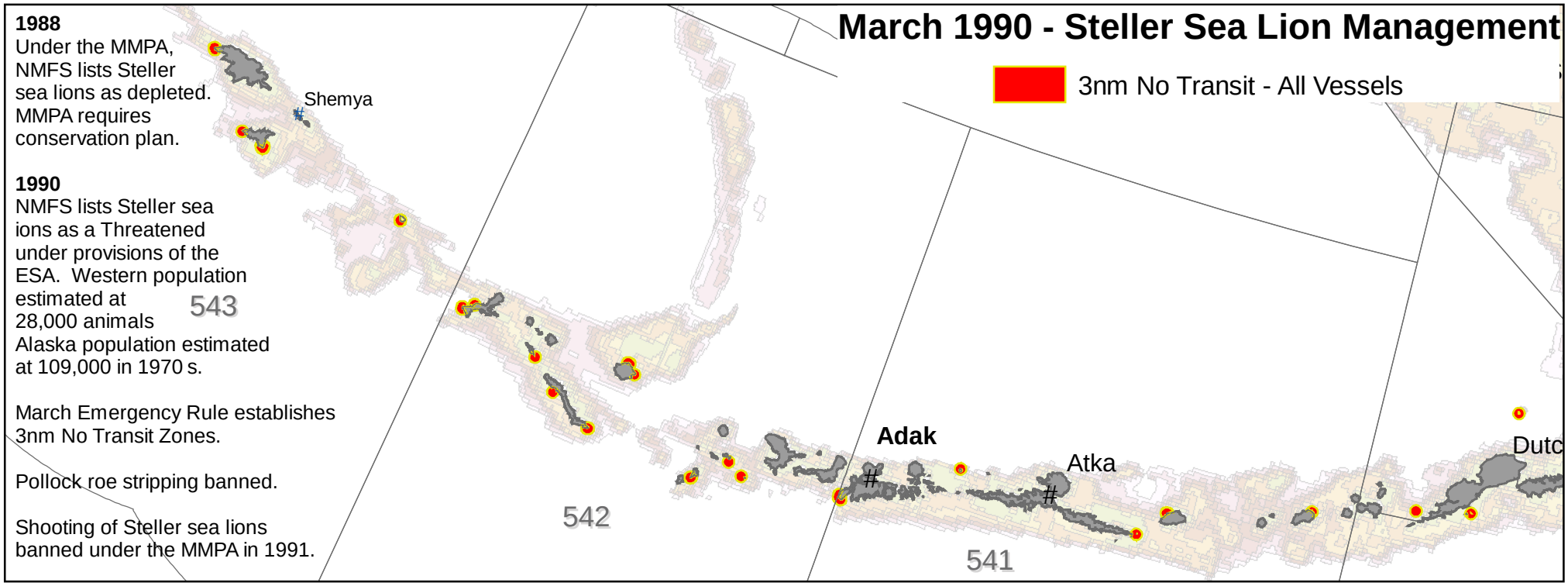
March 1990 - Steller Sea Lion Management



1988
Under the MMPA, NMFS lists Steller sea lions as depleted. MMPA requires conservation plan.

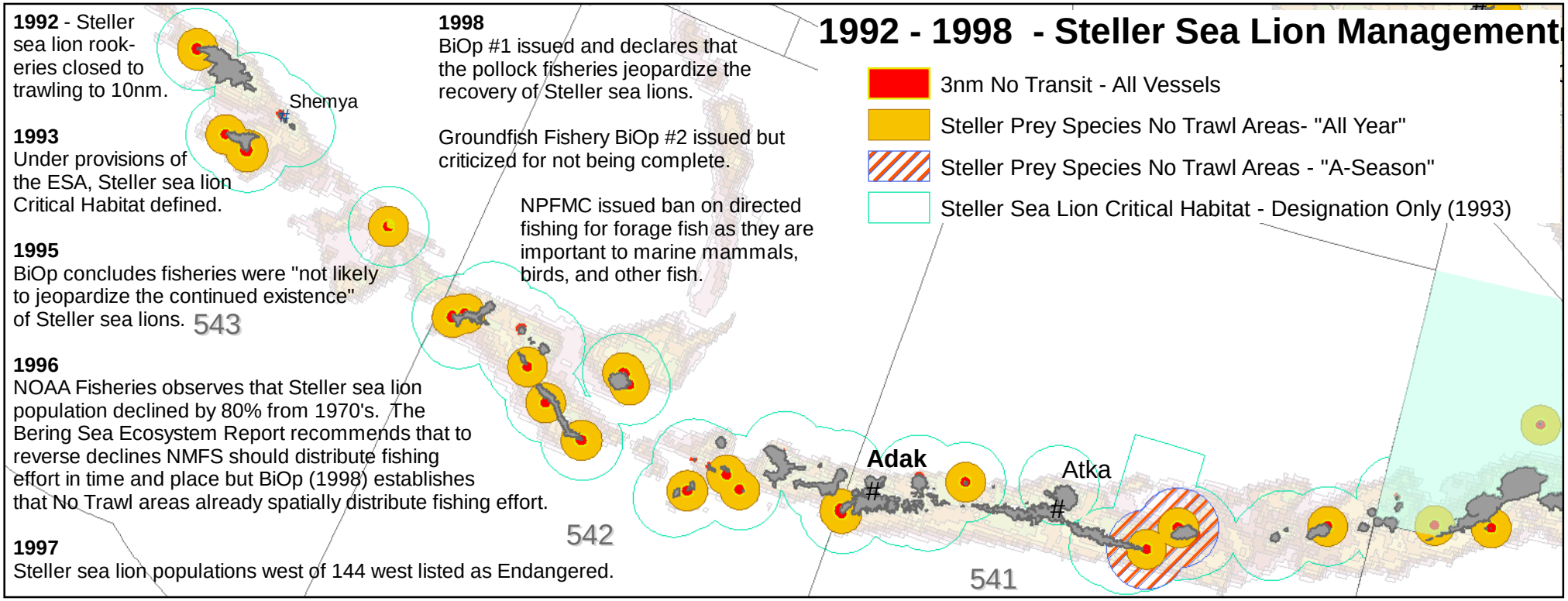
1990
NMFS lists Steller sea ions as a Threatened under provisions of the ESA. Western population estimated at 28,000 animals
Alaska population estimated at 109,000 in 1970 s.

March Emergency Rule establishes 3nm No Transit Zones.

Pollock roe stripping banned.

Shooting of Steller sea lions banned under the MMPA in 1991.

1992 - 1998 - Steller Sea Lion Management



1992 - Steller sea lion rook-eries closed to trawling to 10nm.

1993
Under provisions of the ESA, Steller sea lion Critical Habitat defined.

1995
BiOp concludes fisheries were "not likely to jeopardize the continued existence" of Steller sea lions.

1996
NOAA Fisheries observes that Steller sea lion population declined by 80% from 1970's. The Bering Sea Ecosystem Report recommends that to reverse declines NMFS should distribute fishing effort in time and place but BiOp (1998) establishes that No Trawl areas already spatially distribute fishing effort.

1997
Steller sea lion populations west of 144 west listed as Endangered.

1998
BiOp #1 issued and declares that the pollock fisheries jeopardize the recovery of Steller sea lions.

Groundfish Fishery BiOp #2 issued but criticized for not being complete.

NPFMC issued ban on directed fishing for forage fish as they are important to marine mammals, birds, and other fish.