seeks comment on whether there are any compliance issues the Commission should consider, particularly for smaller carriers.

56. The Commission expects to take into account the economic impact on small entities, as identified in comments filed in response to the Further Notice and this IRFA, in reaching its final conclusions and promulgating rules in this proceeding. In addition to taking into the account the size of the entity in potentially establishing transition periods to come into compliance with the proposed condition on future USF support, the Commission also seeks comment on establishing a program for the funding of reasonable replacement costs for ETCs affected by the new condition on USF support, which would include small ETCs.

57. *Ex Parte Presentations.* The proceeding this Further Notice initiates shall be treated as a ''permit-but-disclose'' proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules. Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda, or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (*e.g.,* .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

IV. Ordering Clauses

58. Accordingly, *it is ordered* that, pursuant to the authority contained in section 1–4, 201(b), and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151–154, 201(b), 254, this Further Notice *is adopted.*

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 54

Communications common carriers, Health facilities, Infants and children, Internet, Libraries, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Schools, Telecommunications, Telephone.

Federal Communications Commission.

Cecilia Sigmund,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary.

Proposed Rules

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communication Commission proposes to amend 47 part 54 as follows:

PART 54—UNIVERSAL SERVICE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 54 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 155, 201, 205, 214, 219, 220, 229, 254, 303(r), 403, 1004, and 1302 unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Information

■ 2. Amend § 54.9 by adding paragraphs (c) and (d) to read as follows:

§ 54.9 Prohibition on use of funds.

* * * * *

(c) Upon adoption of a funded reimbursement mechanism for replacing such equipment or services, Eligible Telecommunications Carriers must certify prior to receiving a funding commitment or support that it does not use covered equipment or services.

(d) For purposes of paragraph (c) of this section, covered equipment or services are equipment or services produced or provided by any company designated by the Commission as posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain.

[FR Doc. 2019–27646 Filed 1–2–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No.: 191220–012]

RIN 0648–BH67

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule, request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to approve and implement the measures of the New England Fishery Management Council's Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment. This action would protect deep-sea corals from the impacts of commercial fishing gear on Georges Bank and in the Gulf of Maine. These proposed management measures are intended to reduce, to the extent practicable, impacts of fishing gear on deep-sea corals in New England while balancing their costs to commercial fisheries.

DATES: Public comments must be received by February 18, 2020.

ADDRESSES: The New England Fishery Management Council has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for this action that describes the proposed measures in the Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment and other considered alternatives and analyzes the impacts of the proposed measures and alternatives. The Council submitted a draft of the amendment to NMFS that includes the draft EA, a description of the Council's preferred alternatives, the Council's rationale for selecting each alternative, and a Regulatory Impact Review (RIR)/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA). Copies of supporting documents used by the New England Fishery Management Council, including the EA and RIR/IRFA, are available from: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 and accessible via the internet in documents available at: *https://www.nefmc.org/library/omnibus-deep-sea-coral-amendment.*

You may submit comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2019–0092, by either of the following methods:

• *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to

www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2019-0092, click the ''Comment Now!'' icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

• *Mail:* Submit written comments to NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope ''Comments on Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment.''

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on *www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter ''N/A'' in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Travis Ford, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281–9233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The coral protection zones included in this amendment were initially developed during 2010 and 2011 as part of the Council's Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2 (OHA2), finalized April 9, 2018 (83 FR 15240; April 9, 2018). In September 2012, the Council split the coral protection zones and associated management measures out of OHA2 into a separate omnibus amendment. On March 13 and 15, 2017, the Council held workshops in New Bedford, MA, and Portsmouth, NH, to discuss the coral zone boundaries, considering the canyon and slope zones on Georges Bank (broad zone) at the first meeting, and the offshore Gulf of Maine zones at the second. On April 18, 2017, the Council chose preferred alternatives for the coral zones to go out to public hearing. The Council held public hearings throughout New England in May of 2017, and revisited its preferred alternatives at its June 2017 meeting. These meetings were noticed in the **Federal Register** (82 FR 21809; May 10, 2017) and advertised on the Council's website and at meetings of the Council's Habitat Committee and the full Council. Many small entities were in attendance and commented at each hearing. Based on the attendance sheets, over 150 people attended the hearings, many of which either were or were representing small entities. Testimony was given by approximately 50 individuals, with individuals sometimes providing comments at more than one hearing. On June 22, 2017, the Council took final action on the Gulf of Maine portions of the amendment, but did not select final preferred alternatives for the broad coral protection zone on Georges Bank. Instead, the Council added a new alternative for analysis that was suggested during the public hearings. Finally, on January 30, 2018, the Council selected a final preferred alternative for the broad coral protection zone on Georges Bank and adopted the Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment.

