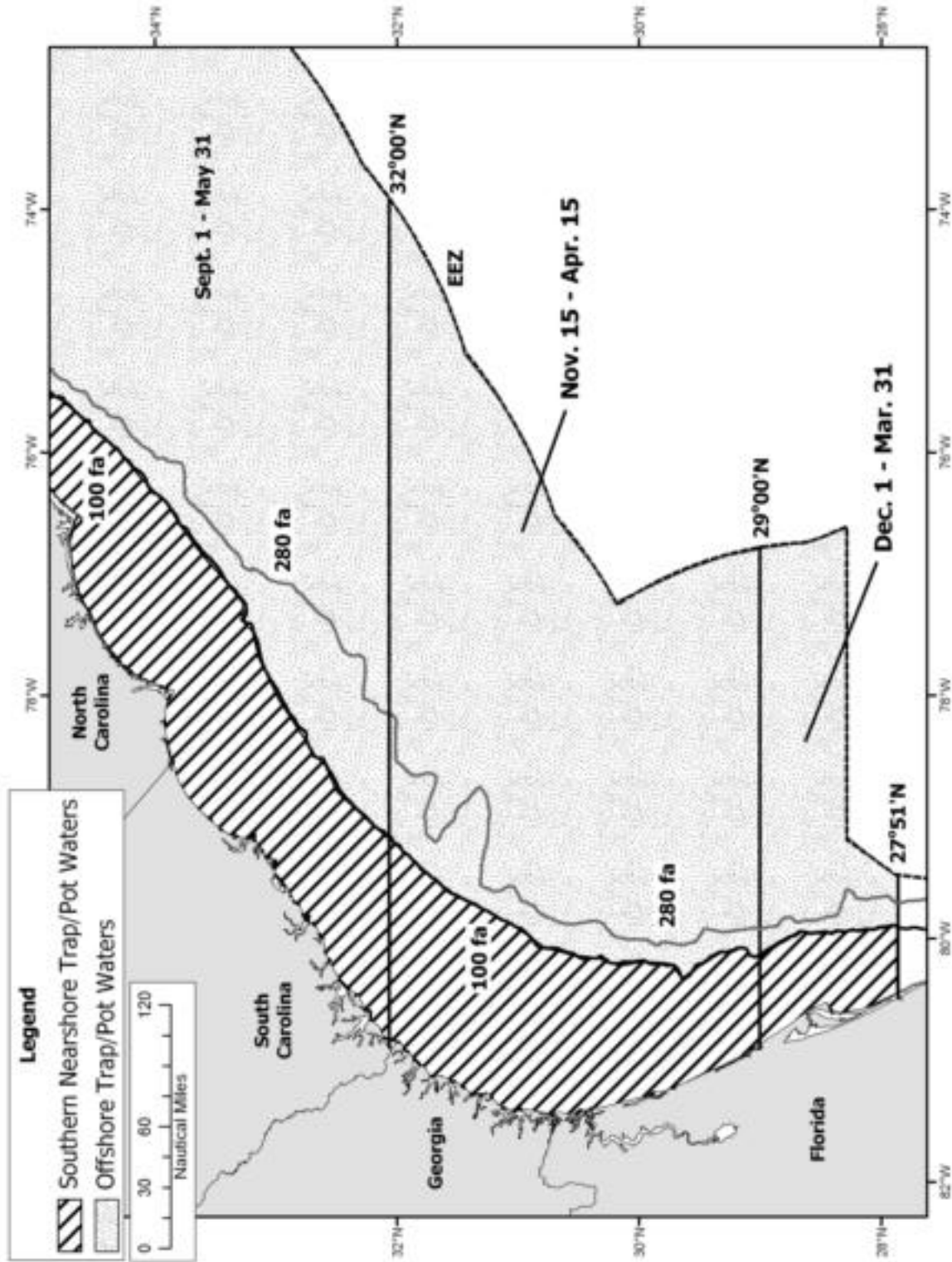
-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION: OFFSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS*



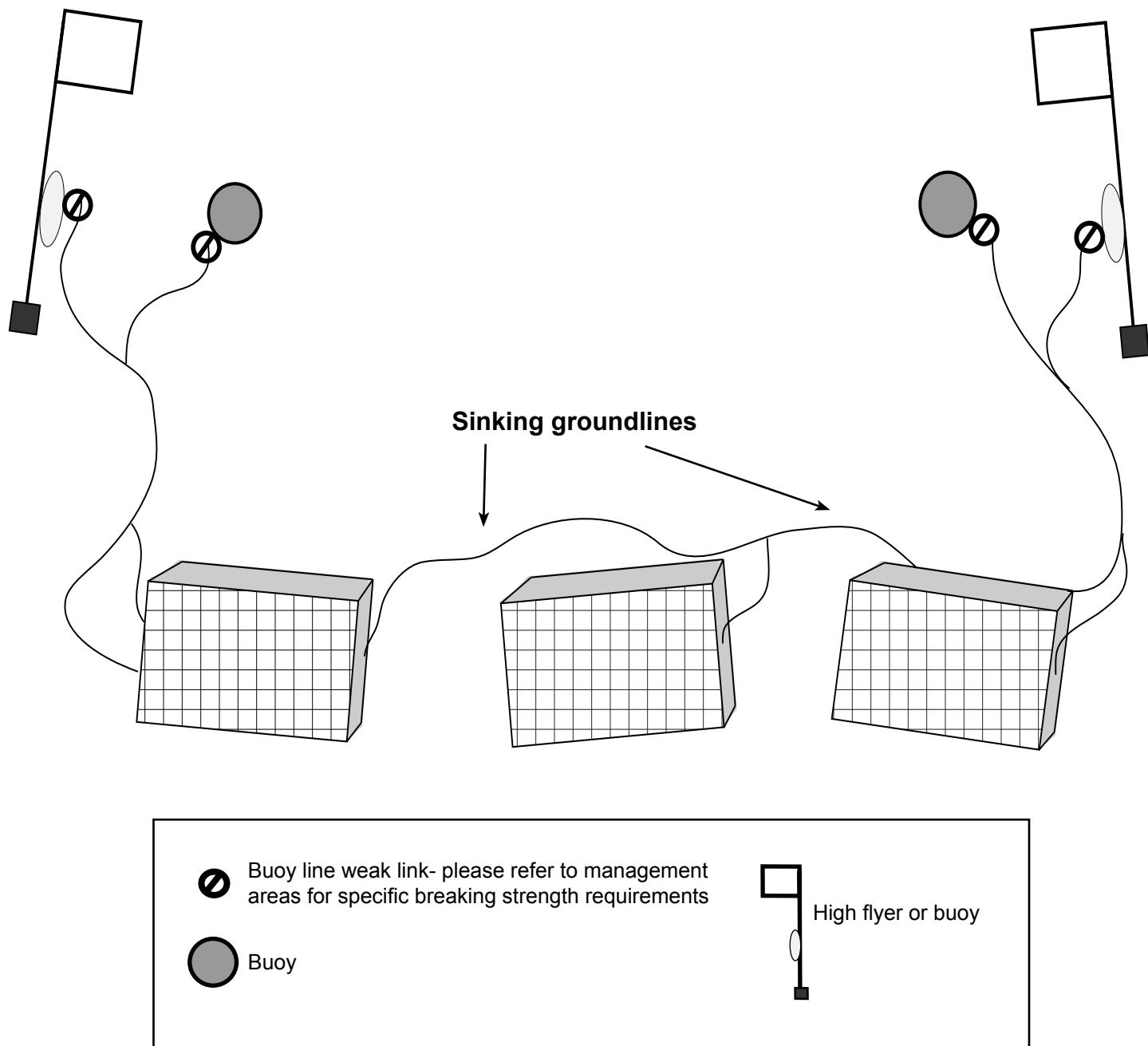
* Nautical charts could not be effectively applied to the expansive mid-Atlantic region shown here. Thus, nautical charts are not displayed for this region.

SOUTHEAST REGION: TRAP/POT FISHERIES



Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters and Offshore Trap/Pot Waters

TRAP/POT GEAR DIAGRAM



This graphic depicts a general trap/pot gear configuration, which may vary. Please see individual ALWTRP Management Areas for information regarding specific weak link, gear marking and/or any other ALWTRP requirements.

SOUTHERN NEARSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS

Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters includes all state and Federal waters which fall within EEZ Nearshore Management Area 4, EEZ Nearshore Management Area 5, and EEZ Nearshore Management Area 6 (as defined in the American Lobster Fishery regulations in 50 CFR 697.18), and inside the 100fa contour line from 35°30' N. lat. south to 27°51' N. lat. and extending inshore to the shoreline or exemption line, with the exception of the exempted waters as described on page 66.

November 15-April 15 (between 29° N. lat and 32° N. lat):

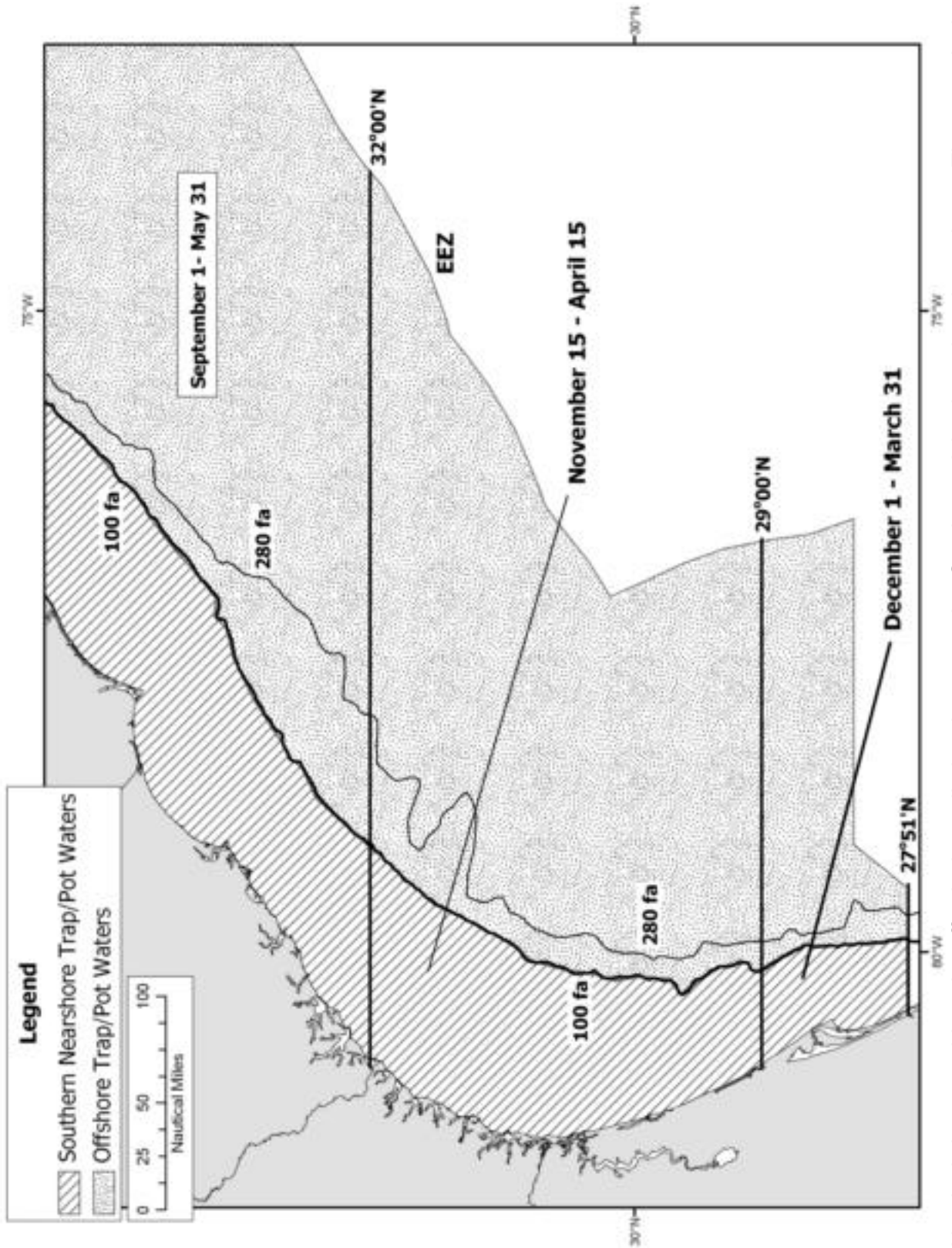
- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Compliance with **Gear Marking Requirements:**
 - » Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
 - » Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **ORANGE**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 600 lb*;and
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

December 1-March 31 (between 29°N. lat and 27° 51' N. lat):

- Compliance with the **Universal and Gear Marking Requirements** (see above).
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 600 lb*;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

SOUTHEAST REGION: SOUTHERN NEARSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS*



* Nautical charts could not be effectively applied to the expansive Southeast Atlantic region shown here. Thus, nautical charts are not displayed for this region.

OFFSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS

Offshore Trap/Pot Waters includes all Federal waters of the EEZ Offshore Management Area 3 (including the areas known as the Area 2/3 overlap and 3/5 Overlap, as defined in the American Lobster Fishery regulations found at 50 CFR 697.18), with the exception of the Great South Channel Restricted Trap/Pot Area, and extending south along the 100fa contour line from 35°30' N. lat. south to 27°51' N. lat., and east to the eastern edge of the EEZ.

November 15-April 15 (between 29° N. lat and 32° N. lat):

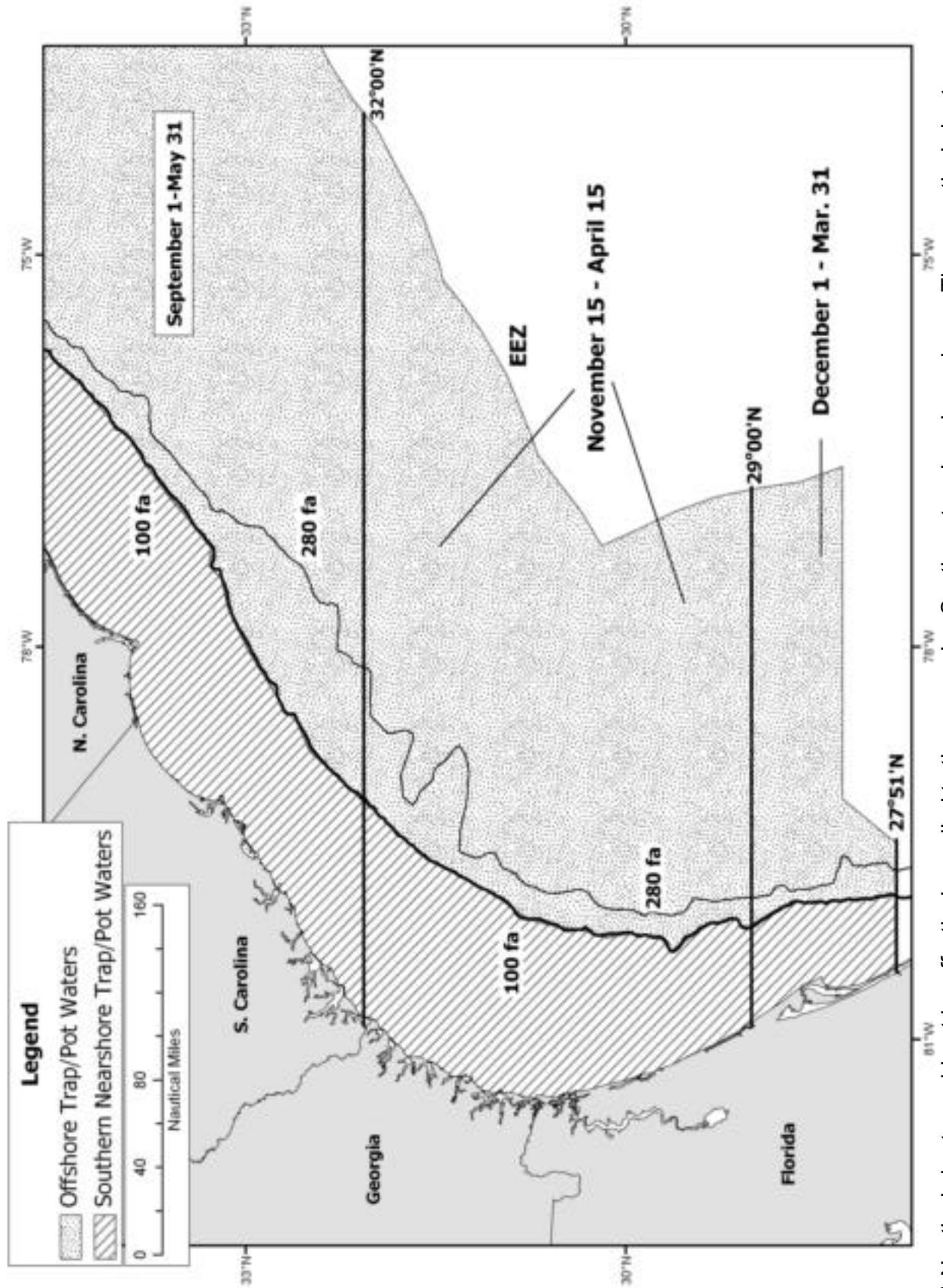
- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days)
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Compliance with **Gear Marking Requirements:**
 - » Trap/pot surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
 - » Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **BLACK**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 1,500 lb*;
 - » For the red crab trap/pot fishery, weak links with a maximum breaking strength of 2,000 lb* are required;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

December 1-March 31 (between 29°N. lat and 27° 51' N. lat):

- Compliance with the **Universal and Gear Marking Requirements** (see above).
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength of no greater than 1,500 lb*;
 - » For the red crab trap/pot fishery, weak links with a maximum breaking strength of 2,000 lb* are required;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