The Council submitted the Amendment to NMFS for initial review on December 21, 2018. The Council submitted a revised draft of the Amendment on June 25, 2019, for final review by NMFS, acting on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce.

The Council developed this action, and the measures described in this proposed rule, under the discretionary provisions for deep-sea coral protection in section 303(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). This provision gives the Regional Fishery Management Councils the authority to:

(A) Designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear; and

(B) Designate such zones in areas where deep-sea corals are identified under section 408 (this section describes the deep-sea coral research and technology program), to protect deep-sea corals from physical damage from fishing gear or to prevent loss or damage to such fishing gear from interactions with deep-sea corals, after considering long-term sustainable uses of fishery resources in such areas.

Deep-sea corals can build reef-like structures or occur as thickets, isolated colonies, or solitary individuals, and often are significant components of deep-sea ecosystems, providing habitat (substrate, refuge) for a diversity of other organisms, including many economically important fish and invertebrate species. All corals are vulnerable to fishing gear impacts, but the degrees of susceptibility and the rates of recovery vary, depending both on coral biology and on spatial overlap between corals and fishing grounds, which influences the likelihood of gear interactions. Deep corals can be found from near the surface to 6,000 m depth, but most commonly occur between 50–1,000 m on hard substrate. Deep-sea coral habitats have been noted to have higher associated concentrations of fish than surrounding areas and are believed to serve as nursery grounds and provide habitat for many species of fish and invertebrates at various life stages, including commercially important fish species. Consistent with these provisions, the Council proposed the measures in the Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment to identify and protect concentrations of corals in select areas and restrict the expansion of fishing effort into areas where corals are likely to be present while taking into account long-term sustainable uses of fishery resources in the areas and the costs to commercial fisheries.

Proposed Measures

Georges Bank Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area

The Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment would establish deep-sea coral protection areas on the outer continental shelf in New England waters. It would complement the Frank R. Lautenberg Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area established by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in Amendment 16 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (81 FR 90246; December 14, 2016) as described in § 648.372. The area would run along the outer continental shelf in waters no shallower than 600 meters and extend to the outer limit of U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary to the east and north, and south to the intercouncil boundary as described in § 600.105(a).

The Council proposed this coral protection area to prevent the expansion of fishing effort into deep-water coral areas, while limiting impacts on current fishing operations. This area would be designated with the landward boundary drawn between the 600-m contour as a hard landward boundary and the 650-m contour as a hard seaward boundary. In some areas the boundary crosses the 650-m contour to draw this line as straight as possible; however, the boundary was constrained on its shallow side by the 600-m contour. From the landward boundary, the boundaries would extend along the northern and southern boundaries of the New England Council's management region and to the edge of the EEZ as the eastward boundary.

Gear Restrictions in the Georges Bank Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area

This action would prohibit the use of bottom-tending commercial fishing gear

within the designated Georges Bank Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area, including: Bottom-tending otter trawls; bottom-tending beam trawls; hydraulic dredges; non-hydraulic dredges; bottom-tending seines; bottom longlines; pots and traps; and sink or anchored gillnets. The prohibition on these gears would protect deep-sea corals from interaction with and damage from bottom-tending fishing gear. Red crab pot gear would be exempt from the prohibition.