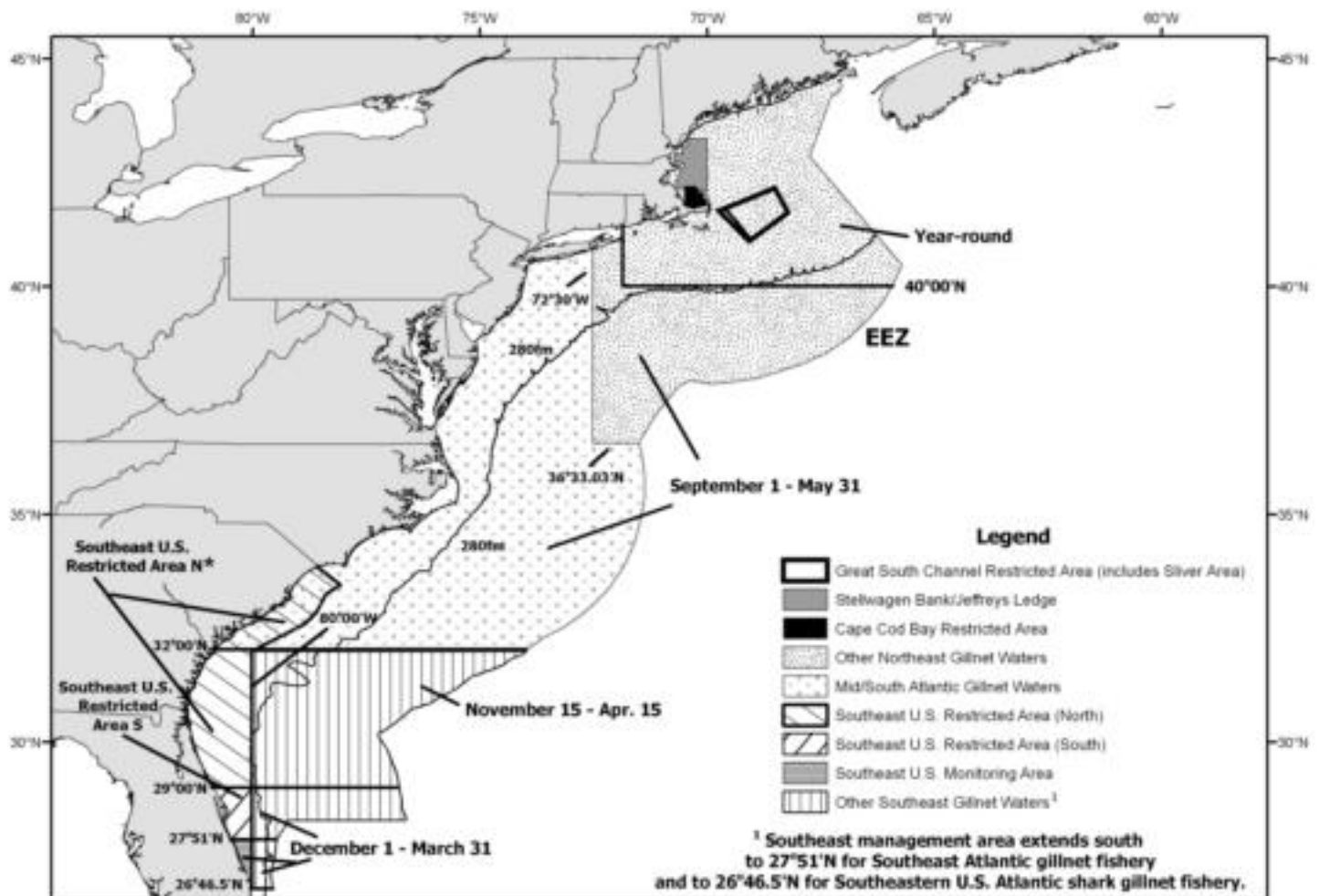
SOUTHEAST REGION: OFFSHORE TRAP/POT WATERS



* Nautical charts could not be effectively applied to the expansive Southeast region shown here. Thus, nautical charts are not displayed for this region.

REGULATED GILLNET AREAS

The gillnet gear requirements in the ALWTRP vary by geographic area. The Plan currently recognizes seven gillnet areas: Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area, Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area, Great South Channel Sliver Restricted Gillnet Area, Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area, Other Northeast Gillnet Waters, Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters, Southeast U.S. Restricted Area (North and South), Southeast U.S. Monitoring Area, and Other Southeast Gillnet Waters.

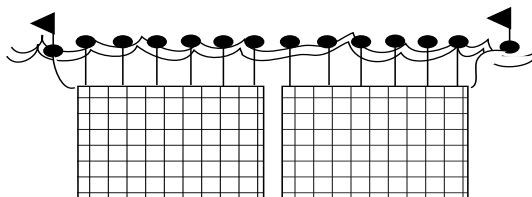
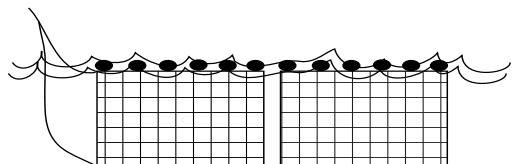


* The area north of 32°00' N lat. is included in the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area from Nov. 15 - April 15, and Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters from Sept. 1 - Nov. 14 and April 16 - May 31.

DRIFT AND ANCHORED GILLNET DIAGRAMS

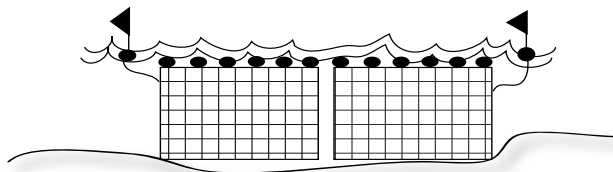
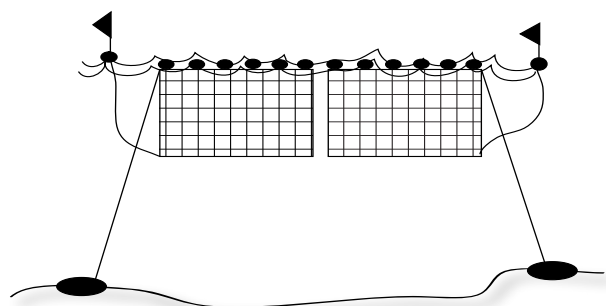
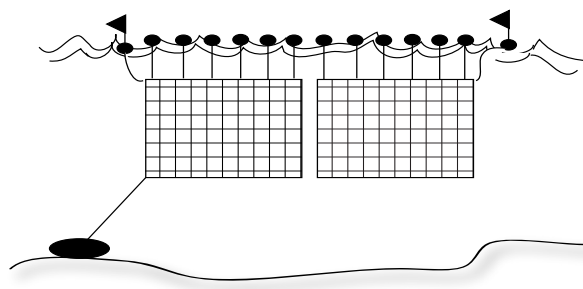
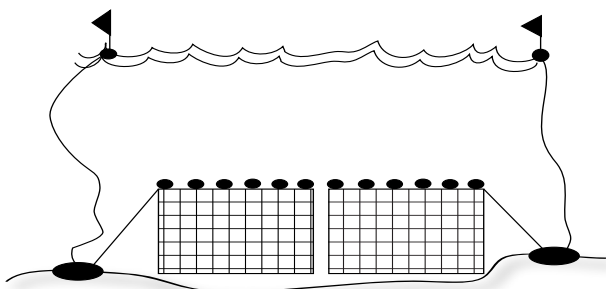
The below depict examples of gillnet gear that correspond to the drift and anchored gillnet definitions listed below. These depictions show general gillnet gear configurations, which may vary.

Drift Gillnet Gear: Gillnet(s) that is/are not anchored, secured, or weighted to the bottom at either end, regardless of whether attached to a vessel.

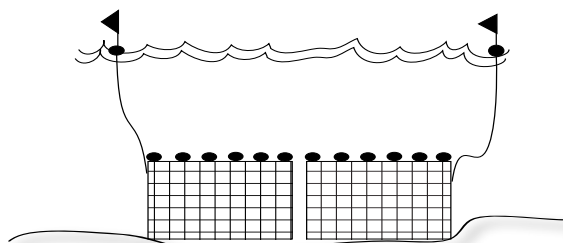


Note: The gear displayed above is attached to the vessel in this example

Anchored Gillnet Gear: Any gillnet gear, including a sink gillnet or stab net, that is set anywhere in the water column and which is anchored, secured, or weighted to the bottom of the sea on at least one end.

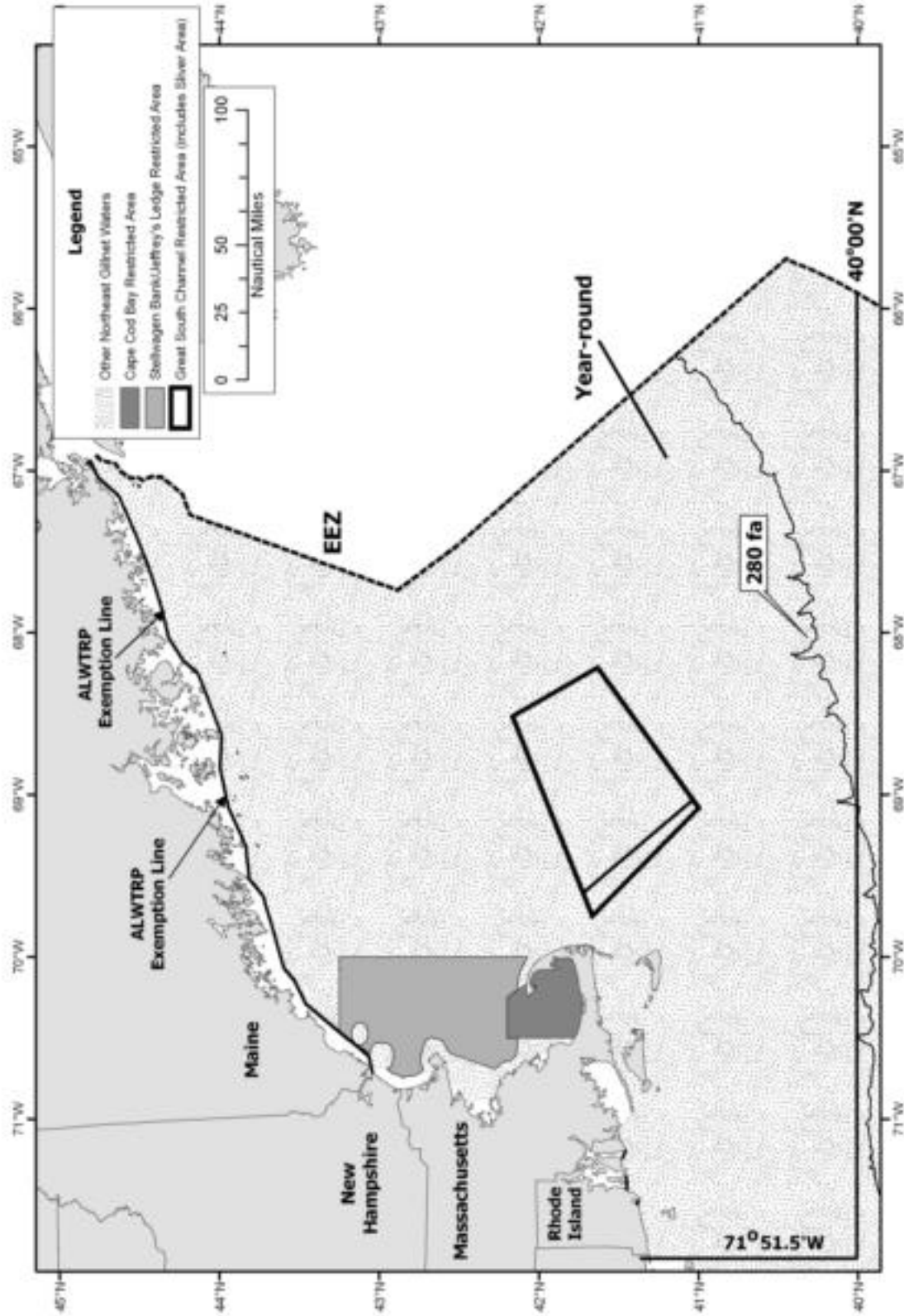


Note: Although the net strings shown immediately above and below do not have anchors attached, they are attached to the ocean bottom and by definition are characterized as anchored gillnet gear.



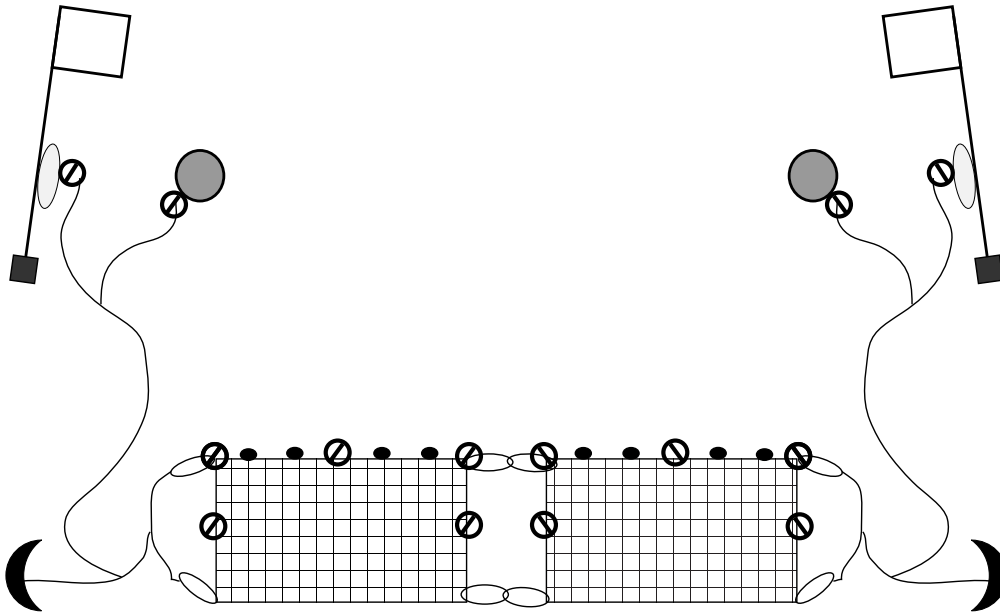
These graphics depict general gillnet gear configurations, which may vary. Please see individual ALWTRP Management Areas for information regarding specific weak link, anchoring, gear marking and/or any other ALWTRP requirements.

NORTHEAST REGION: GILLNET FISHERIES



Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area, Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area, Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area, Great South Channel Sliver Restricted Gillnet Area, and Other Northeast Gillnet Waters

GILLNET OPTIONS FOR NET PANEL WEAK LINKS (NORTHEAST REGION)



Configuration 1:

For all variations in panel size:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of each of the up and down lines at both ends of the net panel; and
- One weak link must be placed as close as possible to each end of the net panels on the floatline.

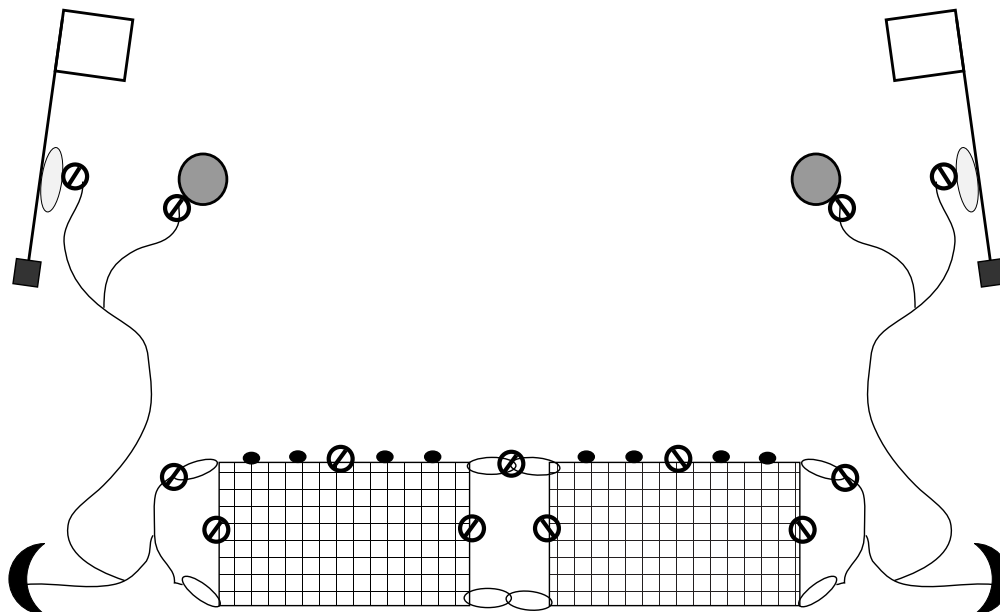
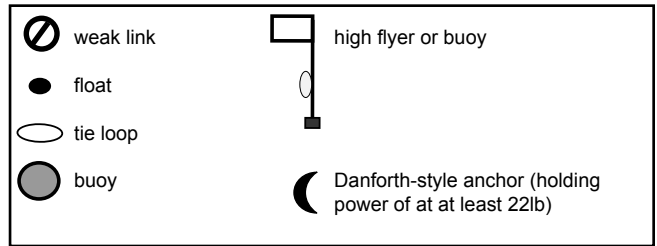
For net panels 50 fathoms or less in length:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of the floatline.

For net panels greater than 50 fathoms:

- One weak link must be placed at least every 25 fathoms along the float line.

****NOTE:** Individual weak links are not required in locations where rope of appropriate breaking strength is used. Additionally, if no up and down line is present, then weak links are not required at that location. This graphic depicts a general anchored gillnet gear configuration, which may vary. Also, only the buoy line, groundline, anchor, and weak link configuration are displayed here; please see individual ALWTRP Management Areas for information regarding gear marking and/or any other additional ALWTRP requirements.



Configuration 2:

For all variations in panel size:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of each of the up and down lines at both ends of the net panel; and
- One weak link must be placed between floatline tie-loops between net panels; and
- One weak link must be placed where the floatline tie-loops attach to the bridle, buoy line, or groundline at each end of a net string.

For net panels 50 fathoms or less in length:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of the floatline.

For net panels greater than 50 fathoms:

- One weak link must be placed at least every 25 fathoms along the floatline.