Mount Desert Rock Coral Protection Area

This action would designate a coral protection area in an 8-mi² (21-km²) area southwest of Mount Desert Rock, a small, rocky island off the eastern Maine coast, about 20 nm (37 km) south of Mount Desert Island, encompassing depths of 100–200 m. Corals have been documented in this area from historic data dating back to the 19th century from both fisheries bycatch and naturalist surveys and from recent deep-sea coral oriented cruises within the New England region in 2000s. Vessels would be prohibited from fishing with bottom-tending mobile gear within the Mount Desert Rock Coral Protection Area. Bottom-tending mobile gear includes but is not limited to: Bottom-tending otter trawls; bottom-tending beam trawls; hydraulic dredges; non-hydraulic dredges; and seines (with the exception of a purse seine). This would protect corals in this area from fishing impacts from these gears. Vessels would still be able to fish for lobster in this area using trap gear.

Outer Schoodic Ridge Coral Protection Area

This action would designate a coral protection area in a 31-mi² (79-km²) area on the Outer Schoodic Ridge, roughly 25 nm (46 km) southeast of Mount Desert Island, encompassing depths of 104–248 m. Corals have been documented in both historic and recent data. Vessels would be prohibited from fishing with bottom-tending mobile gear within the Outer Schoodic Ridge Coral Protection Area. Bottom-tending mobile gear includes but is not limited to: Bottom-tending otter trawls; bottom-tending beam trawls; hydraulic dredges; non-hydraulic dredges; and seines (with the exception of a purse seine). This would protect corals in this area from fishing impacts from these gears. Vessels would still be able to fish for lobster in this area using trap gear.

Transiting Provisions

Vessels would be allowed to transit the Georges Bank, Mount Desert Rock, and Outer Schoodic Ridge Coral Protection Areas provided the vessels bring bottom-tending fishing gear onboard the vessel, and reel bottom-tending trawl gear onto the net reel. These transiting provisions are consistent with those established by the Mid-Atlantic Council in Amendment 16 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP. The Mid-Atlantic Council proposed these slightly less restrictive transiting provisions because the majority of transiting will be through the very narrow canyon heads (*i.e.,* the narrow tips of the canyons that extend landward of the broad coral zone landward boundary). The Mid-Atlantic Council determined that the normal gear stowage requirements and requirements that gear be unavailable for immediate use (at 50 CFR 648.2) would be too burdensome for commercial vessels within the narrow areas of the coral protection areas.

Jordan Basin Dedicated Habitat Research Area

This action would designate the area around Jordan Basin in the Gulf of Maine as a dedicated habitat research area, but it would not impose any additional restrictions on fishing in this area. The purpose of this designation is to encourage further exploration of coral habitats at the site, and to encourage research on fishing gear impacts on these habitats.

Framework Adjustments

This action would add framework adjustment provisions to facilitate future modifications to the New England Deep-Sea Coral Protection Areas. The new measures that may be changed using a framework adjustment would include adding, revising, or removing coral areas; changing fishing restrictions in coral areas; and developing new, or changing existing, coral area fishery access or exploratory fishing programs.

Letters of Acknowledgement for Vessels Conducting Scientific Research

The Council requested that researchers seek a Letter of Acknowledgement (LOA) from NMFS before conducting research in these areas. Scientific research on a scientific research vessel is not considered fishing and is therefore exempt from the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act, Sec. 3, 50 CFR 600.10 and 600.512). NMFS cannot require that scientific research institutions request an LOA when conducting scientific research at sea on a scientific research vessel, but we will encourage researchers to do so, consistent with regulations implementing the Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions at 50 CFR 600.512.

Classification

Pursuant to section 304(b)(1)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the NMFS Assistant Administrator has preliminarily determined that this Amendment and proposed rule are consistent with the Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment, other provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law, subject to further consideration after public comment.