CAPE COD BAY RESTRICTED AREA

The Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area includes the area bounded by: 42°04.8'N / 70°10'W; 42°12'N / 70°15'W; 42°12'N / 70°30'W; 41°46.8'N / 70°30'W; and on the south and east by the interior shoreline of Cape Cod, MA.

January 1- May 15:

The Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area is **closed** to **all** gillnet fishing.

May 16 - December 31:

For All Gillnet Gear:

- Gillnet surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **GREEN**, mark midway along the buoy line.

For Anchored Gillnets:

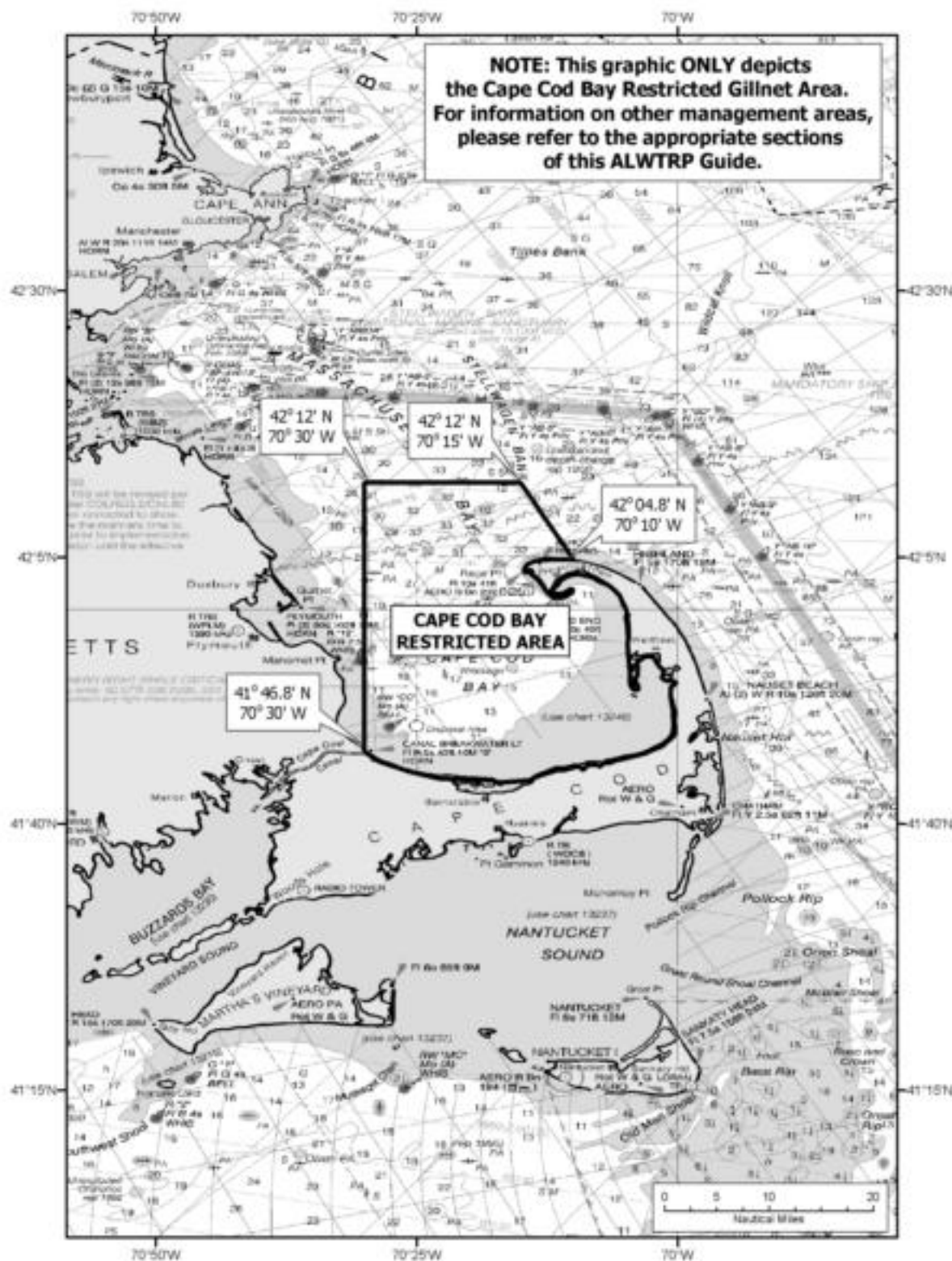
- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days)
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link with a breaking strength of no greater than 1,100 lb*;
- Each net panel must be configured with five or more weak links, depending on panel length, with a breaking strength no greater than 1,100 lb. The weak link placement must meet one of the two configuration options (page 36). The same configuration will be required for all gillnet panels in a string;
- All gillnets, regardless of number of net panels, will be required to be anchored with the holding power of at least a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor at each end of the net string (must be a burying anchor; no dead weights);
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

For Drift Gillnets:

- Fishing with driftnet gear at **night** (i.e., anytime between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise) is **prohibited** unless that gear is tended (i.e., attached to the vessel);
- All driftnet gear must be removed from the water and stowed on board before a vessel returns to port.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHEAST REGION: CAPE COD BAY RESTRICTED AREA



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: West Quoddy Head to New York
Chart ID: 13006_1

STELLWAGEN BANK JEFFREY'S LEDGE RESTRICTED AREA

The Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area includes all federal waters of the Gulf of Maine (except those designated as the Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area) that lie south of 43°15'N and west of 70°00'W.

Year-round:

For All Gillnet Gear:

- Gillnet surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **GREEN**, mark midway along the buoy line.

For Anchored Gillnets:

Universal Requirements:

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days)
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link with a breaking strength of no greater than 1,100 lb*;
- Each net panel must be configured with five or more weak links, depending on panel length, with a breaking strength no greater than 1,100 lb. The weak link placement must meet one of the two configuration options (page 36). The same configuration will be required for all gillnet panels in a string;
- All gillnets, regardless of number of net panels, will be required to be anchored with the holding power of at least a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor at each end of the net string (must be a burying anchor; no dead weights);
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

For Drift Gillnets:

- Fishing with driftnet gear at **night** (i.e., anytime between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise) is **prohibited** unless that gear is tended (i.e., attached to the vessel);
- All driftnet gear must be removed from the water and stowed on board before a vessel returns to port.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL RESTRICTED GILLNET AREA (INCLUDING THE SLIVER AREA)

The Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area includes the area bounded by: 41°40'N/ 69°45'W; 41°00'N/ 69°05'W; 41°38'N/ 68°13'W; and 42°10'N/ 68°31'W. The Great South Channel Sliver Restricted Gillnet Area includes the area bounded by: 41°02.2'N/ 69°02'W; 41°43.5'N/ 69°36.3'W; 41°40'N/ 69°45'W; and 41°00'N/ 69°05'W.

April 1- June 30:

The Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area is **closed** to **all** gillnet fishing (not including the **Sliver Area**).

July 1- March 31 (GSC Restricted Gillnet Area) and year-round (GSC Sliver Restricted Gillnet Area)

For Anchored Gillnets:

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days)
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- Compliance with **Gear Marking Requirements:**
 - » Gillnet surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
 - » Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **GREEN**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link with a breaking strength of no greater than 1,100 lb*;
- Each net panel must be configured with five or more weak links, depending on panel length, with a breaking strength no greater than 1,100 lb*. The weak link placement must meet one of the two configuration options (page 36). The same configuration will be required for all gillnet panels in a string;
- All gillnets, regardless of number of net panels, will be required to be anchored with the holding power of at least a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor at each end of the net string (must be a burying anchor; no dead weights);
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

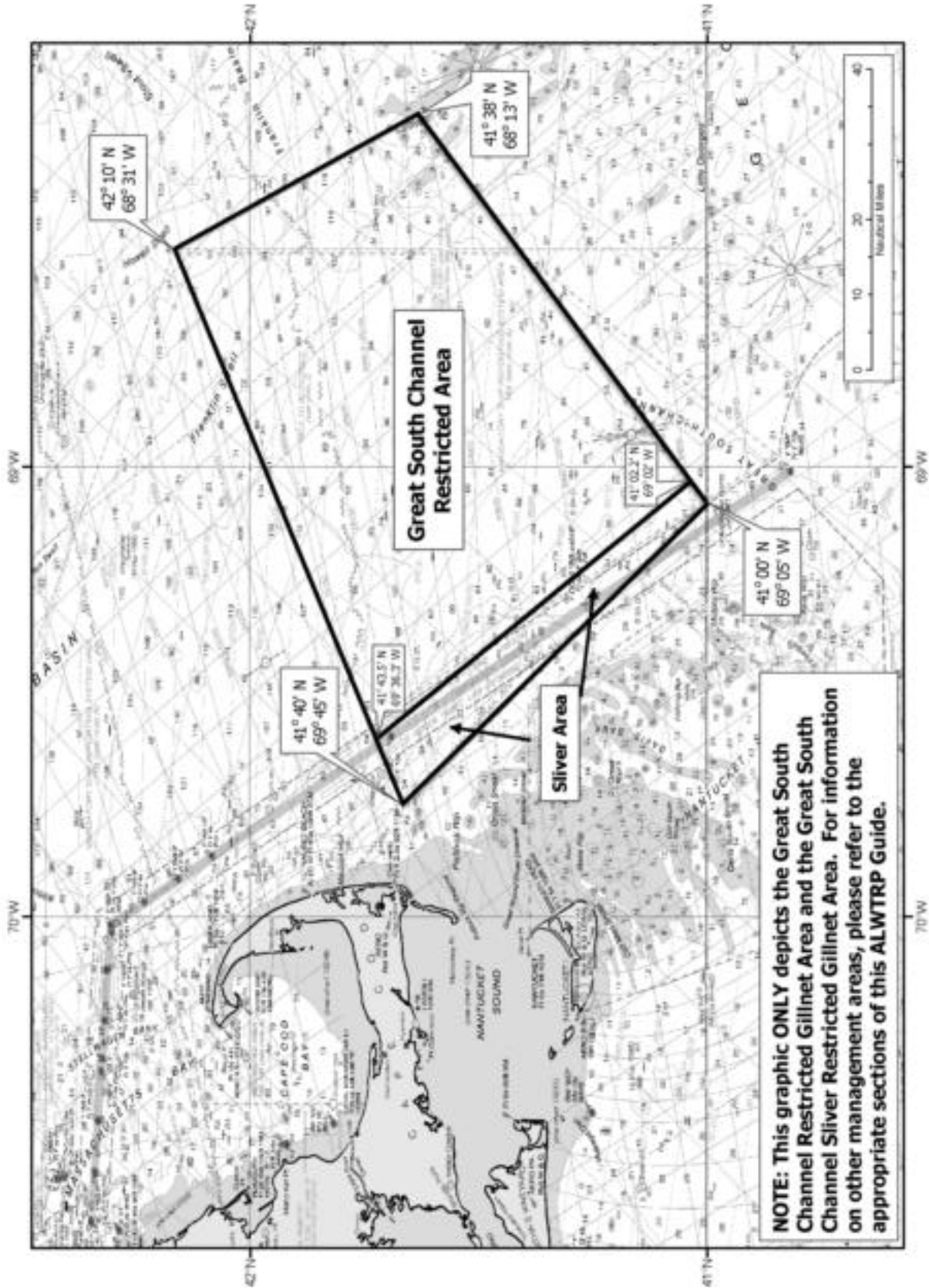
July 1- March 31 (GSC Restricted Gillnet Area) and year-round (GSC Sliver Restricted Gillnet Area):

For Drift Gillnets:

- Compliance with **Gear Marking Requirements** (see above).
- Fishing with driftnet gear at **night** (i.e., anytime between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise) is **prohibited** unless that gear is tended (i.e., attached to the vessel);
- All driftnet gear must be removed from the water and stowed on board before a vessel returns to port.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHEAST REGION: GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL RESTRICTED GILLNET AREA (INCLUDING SLIVER AREA)



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: West Quoddy Head to New York
Chart ID: 13006_1

OTHER NORTHEAST GILLNET WATERS

Other Northeast Gillnet Waters consists of all U.S. waters from the U.S./Canada border to Long Island, NY, at 72°30' W. long. south to 36°33.03' N. lat., and east to the eastern edge of the EEZ, with the exception of the Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area, Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area, Great South Channel Restricted Area and the exempted waters listed on page 61.

Year-round (see following map for corresponding area):

For All Gillnet Gear:

- Gillnet surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **GREEN**, mark midway along the buoy line.

For Anchored Gillnets:

Universal Requirements:

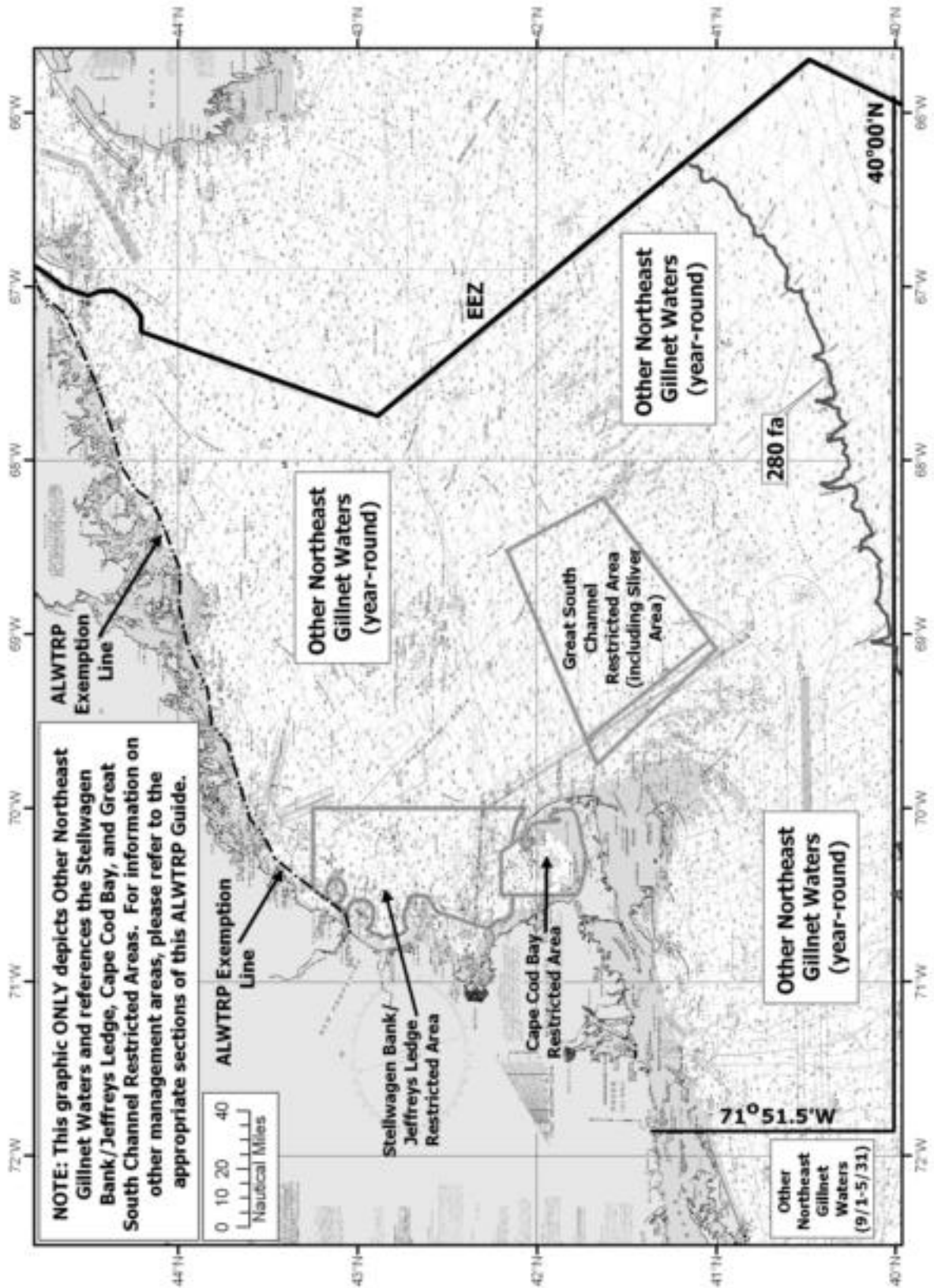
- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link with a breaking strength of no greater than 1,100 lb*;
- Each net panel must be configured with five or more weak links, depending on panel length, with a breaking strength no greater than 1,100 lb. The weak link placement must meet one of the two configuration options (page 36). The same configuration will be required for all gillnet panels in a string;
- All gillnets, regardless of number of net panels, will be required to be anchored with the holding power of at least a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor at each end of the net string (must be a burying anchor; no dead weights);
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

For Drift Gillnets:

- Fishing with driftnet gear at **night** (i.e., anytime between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise) is **prohibited** unless that gear is tended (i.e., attached to the vessel);
- All driftnet gear must be removed from the water and stowed on board before a vessel returns to port.

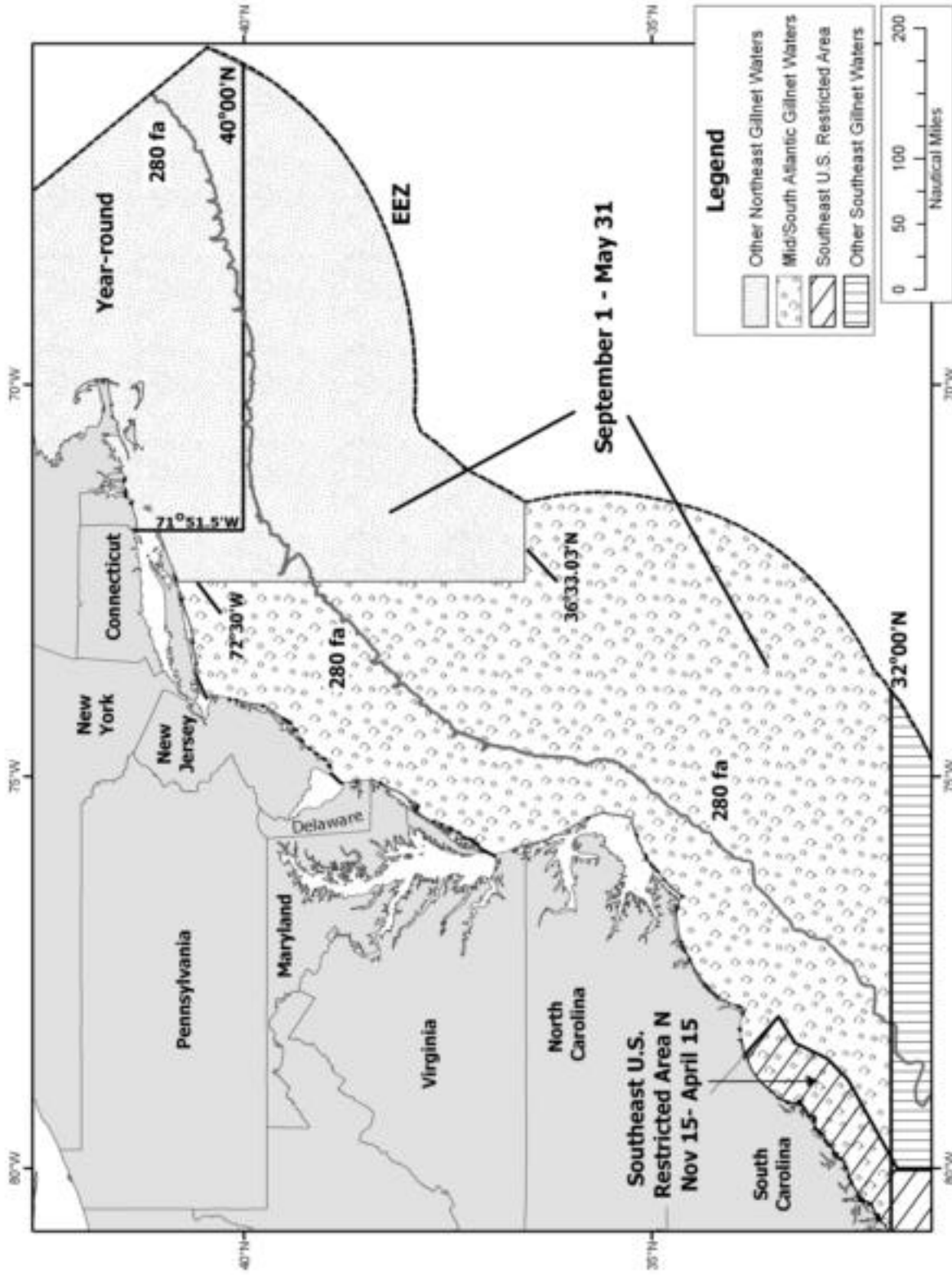
-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

NORTHEAST REGION: OTHER NORTHEAST GILLNET WATERS



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: West Quoddy Head to New York
Chart ID: 13006_1

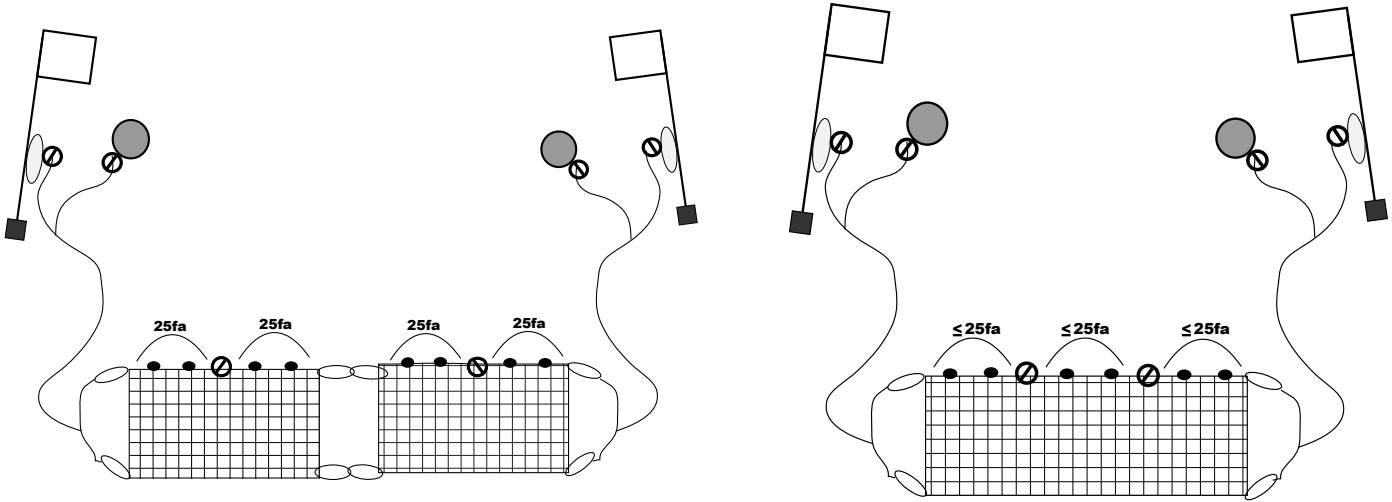
MID-ATLANTIC REGION: GILLNET FISHERIES



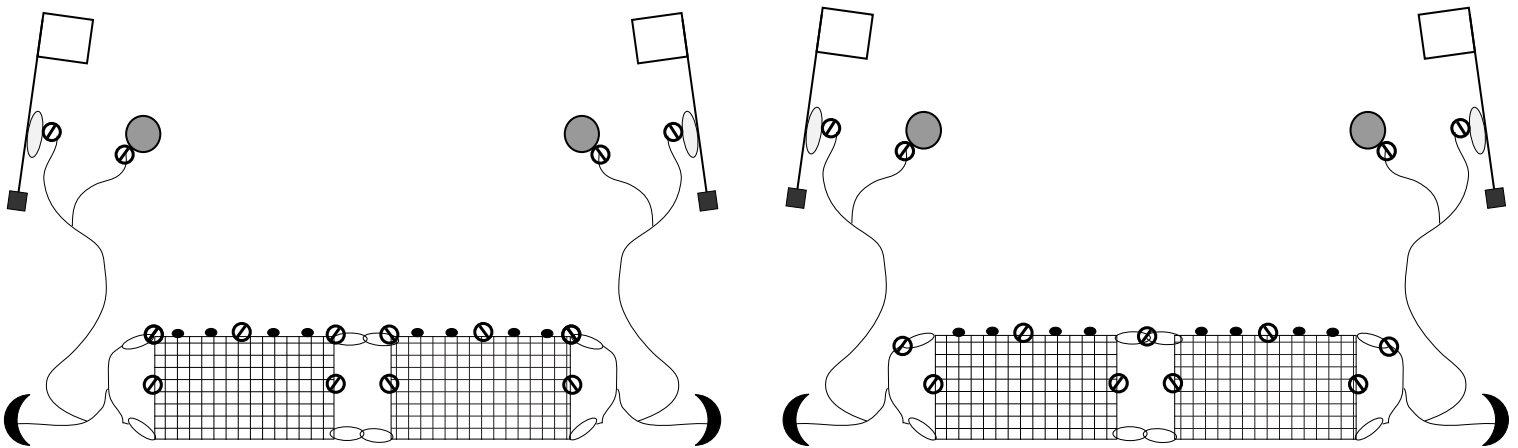
Other Northeast Gillnet Waters, Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters, and Southeast U.S. Restricted Area North (November 15-April 15)

GILLNET OPTIONS FOR NET PANEL WEAK LINKS (MID/SOUTH ATLANTIC)

For gillnets that do return to port with the vessel:



For gillnets that do not return to port with the vessel:



Configuration 1:

For all variations in panel size:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of each of the up and down lines at both ends of the net panel; and
- One weak link must be placed as close as possible to each end of the net panels on the floatline.

For net panels 50 fathoms or less in length:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of the floatline.

For net panels greater than 50 fathoms:

- One weak link must be placed at least every 25 fathoms along the float line.

Configuration 2:

For all variations in panel size:

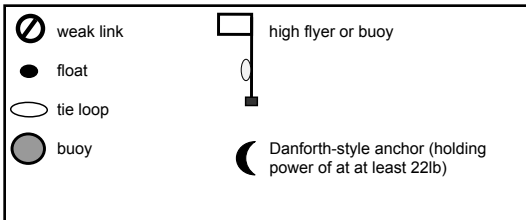
- One weak link must be placed in the center of each of the up and down lines at both ends of the net panel; and
- One weak link must be placed between floatline tie-loops between net panels; and
- One weak link must be placed where the floatline tie-loops attach to the bridle, buoy line, or groundline at each end of a net string.

For net panels 50 fathoms or less in length:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of the floatline.

For net panels greater than 50 fathoms:

- One weak link must be placed at least every 25 fathoms along the floatline.



****NOTE:** Individual weak links are not required in locations where rope of appropriate breaking strength is used. Additionally, if no up and down line is present, then weak links are not required at that location. This graphic depicts a general anchored gillnet gear configuration, which may vary. Also, only the buoy line, groundline, anchor, and weak link configuration are displayed here; please see individual ALWTRP Management Areas for information regarding gear marking and/or any other additional ALWTRP requirements.

OTHER NORTHEAST GILLNET WATERS

Other Northeast Gillnet Waters consists of all U.S. waters from the U.S./Canada border to Long Island, NY, at 72°30' W. long. south to 36°33.03' N. lat., and east to the eastern edge of the EEZ, with the exception of the Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area, Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area, Great South Channel Restricted Area and the exempted waters listed on page 61.

September 1- May 31 (see following map for seasonal boundaries):

For All Gillnet Gear:

- Gillnet surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **GREEN**, mark midway along the buoy line.

For Anchored Gillnets:

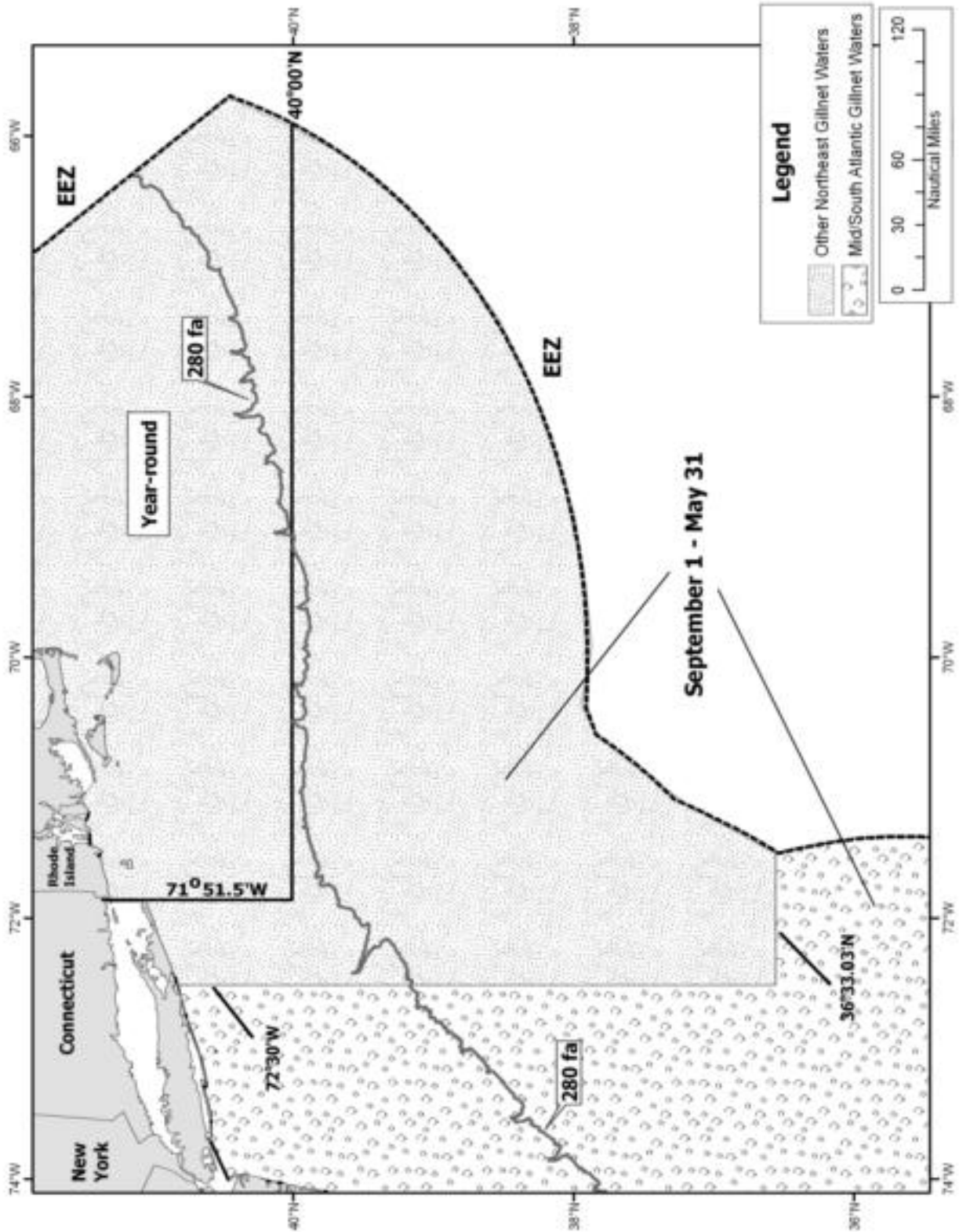
- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link with a breaking strength of no greater than 1,100 lb*;
- Each net panel must be configured with five or more weak links, depending on panel length, with a breaking strength no greater than 1,100 lb. The weak link placement must meet one of the two configuration options (page 46). The same configuration will be required for all gillnet panels in a string;
- All gillnets, regardless of number of net panels, will be required to be anchored with the holding power of at least a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor at each end of the net string (must be a burying anchor; no dead weights);
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

For Drift Gillnets:

- Fishing with driftnet gear at **night** (i.e., anytime between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise) is **prohibited** unless that gear is tended (i.e., attached to the vessel);
- All driftnet gear must be removed from the water and stowed on board before a vessel returns to port.

-
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
 - * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION: OTHER NORTHEAST GILNET WATERS*



* Nautical charts could not be effectively applied to the expansive mid-Atlantic region shown here. Thus, nautical charts are not displayed for this region.

M^{ID/} SOUTH ATLANTIC GILLNET WATERS

Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters consists of all U.S. waters bounded on the north from 72°30' W. long. south to 36°33.03' N. lat., and east to the eastern edge of the EEZ, and bounded on the south by 32°00' N. lat., and east to the eastern edge of the EEZ. From **November 15-April 15**, waters within **35nm of the SC shoreline** are part of the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area North (Little River Inlet, SC, is not included in this area). **Please refer to page 53 for more details on the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area North.**

September 1- May 31 (see following map for seasonal boundaries):

For All Gillnet Gear:

- Gillnet surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motor-boat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **BLUE**, mark midway along the buoy line.

For Anchored Gillnets:

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements:**
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength no greater than 1,100 lbs;
- All gillnet panels are required to have weak links with the breaking strength of no greater than 1,100 lbs in the center of the floatline of each net panel up to and including 50 fathoms (100yds; 300ft), or at least every 25 fathoms (50yds; 150ft) for longer panels (page 46).
- Gillnets that do not return to port with the vessel must be configured with five or more weak links per net panel, depending on panel length, with a breaking strength no greater than 1,100 lb, and be anchored with the holding power of at least a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor at each end of the net string (must be a burying anchor; no dead weights). The weak link placement must meet one of two configuration options (page 46). The same configuration will be required for all gillnet net panels in a string^{☆☆};
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

For Drift Gillnets:

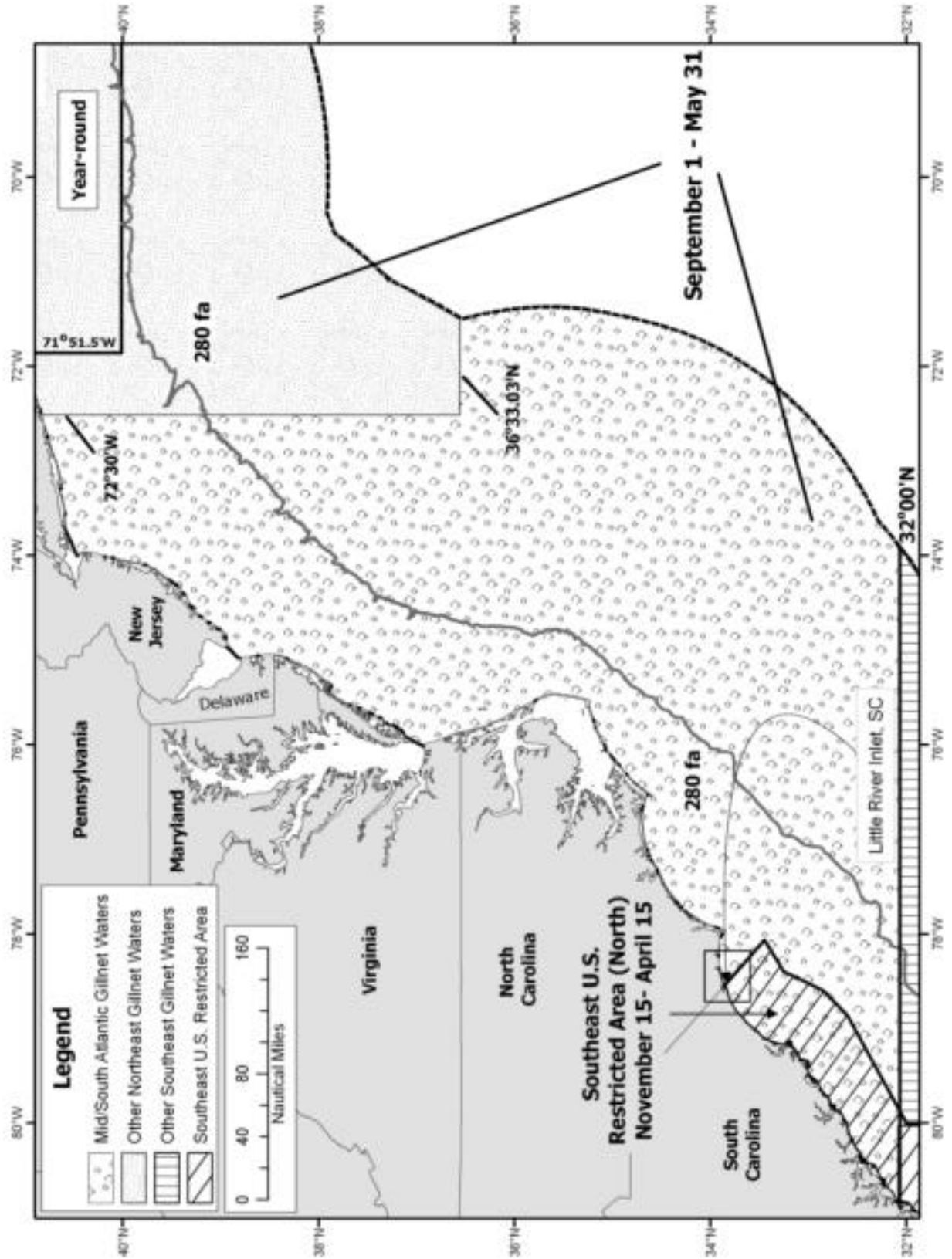
- Fishing with driftnet gear at **night** (i.e., anytime between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise) is **prohibited** unless that gear is tended (i.e., attached to the vessel);
- All driftnet gear must be removed from the water and stowed on board before a vessel returns to port.