This proposed rule has been determined to be significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

The Council prepared an IRFA, as required by section 603 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). The IRFA describes the economic impact this proposed rule, if adopted, would have on small entities. A summary of the analysis follows. The IRFA is incorporated into the Final Omnibus Deep Sea Coral Amendment—June 25, 2019, section 11.3. A copy of this analysis is available from the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) or via online at *https://www.nefmc.org/library/omnibus-deep-sea-coral-amendment.*

Description of the Reasons Why Action by the Agency Is Being Considered and Statement of the Objectives of, and Legal Basis for, This Proposed Rule

This action proposes to implement measures to protect deep-sea corals from fishing gear. The background section of the preamble to this proposed rule includes a complete description of the reasons why this action is being considered, and the objectives of and legal basis for this action.

Description of Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Other Compliance Requirements of the Proposed Rule

This action contains no new collection-of-information, reporting, or recordkeeping requirements. There would be economic impacts to small entities associated with this proposed rule. Those impacts are described in detail in the Final Omnibus Deep Sea Coral Amendment, specifically, in the IRFA section 11.3.3.1 and in the analysis of the impacts on human communities in section 7.1.3.

Federal Rules Which May Duplicate, Overlap or Conflict With This Proposed Rule

Parts of the proposed action overlap spatially with the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, defined by Presidential Proclamation 9496 of September 15, 2016 (81 FR 65159). However, this

action is being proposed under the Council's discretionary authority granted in section 303(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act which is separate from the authority granted to the President in 320301 of title 54, United States Code, which the Monument was originally designated under. In addition, this action would protect deep-sea corals from the impacts of fishing gear across a much larger area. The proposed action does not duplicate, overlap, or conflict with any other Federal rules.

Description and Estimate of the Number of Small Entities to Which This Proposed Rule Would Apply

On July 18, 2019, the Small Business Administration (SBA) issued an interim final rule (84 FR 34261) effective August 19, 2019, that adjusted the monetary-based industry size standards (*i.e.,* receipts- and assets-based) for inflation for many industries. For fisheries for-hire businesses and marinas, the rule changes the small business size standard from $7.5 million in annual gross receipts to $8 million. *See* 84 Fed Reg at 34273 (adjusting NAICS 487990 (Scenic and Sightseeing Transportation, Other) and 713930 (Marinas)).

Pursuant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and prior to SBA's July 18, 2019 interim final rule, an initial regulatory flexibility analysis was developed for this action using SBA's former size standards. NMFS has reviewed the analyses prepared for this action in light of the new size standards. Under the former, SBA size standards, all entities subject to this action were considered small entities, and they all would continue to be considered small under the new standards.

Taking this change and public comment into consideration, NMFS has identified no additional significant alternatives that accomplish statutory objectives and minimize any significant economic impacts of the proposed rule on small entities. This is because the recreational for-hire sector is not active in the management regions identified in this action.

Further, the new size standards do not affect the decision to prepare a final regulatory flexibility analysis as opposed to a certification for this action. This is because all for-hire entities in the region are already classified as small businesses.

For RFA purposes, NMFS has established a small business size standard for businesses, including their affiliates, whose primary industry is commercial fishing (see 50 CFR 200.2). A business primarily engaged in commercial fishing is classified as a small business if it is independently owned and operated, is not dominant in its field of operation (including its affiliates) and has combined annual receipts not in excess of $11 million for all its affiliated operations worldwide. For-hire businesses are categorized as a small business if combined annual receipts do not exceed $7.5 million. The Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment regulates all fishermen with Federal permits allowing the holder to fish in the Federal waters off Southern New England, Georges Bank, and the Gulf of Maine. In 2017, this represents 10 large commercial fishing businesses, 3,832 small commercial fishing businesses and 351 recreational for-hire businesses, all of the latter being categorized as small businesses.

Description of Significant Alternatives to the Proposed Action Which Accomplish the Stated Objectives of Applicable Statues and Which Minimize Any Significant Economic Impact on Small Entities

The Council considered an alternative for the Georges Bank Coral Protection Area that would have had less economic impact on small businesses. This alternative would have prohibited the use of bottom-tending commercial fishing gear (with the exception of red crab gear) in waters deeper than 900 m. The impacts on small entities would have been neutral under this alternative because no fishing activity with bottom-tending gears is known to occur at these depths. There would be slight negative impacts on small entities if the proposed measures outlined in the preamble are implemented. Vessel Trip Reports (VTR) analysis indicates that large and small businesses are not facing substantially different impact levels overall, although the most highly exposed small businesses generate a larger fraction of their overall revenue from areas within the preferred alternative when compared to large businesses. This analysis indicates that between $6.5–$8.5 million in gross revenue will be potentially displaced under the preferred alternatives, although VTR data suggests this revenue number is an overestimate. The major caveat to this analysis is the lack of information for the inshore lobster fishery, and the complete lack (and thus uncertainty) of value estimates for the benefits associated with deep-sea coral conservation, although it is known that deep-sea corals can provide habitat (substrate, refuge) for a diversity of other organisms, including many economically important fish and invertebrate species. The largest revenue estimates are attributed to lobster, Jonah and red crab, silver hake, longfin squid, and sea scallop. However, based on discussions at the Council's coral workshops in March 2017, it was determined that the designation of a broad coral protection zone in waters no shallower than 600 m would cause little change in bottom trawl, trap/pot, and gillnet effort, and that the VTR data were overestimating the potential displacement of effort because of the lack of precision in the data. Furthermore, this is an estimate of gross revenue of displaced effort, and fishermen could relocate that displaced effort to an area outside the closure and still generate revenue. The red crab fishery would be exempt from these restrictions in the Georges Bank Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area because it is a small fishery that takes place entirely within the proposed zone, and prohibiting the red crab effort from the area would essentially end the red crab fishery. To better understand these issues, NMFS seeks public comment on the VTR analysis (described in section 7.1.3.1 of the Final Omnibus Deep Sea Coral Amendment), specifically regarding the revenue number generated by the analysis and the lack of information for the inshore lobster fishery. In addition, NMFS seeks comment on value estimates for the benefits associated with deep-sea coral conservation.

The proposed Georges Bank measures protect more known coral habitat and habitat suitable for corals compared with the 900-m alternative. The proposed action would protect 525 known coral records compared with 422 known records for the 900-m alternative (24-percent increase). In addition, the proposed alternative would protect 3,587 km^2 area highly likely to be suitable habitat for soft corals compared with 2,821 km^2 for the 900-m alternative (27-percent increase).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 648

Fisheries, Fishing, Recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

Dated: December 30, 2019.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 648 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 648—FISHERIES OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 648 continues to read as follows:

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

■ 2. In § 648.14, add paragraphs (b)(13) through (15) to read as follows:

§ 648.14 Prohibitions.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(13) Fish with bottom-tending gear within the Georges Bank Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area described at § 648.373(a)(2), unless transiting pursuant to § 648.373(d), or fishing red crab trap gear in accordance with § 648.264. Bottom-tending gear includes, but is not limited to, bottom-tending otter trawls, bottom-tending beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, bottom-tending seines, bottom longlines, pots and traps, and sink or anchored gill nets.

(14) Fish with bottom-tending mobile gear within the Mount Desert Rock Coral Protection Area described at § 648.373(b), unless transiting pursuant to § 648.373(d). Bottom-tending mobile gear includes, but is not limited, to otter trawls, beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, and seines (with the exception of a purse seine).

(15) Fish with bottom-tending mobile gear within the Outer Schoodic Ridge Coral Protection Area described at § 648.373(c), unless transiting pursuant to § 648.373(d). Bottom-tending mobile gear includes, but is not limited to, otter trawls, beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, and seines (with the exception of a purse seine).

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 648.371 revise paragraph (d) and add paragraph (f) to read as follows:

§ 648.371 Dedicated Habitat Research Areas.