Note:

- ☆☆ In addition to the requirements described above, gillnets **set within 300 yards (900ft) of the shoreline in NC**, that do not return to port with the vessel, will also have an optional gillnet configuration: net panels configured with 5 or more weak links per net panel, depending on panel length, with a breaking strength no greater than 600 lb, and be anchored with the holding power of at least an 8-lb Danforth-style anchor on the offshore end of the string and a 31-lb dead weight on the inshore end of the string. The entire string must be set within 300 yards (900ft) of the shoreline. See page 46 for configuration options for net panel weak links. The same configuration will be required for all gillnet net panels in a string.

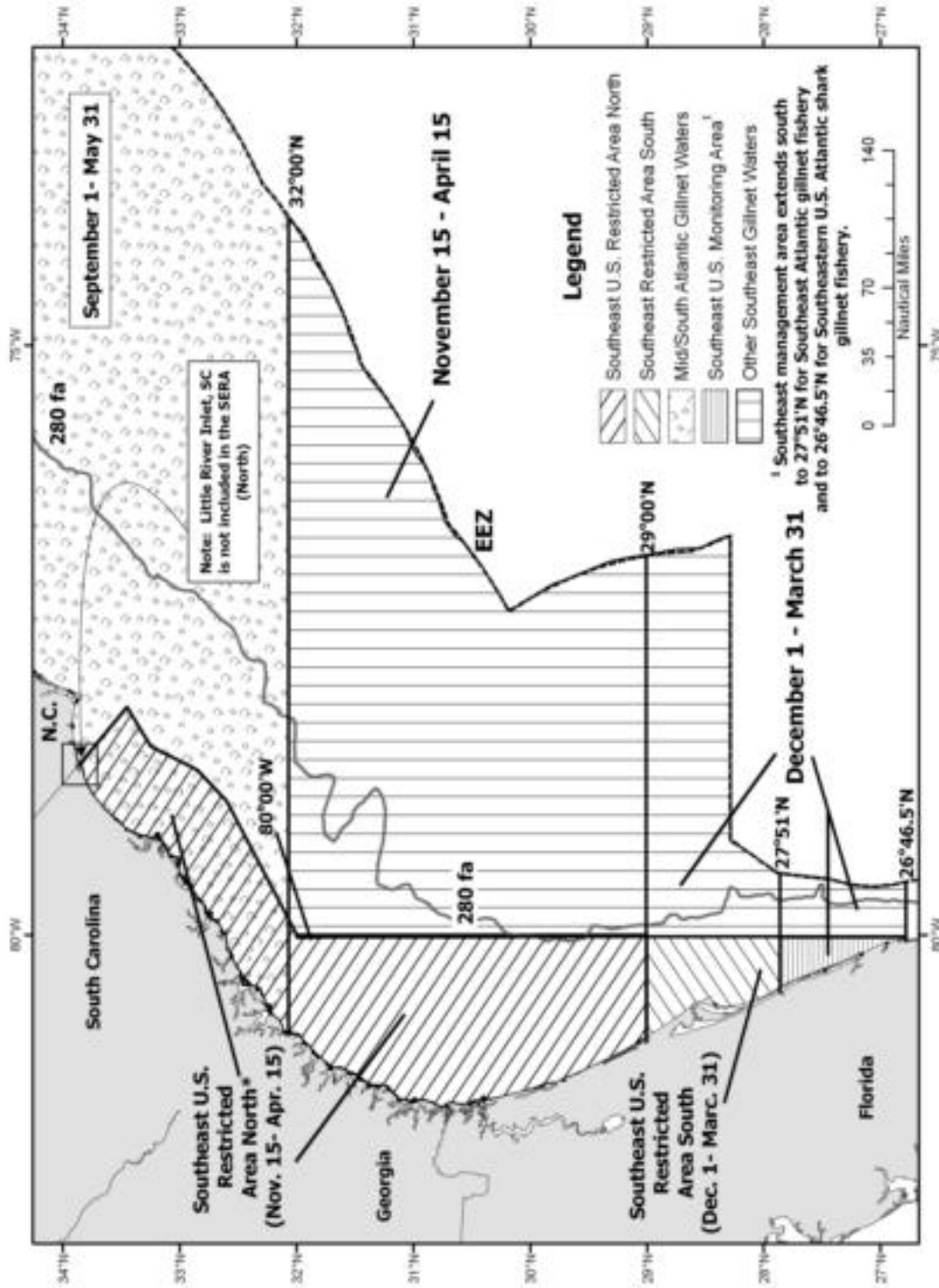
- * Weak links must be chosen from the list of NMFS approved gear, which includes: off the shelf weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, and other materials or devices approved in writing.
- * Weak links must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak link breaks.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION: MID/SOUTH ATLANTIC GILLNET WATERS*



* Nautical charts could not be effectively applied to the expansive mid-Atlantic region shown here. Thus, nautical charts are not displayed for this region.

SOUTHEAST REGION: GILLNET FISHERIES

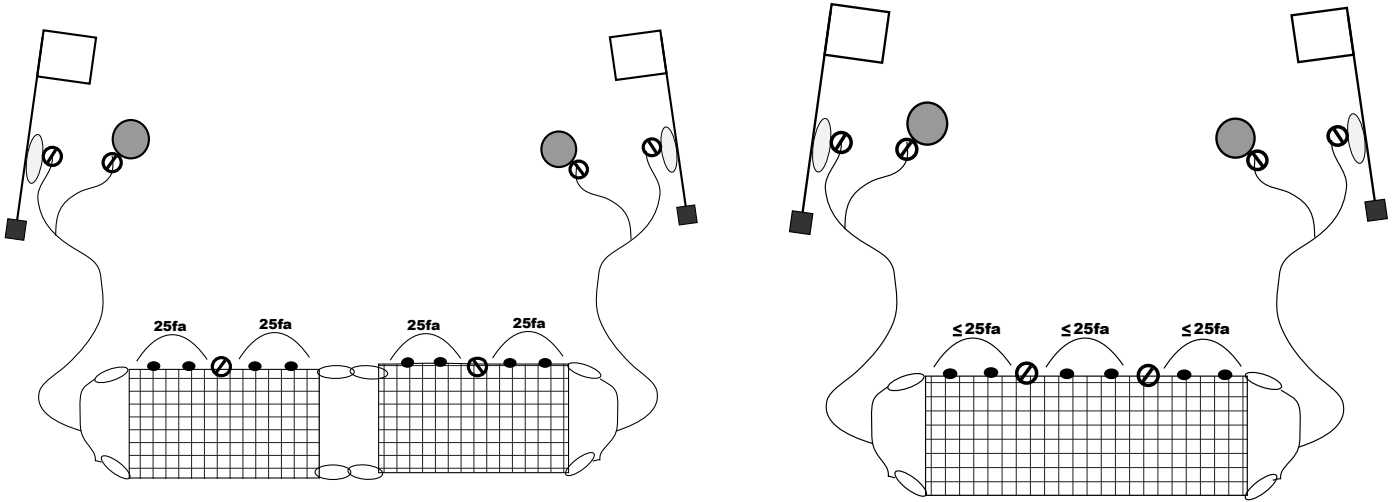


* The area north of 32°00' N lat. is included in the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area from Nov. 15 - April 15, and Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters from Sept. 1 - Nov. 14 and April 16 - May 31.

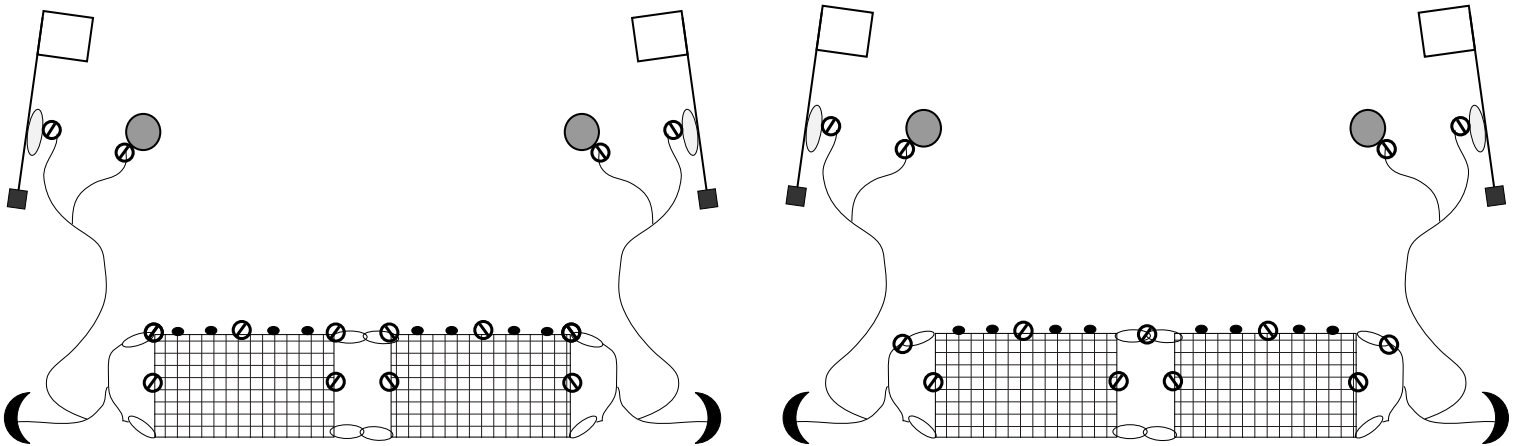
Southwest U.S. Restricted Area (North and South), Other Southwest Gillnet Waters, and Southwest U.S. Monitoring Area

GILLNET OPTIONS FOR NET PANEL WEAK LINKS (MID/SOUTH ATLANTIC)

For gillnets that do return to port with the vessel:



For gillnets that do not return to port with the vessel:



Configuration 1:

For all variations in panel size:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of each of the up and down lines at both ends of the net panel; and
- One weak link must be placed as close as possible to each end of the net panels on the floatline.

For net panels 50 fathoms or less in length:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of the floatline.

For net panels greater than 50 fathoms:

- One weak link must be placed at least every 25 fathoms along the float line.

Configuration 2:

For all variations in panel size:

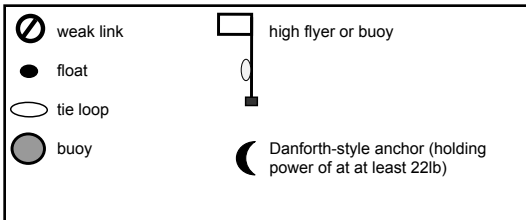
- One weak link must be placed in the center of each of the up and down lines at both ends of the net panel; and
- One weak link must be placed between floatline tie-loops between net panels; and
- One weak link must be placed where the floatline tie-loops attach to the bridle, buoy line, or groundline at each end of a net string.

For net panels 50 fathoms or less in length:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of the floatline.

For net panels greater than 50 fathoms:

- One weak link must be placed at least every 25 fathoms along the floatline.



****NOTE:** Individual weak links are not required in locations where rope of appropriate breaking strength is used. Additionally, if no up and down line is present, then weak links are not required at that location. This graphic depicts a general anchored gillnet gear configuration, which may vary. Also, only the buoy line, groundline, anchor, and weak link configuration are displayed here; please see individual ALWTRP Management Areas for information regarding gear marking and/or any other additional ALWTRP requirements.

SOUTHEAST U.S. RESTRICTED AREA NORTH

Southeast Region- Gillnet Fisheries

The Southeast U.S. Restricted Area North includes waters north of 29°00' N. (near Ponce de Leon Inlet, FL) to 32°00' N. (near the GA/SC border) from the shoreline eastward to 80°00' W, and off South Carolina, within 35 nautical miles of the shoreline. Little River Inlet, SC, is not located in the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area North.

November 15 - April 15 (see following map for seasonal boundaries):

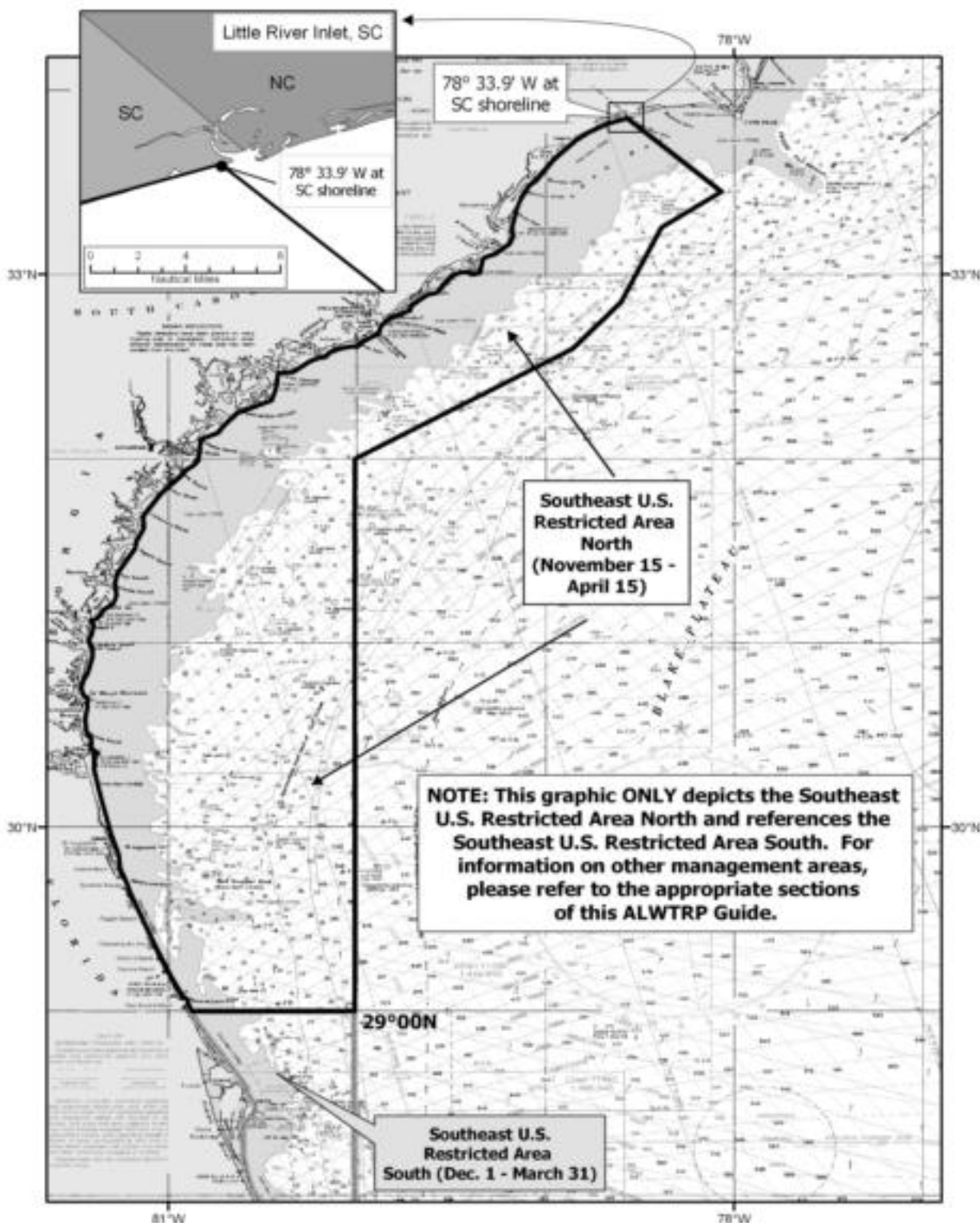
For All Gillnet Gear:

- Fishing with or possessing gillnets during the restricted period is **prohibited**.
- Exemption for vessels in transit with gillnets aboard* if:
 - » All nets are covered with canvas or other similar material and lashed or otherwise securely fastened to the deck, rail, or drum; and
 - » All buoys, high flyers, and anchors are disconnected from all gillnets.

*No fish may be possessed aboard such a vessel in transit.

NOTE: The area off South Carolina is also included in the “Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters” management area from September 1-November 14 and from April 16-May 31. **Please refer to the “Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters” section for these requirements (page 49).**

SOUTHEAST REGION: SOUTHEAST U.S. RESTRICTED AREA NORTH



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: Cape Hatteras to Straits of Florida
Chart ID: REG 6

SOUTHEAST U.S. RESTRICTED AREA SOUTH

Southeast Region- Gillnet Fisheries

The Southeast U.S. Restricted Area South includes waters north of 27°51' N. (near Sebastian Inlet, FL) to 29°00' N. (near Ponce de Leon Inlet, FL) from the shoreline eastward to 80°00' W.

December 1- March 31 (see following map for seasonal boundaries):

For All Gillnet Gear:

- Fishing with or possessing gillnets during the restricted period is **prohibited**.
 - » ***Exemption for Southeast Atlantic gillnet fishery***

Fishing with gillnet for Spanish mackerel is exempt from the restrictions from December 1 - December 31, and from March 1 - March 31 if:

 - Gillnet mesh is between 3.5" and 4 7/8" stretched mesh;
 - A valid commercial vessel permit for Spanish mackerel has been issued to the vessel in accordance with 50 CFR 622.4(a)(2)(iv) and is on board;
 - No person may fish with, set, place in the water, or have on board a gillnet with a float line longer than 800 yards;
 - No person may fish with, set, or place in the water more than one gillnet at any time;
 - No more than two gillnets, including any net in use, may be possessed at any one time; provided, however, that if two gillnets, including any net in use, are possessed at any onetime, they must have stretched mesh sizes that differ by at least 1/4";
 - No person may soak a gillnet for more than 1 hour. The soak period begins when the first mesh is placed in the water and ends either when the first mesh is retrieved back on board the vessel or the gathering of the gillnet is begun to facilitate retrieval on board the vessel, whichever occurs first; providing that, once the first mesh is retrieved or the gathering is begun, the retrieval is continuous until the gillnet is completely removed from the water;
 - No net is set at **night** or when visibility is less than 500 yards;
 - The gillnet is removed from the water before night or immediately if visibility decreases below 500 yards;
 - No gillnet is set within 3 nautical miles of a right, humpback, or fin whale; and
 - The gillnet is removed immediately from the water if a right, humpback, or fin whale moves within 3nm of the set gear.
 - The gillnet (regardless of how fished) complies with the "anchored gillnet" requirements, including the universal requirements, as specified for the Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters on page 49 of this guide.
 - » ***Exemption for Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet fishery***

Fishing with gillnet for sharks is exempt from the restrictions from December 1- March 31 if:

 - Gillnet mesh is 5" or greater stretched mesh;
 - The gillnet is deployed so that it encloses an area of water;
 - A valid commercial directed shark limited access permit has been issued to the vessel, in accordance with 50 CFR 635.4(e), and is on board;
 - No net is set at **night** or when visibility is less than 500 yards;
 - The gillnet is removed from the water before night or immediately if visibility decreases below 500 yards;
 - Each set is made under the observation of a spotter plane;
 - No gillnet is set within 3 nautical miles of a right, humpback, or fin whale; and
 - The gillnet is removed immediately from the water if a right, humpback, or fin whale moves within 3nm of the set gear.
 - No person may fish with shark gillnet gear unless the operator of the vessel calls the Southeast Fisheries Science Center Panama City Laboratory in Panama City, FL (phone: 850/234-6451, fax: 850/235-3559), not less than 48 hours prior to departing on any fishing trip in order to arrange for observer coverage.
 - If the Panama City Laboratory requests that an observer be taken on board a vessel, no person may fish with such gillnet aboard the vessel unless an observer is on board that vessel during the trip.

Night is defined as anytime between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise.

Gear Marking Requirements for All Gillnet Gear

- Gillnet surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner’s motor-boat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel’s home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines for **non-shark gillnet gear** to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **YELLOW**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- **Shark gillnet gear** with webbing of 5” or greater stretched mesh must be marked with two, 4-inch color codes, one designating gear type (**GREEN**) and the other where the gear is set (**BLUE**).
 - » Each color of the two-color codes must be permanently marked on or along the line and must be clearly visible when the gear is hauled or removed from the water.
 - » The two color marks must be placed within 6” of each other.
 - » If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code.
 - » All buoy lines greater than 4 feet long must be marked within 2 feet of the top of the buoy line (closest to the surface) and midway along the length of the buoy line.
 - » Each gillnet net panel must be marked along both the floatline and the leadline at least once every 100 yards, unless otherwise required.

SOUTHEAST REGION: SOUTHEAST U.S. RESTRICTED AREA SOUTH



NOAA Nautical Chart Name:
Cape Hatteras to Straits of Florida
Chart ID: REG 6

OTHER SOUTHEAST GILLNET WATERS

Other Southeast Gillnet Waters consists of the area from 32°00' N. (near Savannah, GA) south to 27°51' N. lat for the Southeast Atlantic gillnet fishery, and from 32°00' N. (near Savannah, GA) south to 26°46.50' N. lat for the Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet fishery, and extending from 80°00' W. long. east to the eastern edge of the EEZ, for both the Southeast Atlantic gillnet fishery and the Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet fisheries.

November 15- April 15 (North of 29°00' N. lat.) and December 1- March 31 (South of 29°00' N. lat)
(see following map for seasonal boundaries):

For All Gillnet Fisheries (non-shark and shark gillnet fisheries):

- Gillnet surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Buoy lines for **non-shark gillnet gear** to be marked with one 4-inch (10.2 cm), **YELLOW**, mark midway along the buoy line.
- **Shark gillnet gear** with webbing of 5" or greater stretched mesh must be marked with two, 4-inch color codes, one designating gear type (**GREEN**) and the other where the gear is set (**BLUE**).
 - » Each color of the two-color codes must be permanently marked on or along the line and must be clearly visible when the gear is hauled or removed from the water.
 - » The two color marks must be placed within 6" of each other.
 - » If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code.
 - » All buoy lines greater than 4 feet long must be marked within 2 feet of the top of the buoy line (closest to the surface) and midway along the length of the buoy line.
 - » Each gillnet net panel must be marked along both the floatline and the leadline at least once every 100 yards, unless otherwise required.

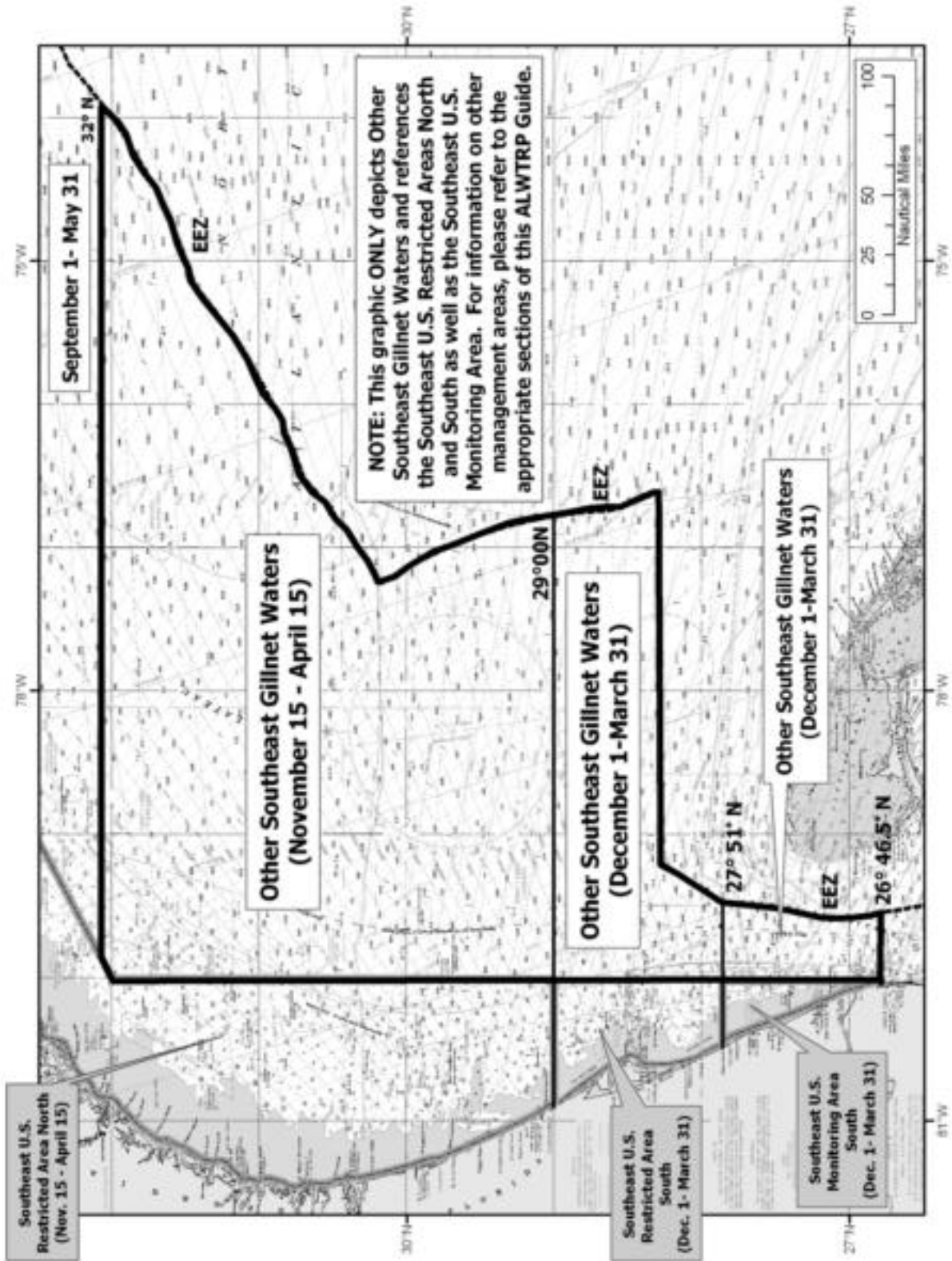
For the Southeast Atlantic gillnet fishery (non-shark gillnetting):

- Compliance with the **Universal Requirements**:
 - » No buoy line floating at the surface.
 - » No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
 - » Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot-free buoy lines.
- All buoys, flotation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a breaking strength no greater than 1,100 lb;
- All gillnet panels to have weak links with the breaking strength of no greater than 1,100 lb in the center of the floatline of each net panel up to and including 50 fathoms (100yds; 300ft), or at least every 25 fathoms (50yds; 150ft) for longer panels;
- Gillnets that do not return to port with the vessel must be configured with 5 or more weak links per net panel, depending on panel length, with a breaking strength no greater than 1,100 lb, and be anchored with the holding power of at least a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor at each end of the net string (must be a burying anchor; no dead weights). The weak link placement must meet one of two configuration options (page 52). The same configuration will be required for all gillnet net panels in a string;
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

For the Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet fishery

- No net can be set within 3nm of a right, humpback or fin whale; and
- If a right, humpback, or fin whale moves within 3nm of the set gear, the gear is removed immediately from the water.

SOUTHEAST REGION: OTHER SOUTHEAST GILLNET WATERS



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: Cape Hatteras to Straits of Florida
Chart ID: REG 6

SOUTHEAST U.S. MONITORING AREA

The Southeast U.S. Monitoring Area is a management area for the Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet fishery **only**, and includes the area along the coast from 27°51' N. (near Sebastian Inlet, FL) south to 26°46.5' N. (near West Palm Beach, FL), and extending from the shoreline or exemption line eastward to 80°00' W.

December 1 - March 31

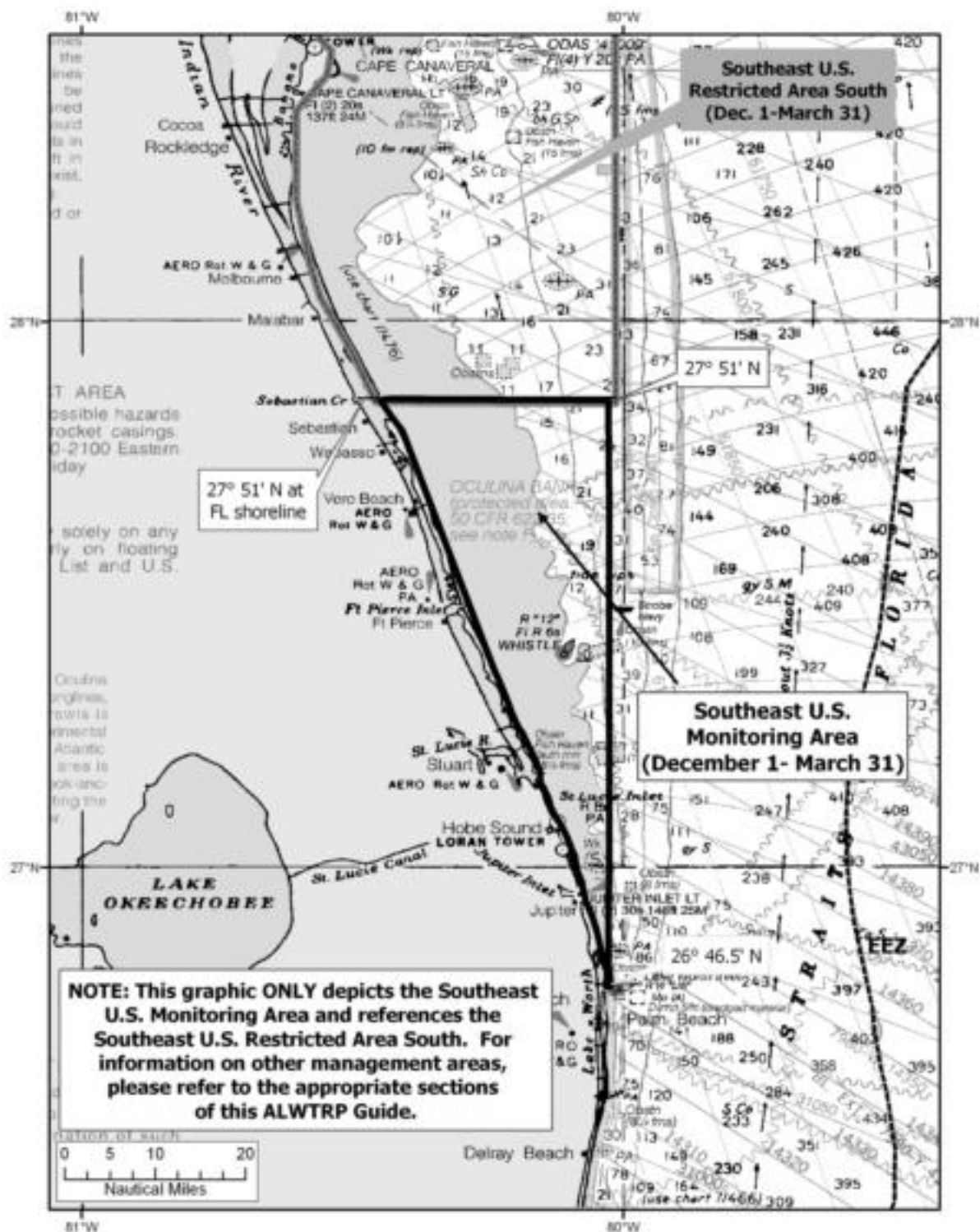
Compliance with **Gear Marking Requirements:**

- Gillnet surface buoys to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following: the owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number; the federal commercial fishing permit number; or whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.
 - » When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.
- Shark gillnet gear with webbing of 5" or greater stretched mesh in the Southeast U.S. Monitoring Area must be marked with two, 4-inch color codes, one designating gear type (**GREEN**) and the other where the gear is set (**BLUE**).
 - » Each color of the two-color codes must be permanently marked on or along the line and must be clearly visible when the gear is hauled or removed from the water.
 - » The two color marks must be placed within 6" of each other.
 - » If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code.
 - » All buoy lines greater than 4 feet long must be marked within 2 feet of the top of the buoy line (closest to the surface) and midway along the length of the buoy line.
 - » Each gillnet net panel must be marked along both the floatline and the leadline at least once every 100 yards, unless otherwise required.

Compliance with the **Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Requirement:**

- » No person may fish with or possess gillnet gear for shark with webbing of 5" or greater stretched mesh in the Southeast U.S. Monitoring Area unless the operator of the vessel is in compliance with the vessel monitoring system requirements found in 50 CFR 635.69.
- » NMFS may select any shark gillnet vessel regulated under the ALWTRP to carry an observer. When selected, the vessels are required to take observers on a mandatory basis in compliance with the requirements for at-sea observer coverage found in 50 CFR 229.7. Any vessel that fails to carry an observer once selected is prohibited from fishing pursuant to 50 CFR part 635.

SOUTHEAST REGION: SOUTHEAST U.S. MONITORING AREA



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: Cape Hatteras to Straits of Florida
Chart ID: REG 6

REGULATIONS THAT APPLY TO ALL TRAP/POT, ANCHORED AND DRIFT GILLNET FISHERIES

REGULATED AND EXEMPTED WATERS

ALWTRP regulations apply to all U.S. waters in the Atlantic except for the areas described below (and on the pages to follow).

Exempted Waters:

- Regulations do not apply to waters landward of the 72 COLREGS lines in ALWTRP-managed waters from **Maine through Florida**, with the exception of the COLREGS lines for Casco Bay (**Maine**), Portsmouth Harbor (**New Hampshire**), Gardiners Bay and Long Island Sound (**New York**), and the state of **Massachusetts**;
- Regulations do not apply to waters landward of the first bridge over any embayment, harbor, or inlet in **Massachusetts**.

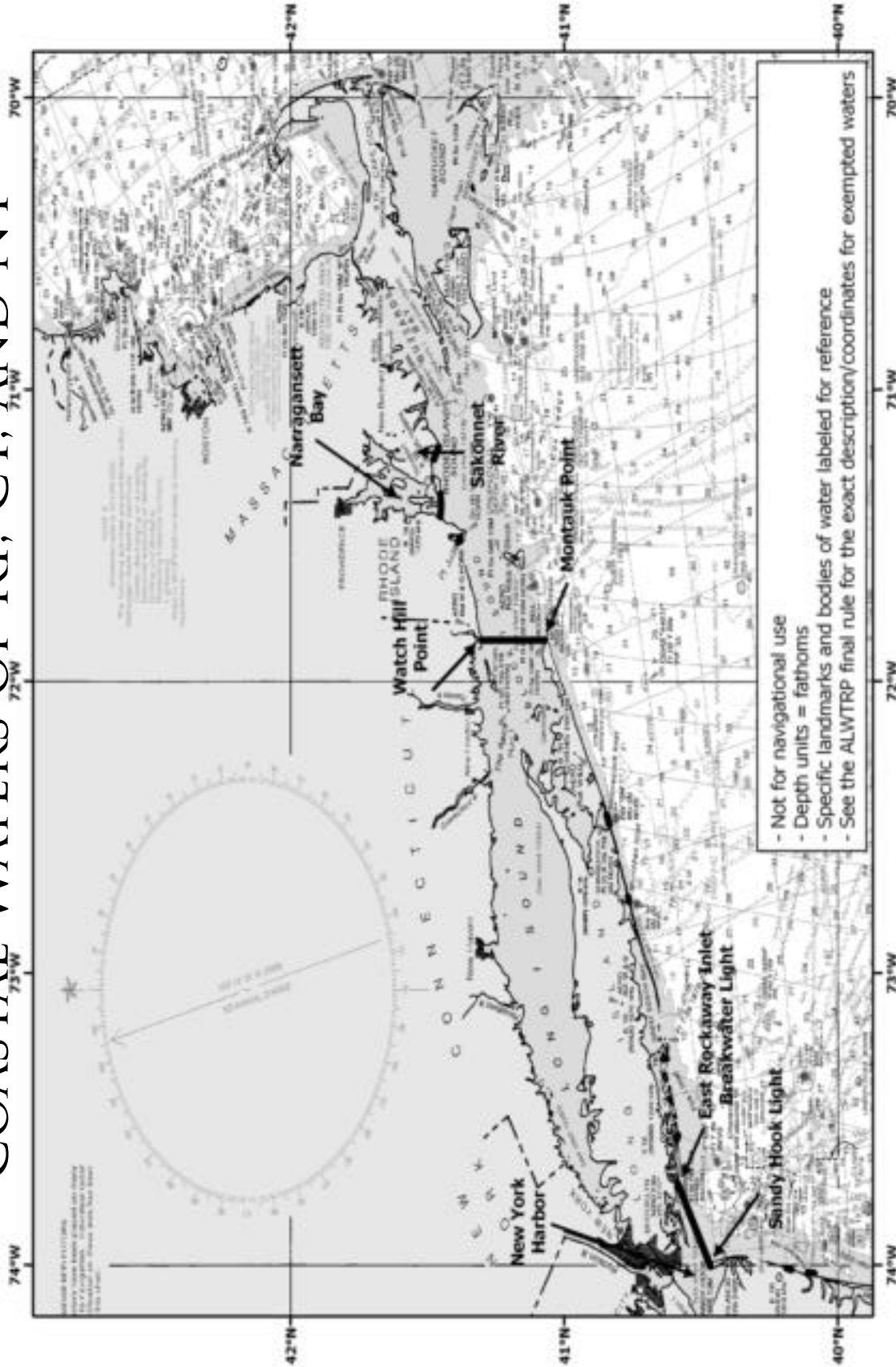
Other Exempted Waters:

- Regulations do not apply to waters of **New Hampshire** landward of the following line:
 - » A line from 42°53.691' N. lat., 70°48.516' W. long. to 42°53.516' N. lat., 70°48.748' W. long. (Hampton Harbor).
 - » A line from 42°59.986' N. lat., 70°44.654' W. long. to 42°59.956' N., 70°44.737' W. long. (Rye Harbor).
- Regulations do not apply to waters of **Rhode Island** landward of the following line:
 - » A line from 41°22.441' N. lat., 71°30.781' W. long. to 41°22.447' N lat., 71°30.893' W. long. (Pt. Judith Pond Inlet).
 - » A line from 41°21.310' N. lat., 71°38.300' W. long. to 41°21.300' N. lat., 71°38.330' W. long. (Ninigret Pond Inlet).
 - » A line from 41°19.875' N. lat., 71°43.061' W. long. to 41°19.879' N. lat., 71°43.115' W. long. (Quonochontaug Pond Inlet).
 - » A line from 41°19.660' N. lat., 71°45.750' W. long. to 41°19.660' N. lat., 71°45.780' W. long. (Weekapaug Pond Inlet).
- Regulations do not apply to waters of **New York** landward of the following line:
 - » A line that follows the territorial sea baseline through Block Island Sound (Watch Hill Point, RI, to Montauk Point, NY).
- Regulations do not apply to waters of **South Carolina** landward of the following line:
 - » A line from 32°34.717' N. lat., 80°08.565' W. long. to 32°34.686' N. lat., 80°08.642' W. long. (Captain Sams Inlet).

Gear Modification Exemptions >280fa:

- Fisheries are exempt from the requirement to have groundlines composed of sinking line if their groundline is at a depth equal to or greater than 280 fathoms (1,680 ft; 512.1m).
- Anchored gillnet fisheries are exempt from the requirement to install weak links in net panel(s) and to anchor each end of the net string if the float line is at a depth equal to or greater than 280 fathoms (1,680 ft; 512.1m).

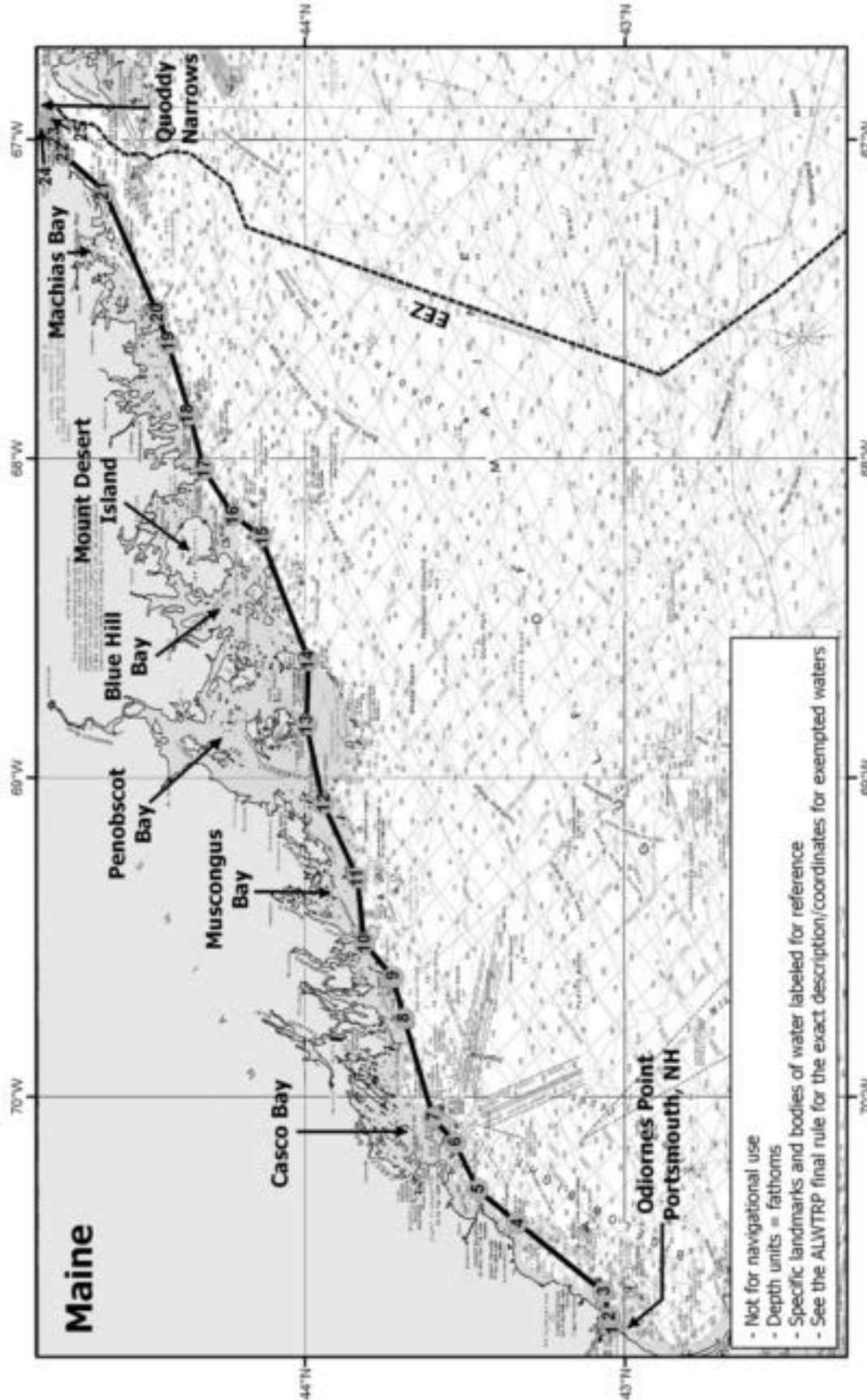
ALWTRP EXEMPTED WATERS: EXEMPTION LINES FOR COASTAL WATERS OF RI, CT, AND NY



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: Cape Sable to Cape Hatteras
Chart ID: 13003_1

EXEMPTION LINES FOR COASTAL WATERS OF RHODE ISLAND, CONNECTICUT, AND NEW YORK (SHOWN AS SOLID DARK LINES). EXEMPTION LINES FOR THE COASTAL WATERS OF MASSACHUSETTS REMAIN UNCHANGED.

ALWTRP EXEMPTED WATERS: EXEMPTION LINES FOR THE STATE OF MAINE



NOAA Nautical Chart Name: West Quoddy Head to New York
Chart ID: 13006_1

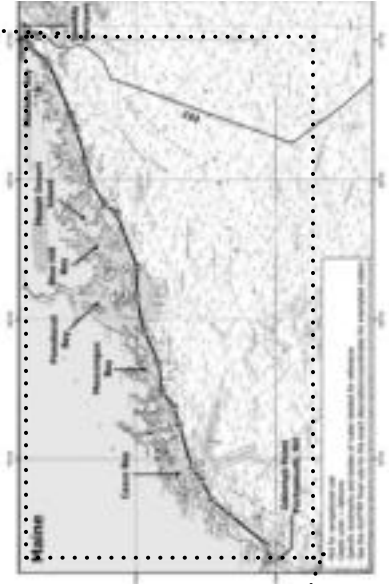
EXEMPTION LINES FOR THE STATE OF MAINE (SHOWN AS SOLID DARK LINES). THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE EEZ IS REPRESENTED BY THE DASHED LINE.

ALWTRP EXEMPTED WATERS: COORDINATES FOR THE EXEMPTION LINES FOR THE STATE OF MAINE

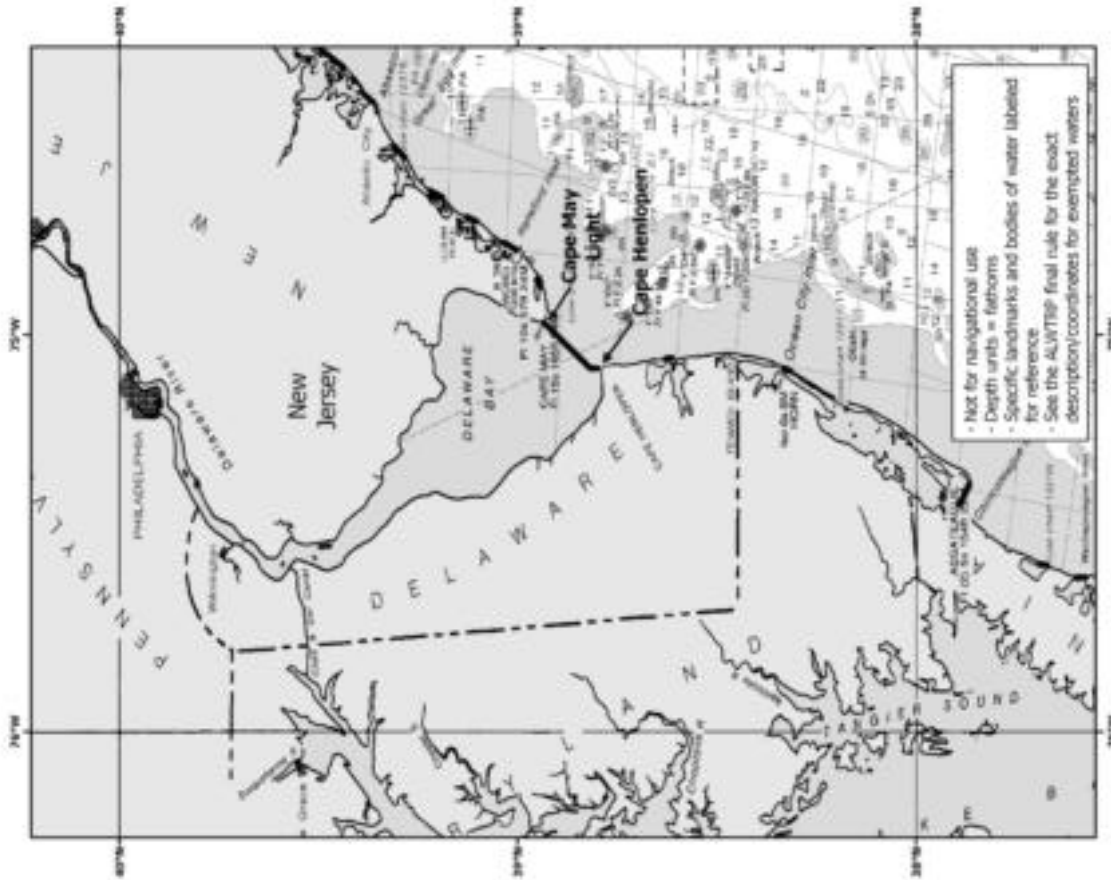
Coordinates and Landmarks for State of Maine Exemption Line:

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

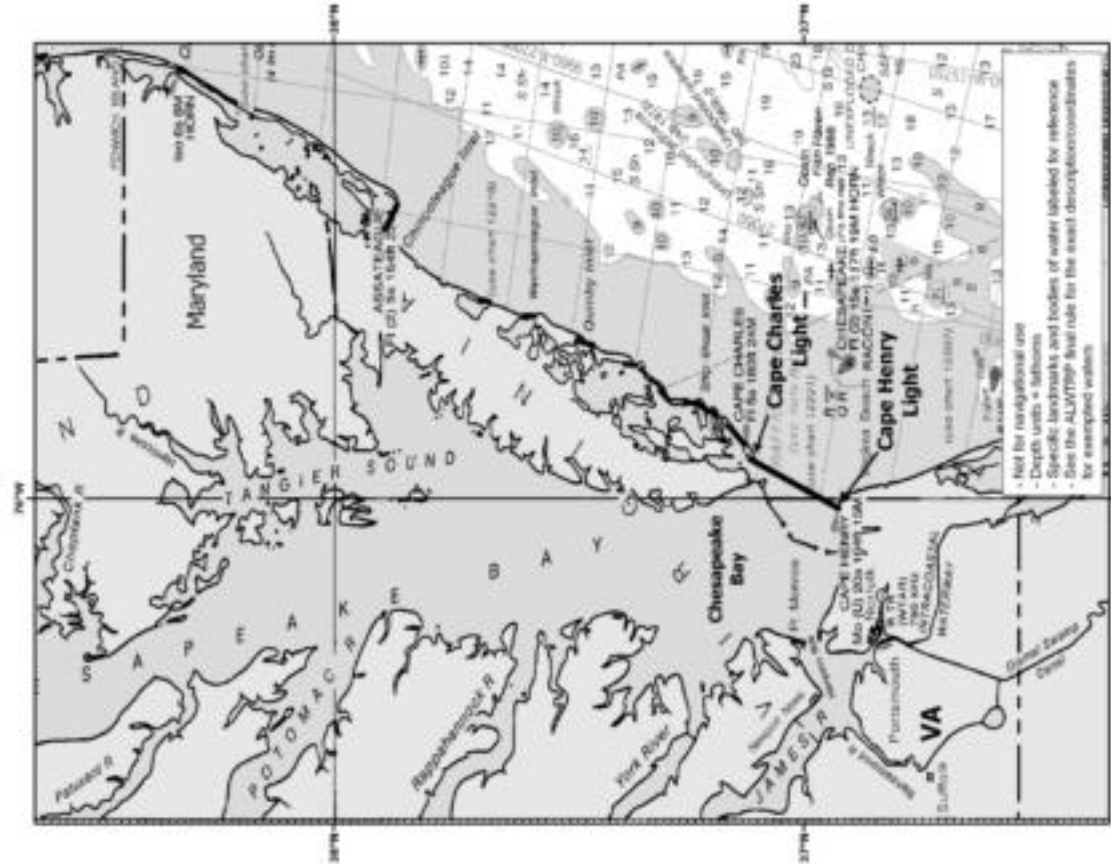
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Odiornes Pt. Portsmouth NH:
43° 02.55' N 70° 43.33' W | 9. R 2BR Bell – Bantam Rock
43° 43.64' N 69° 37.58' W | 18. R N 2 – Petit Manan I:
44° 21.66' N 67° 51.78' W |
| 2. R 2KR Whistle – Kittery Point
43° 02.93' N 70° 41.47' W | 10. GR C PL – Pemaquid Ledge:
43° 48.96' N 69° 31.15' W | 19. R 2SR Bell – Seahorse Rock, west of Great Wass I
44° 25.74' N 67° 38.39' W |
| 3. N 2MR – Murray Rock:
43° 04.06' N 70° 36.70' W | 11. R 2 OM Whistle – Old Man Ledge:
43° 50.28' N 69° 18.86' W | 20. Freeman Rock – east of Great Wass I
44° 27.77' N 67° 32.86' W |
| 4. RW CP Whistle – Cape Porpoise:
43° 20.23' N 70° 23.64' W | 12. G 5TB Bell – Two Bush Channel:
43° 56.72' N 69° 04.89' W | 21. Obstruction – southeast of Cutler:
44° 37.70' N 67° 09.75' W |
| 5. RW WI Whistle – Wood I
43° 27.63' N 70° 17.48' W | 13. R 2A Bell – Old Horse Ledge:
43° 59.83' N 68° 50.06' W | 22. R 28M Whistle – Baileys Mistake:
44° 45.51' N 67° 02.87' W |
| 6. G 1 – East Hue and Cry:
43° 31.94' N 70° 08.68' W | 14. R 2 Bell – Roaring Bull Ledge,
Isle Au Haut:
43° 59.36' N 68° 37.95' W | 23. R N 2 – Morton Ledge:
44° 47.36' N 66° 59.25' W |
| 7. RG N BS – Bulwark Shoal
43° 36.04' N 70° 03.98' W | 15. Southern point Great Duck I:
44° 08.36' N 68° 14.75' W | 24. G 1 Whistle – West Quoddy Head:
44° 48.64' N 66° 56.43' W |
| 8. R 20ML Bell – Mile Ledge
43° 41.44' N 69° 45.27' W | 16. R 8BI Whistle – Baker I:
44° 13.55' N 68° 10.71' W | 25. R N 2 – Quoddy Narrows:
44° 49.67' N 66° 57.77' W |
| | 17. R 2S Bell – Schoodic I:
44° 19.08' N 68° 02.05' W | |



ALWTRP EXEMPTED WATERS: EXEMPTION LINES FOR DELAWARE BAY AND CHESAPEAKE BAY



EXEMPTION LINES FOR DELAWARE BAY AND NEARBY INLETS (SHOWN AS SOLID DARK LINES).



EXEMPTION LINES FOR CHESAPEAKE BAY AND NEARBY INLETS (SHOWN AS SOLID DARK LINES).

NOAA Nautical Chart Name: Cape Sable to Cape Hatteras
Chart ID: 13003_1

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

GEAR MARKING: TRAP/POT FISHERIES

SURFACE BUOY MARKING:

Trap/pot surface buoys will need to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following:

- » The owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number;
- » The federal commercial fishing permit number; or
- » Whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.



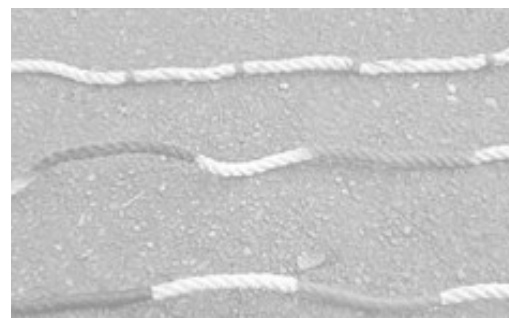
When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.

BUOY LINE MARKING:

The gear marking scheme will require one 4-inch (10.2 cm) colored mark midway along the buoy line. Each color code must be permanently affixed on or along the line and each color code must be clearly visible when the gear is hauled or removed from the water.

Trap/Pot gear marking colors:

RED: Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area;
Northern Nearshore Trap/Pot
Waters; Northern Inshore State
Trap/Pot Waters; Stellwagen Bank/
Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area;
Great South Channel



Restricted Area overlapping with Lobster

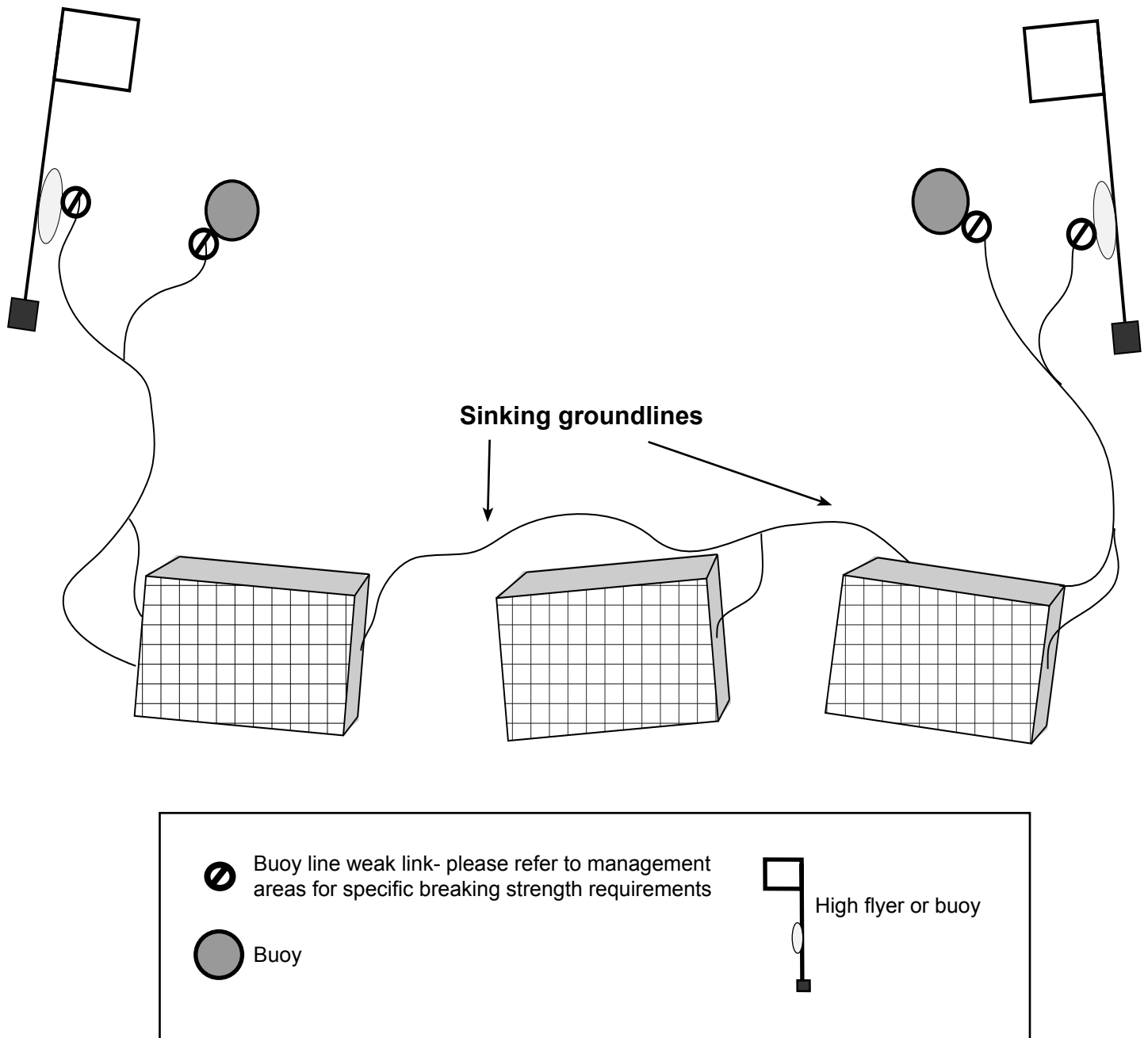
Management Area (LMA) 2 and/or the Outer Cape LMA.

ORANGE: Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters.

BLACK: Offshore Trap/Pot Waters; Great South Channel Restricted Area overlapping with the LMA 2/3 Overlap and/or LMA 3.

Note: If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code listed above, a white mark may be substituted for that color code.

TRAP/POT GEAR DIAGRAM



This graphic depicts a general trap/pot gear configuration, which may vary. Please see individual ALWTRP Management Areas for information regarding specific weak link, gear marking and/or any other ALWTRP requirements.

GEAR MARKING: GILLNET FISHERIES

SURFACE BUOY MARKING:

Trap/pot surface buoys will need to be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following:

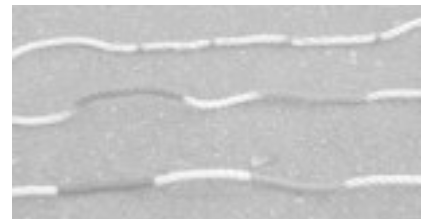
- » The owner's motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number;
- » The federal commercial fishing permit number; or
- » Whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.



When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.

BUOY LINE MARKING:

The gear marking scheme will require one 4-inch (10.2 cm) colored mark midway along the buoy line. Each color code must be permanently affixed on or along the line and each color code must be clearly visible when the gear is hauled or removed from the water.



Gear marking colors (gillnet, excluding shark gillnet):

- GREEN: Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area; Stellwagen Bank/ Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area; Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area; Great South Channel Sliver Restricted Area; and Other Northeast Gillnet Waters.
- BLUE: Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters.
- YELLOW: Southeast U.S. Restricted Area South and Other Southeast Gillnet Waters.

If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code.

Gear marking colors (shark gillnet only):

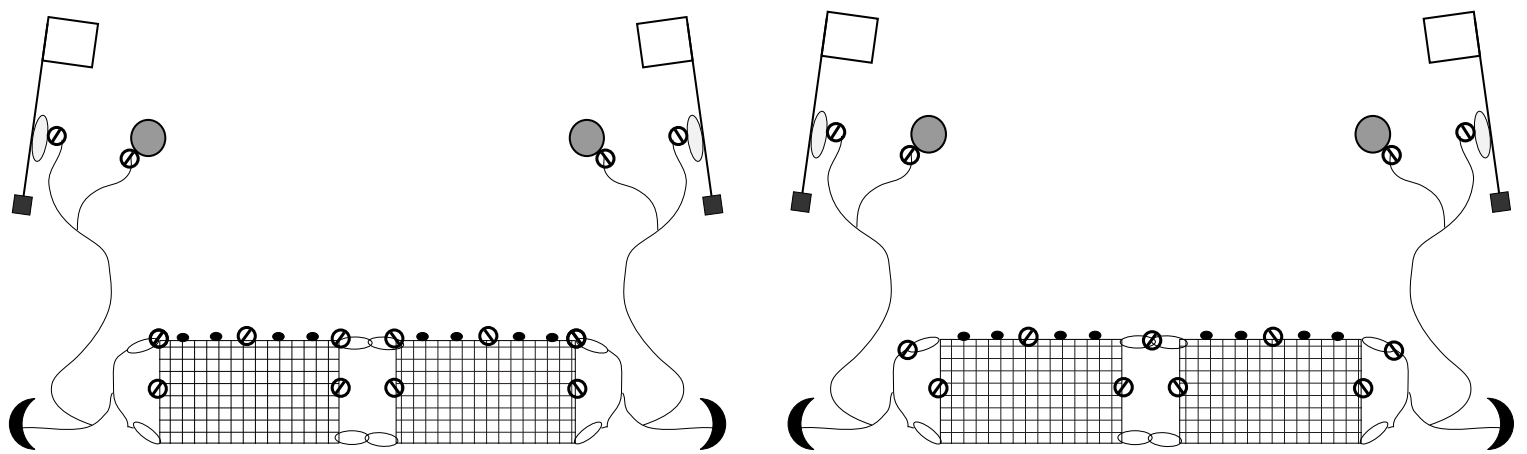
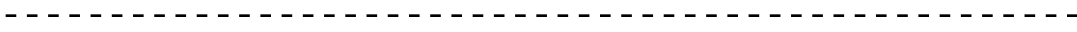
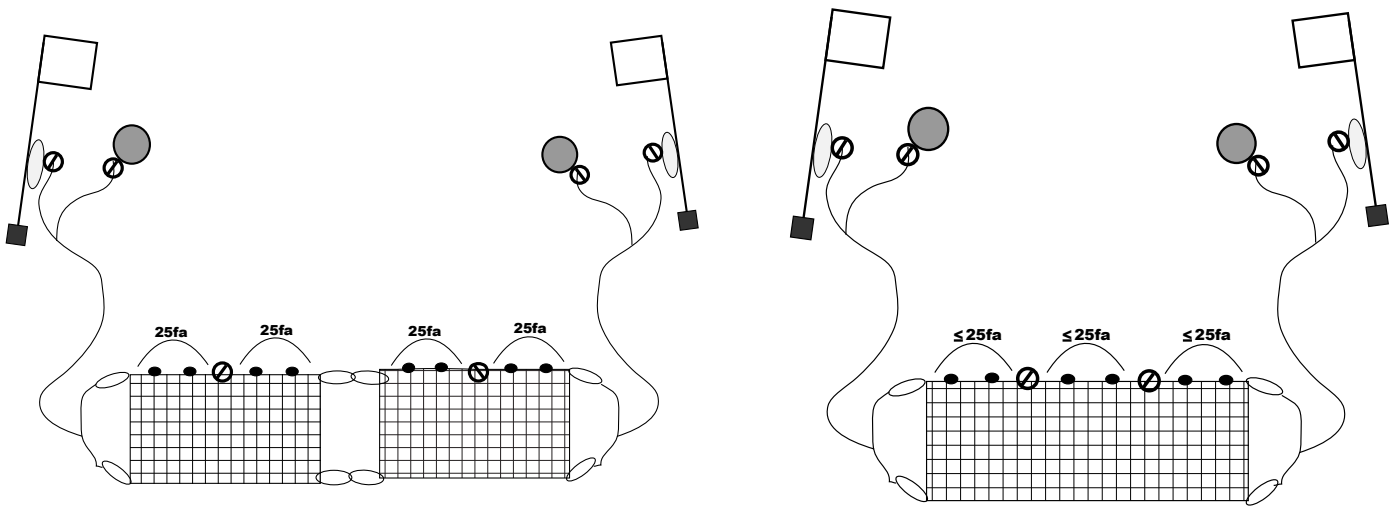
Shark gillnet gear with webbing of 5" or greater stretched mesh in the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area S, Southeast U.S. Monitoring Area, and Other Southeast Gillnet Waters must be marked with two, 4-inch color codes, one designating gear type (GREEN) and the other where the gear is set (BLUE).

Each color of the two-color codes must be permanently marked on or along the line and must be clearly visible when the gear is hauled or removed from the water. The two color marks must be placed within 6" of each other. If the color of the rope is the same as or similar to a color code, a white mark may be substituted for that color code.

All buoy lines greater than 4 feet long must be marked within 2 feet of the top of the buoy line (closest to the surface) and midway along the length of the buoy line.

Each gillnet net panel must be marked along both the floatline and the leadline at least once every 100 yards, unless otherwise required.

GILLNET OPTIONS FOR NET PANEL WEAK LINKS



Configuration 1:

For all variations in panel size:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of each of the up and down lines at both ends of the net panel; and
- One weak link must be placed as close as possible to each end of the net panels on the floatline.

For net panels 50 fathoms or less in length:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of the floatline.

For net panels greater than 50 fathoms:

- One weak link must be placed at least every 25 fathoms along the float line.

Configuration 2:

For all variations in panel size:

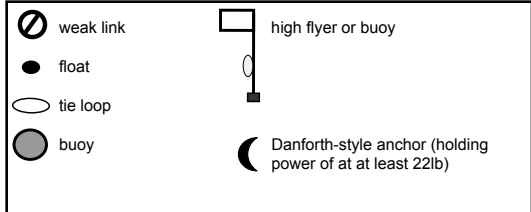
- One weak link must be placed in the center of each of the up and down lines at both ends of the net panel; and
- One weak link must be placed between floatline tie-loops between net panels; and
- One weak link must be placed where the floatline tie-loops attach to the bridle, buoy line, or groundline at each end of a net string.

For net panels 50 fathoms or less in length:

- One weak link must be placed in the center of the floatline.

For net panels greater than 50 fathoms:

- One weak link must be placed at least every 25 fathoms along the floatline.



****NOTE:** Individual weak links are not required in locations where rope of appropriate breaking strength is used. Additionally, if no up and down line is present, then weak links are not required at that location. This graphic depicts a general anchored gillnet gear configuration, which may vary. Also, only the buoy line, groundline, anchor, and weak link configuration are displayed here; please see individual ALWTRP Management Areas for information regarding gear marking and/or any other additional ALWTRP requirements

ALWTRP DEFINITIONS

- » **Anchored gillnet:** any gillnet gear, including an anchored float gillnet, sink gillnet or stab net, that is set anywhere in the water column and which is anchored, secured, or weighted to the bottom of the sea. Also called a **set gillnet**.
- » **Bitter end:** the end of a line that detaches from a weak link.
- » **Bottom portion of the line:** for buoy lines, the portion of the line in the water column that is closest to the fishing gear.
- » **Bridle:** the lines connecting a gillnet to an anchor or buoy line.
- » **Buoy line:** a line connecting fishing gear in the water to a buoy at the surface of the water.
- » **Drift gillnet (or driftnet):** a gillnet or gillnets that is/are unattached to the ocean bottom and not anchored, secured or weighted to the bottom, regardless of whether attached to a vessel.
- » **Gillnet:** fishing gear consisting of a wall of webbing (meshes) or nets, designed or configured so that the webbing (meshes) or nets are placed in the water column, usually held approximately vertically, and are designed to capture fish by entanglement, gilling, or wedging. The term “gillnet” includes gillnets of all types, including but not limited to sink gillnets, other anchored gillnets (e.g. anchored float gillnets, stab, and set nets), and drift gillnets. Gillnets may or may not be attached to a vessel.
- » **Groundline:** a line connecting traps in a trap trawl, and, with reference to gillnet gear, means a line connecting a gillnet or gillnet bridle to an anchor or buoy line.
- » **Night:** anytime between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise
- » **Sinking line for both groundlines and buoy lines:** line that has a specific gravity greater than or equal to 1.030, and, for groundlines only, does not float at any point in the water column.
- » **Stowed:** means traps/pots and gillnets that are unavailable for immediate use and further, all gillnets are stored in accordance with the following: (1) All nets are covered with canvas or other similar material and lashed or otherwise securely fastened to the deck, rail, or drum, and all buoys larger than 6 inches (15.24 cm) in diameter, high flyers, and anchors are disconnected; and (2) Any other method of stowage authorized in writing by the Regional Administrator and subsequently published in the *Federal Register*.
- » **Tend/Tended gear:** fishing gear that is physically attached to a vessel in a way that is capable of harvesting fish, or to fish with gear attached to the vessel.
- » **Tie loops:** the loops on a gillnet panel used to connect net panels to the buoy line, groundline, bridle or each other.
- » **Trap/Pot:** any structure or other device, other than a net or longline, that is placed, or designed to be placed, on the ocean bottom and is designed for or is capable of, catching species including but not limited to lobster, crab (red, Jonah, rock, and blue), hagfish, finfish (black sea bass, scup, tautog, cod, haddock, pollock, redfish (ocean perch), and white hake), conch/whelk, and shrimp.
- » **Up and down line:** means the line that connects the float-line and lead-line at the end of each gillnet net panel.