* * * * *

(d) *Transiting.* Unless otherwise restricted or specified in this paragraph (d), a vessel may transit the Dedicated Habitat Research Areas of this section provided that its prohibited gear is stowed and not available for immediate use as defined in § 648.2.

* * * * *

(f) *Jordan Basin Dedicated Habitat Research Area.* (1) The *Jordan Basin* DHRA is defined by the following coordinates, connected in the order listed by straight lines:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (f)

Point	Longitude	Latitude
DHRA1	−67°51.38′	43°27.47′
DHRA2	−67°47.38′	43°27.46′
DHRA3	−67°47.18′	43°16.92′
DHRA4	−67°51.05′	43°17.05′
DHRA1	−67°51.38′	43°27.47′

(2) Fishing vessels, regardless of gear type, may fish within the *Jordan Basin* DHRA.

* * * * *

■ 4. Add § 648.373 to read as follows:

§ 648.373 New England Deep-Sea Coral Protection Areas.

(a) *Georges Bank Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area.* (1) No vessel may fish with bottom-tending gear within the Georges Bank Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area described in this section, unless transiting pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section or fishing red crab trap gear in accordance with § 648.264. Bottom-tending gear includes, but is not limited to, bottom-tending otter trawls, bottom-tending beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, bottom-tending seines, bottom longlines, pots and traps, and sink or anchored gillnets.

(2) The Georges Bank Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area is bound on the west by the New England/Mid-Atlantic Inter-council Boundary line (detailed in paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section); bound on the north by a simplified line (detailed in paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section) following the 600m depth contour along the southern flank of Georges Bank; and bound on the east and south by the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary and the outer limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (detailed in paragraph (a)(2)(iii) of this section).

(i) The western boundary is defined by the following coordinates, connected in the order listed, south to north, by straight lines:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(2)(i)

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Note
1	−68°47.62′	38°2.21′	(1)
2	−68°49.99′	38°4.84′	
3	−68°57.35′	38°13.00′	
4	−69°4.73′	38°21.15′	
5	−69°12.13′	38°29.29′	
6	−69°19.57′	38°37.42′	
7	−69°27.03′	38°45.54′	
8	−69°34.53′	38°53.66′	
9	−69°42.05′	39°1.77′	
10	−69°49.60′	39°9.86′	
11	−69°57.18′	39°17.96′	
12	−70°4.78′	39°26.04′	
13	−70°12.42′	39°34.11′	
14	−70°20.09′	39°42.18′	
15	−70°27.78′	39°50.24′	
16	−70°31.64′	39°54.26′	
17	−70°32.09′	39°54.72′	(2)

Notes:
(1) POINT 1 represents the outer limit of the US EEZ.
(2) POINT 17 represents where the western and northern boundaries meet.

(ii) The northern (nearshore) boundary is defined by the following coordinates, connected in the order listed, west to east, by straight lines.

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(2)(ii)

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Note
17	−70°32.09′	39°54.72′	(3)
18	−70°29.83′	39°59.78′	
19	−70°28.72′	39°54.41′	
20	−70°27.52′	39°53.44′	
21	−70°26.05′	39°53.13′	
22	−70°23.81′	39°53.13′	
23	−70°22.44′	39°53.72′	
24	−70°21.97′	39°54.94′	
25	−70°20.12′	39°53.97′	
26	−70°16.98′	39°53.60′	
27	−70°17.35′	39°54.55′	
28	−70°16.99′	39°54.77′	
29	−70°17.55′	39°57.01′	
30	−70°16.69′	39°57.06′	
31	−70°14.54′	39°57.75′	
32	−70°13.64′	39°58.44′	
33	−70°12.58′	39°58.82′	
34	−70°12.16′	39°58.32′	
35	−70°13.85′	39°56.68′	
36	−70°14.29′	39°56.56′	
37	−70°12.51′	39°55.18′	
38	−70°11.17′	39°55.2′	
39	−70°11.19′	39°54.34′	
40	−70°10.33′	39°53.64′	
41	−70°7.98′	39°54.17′	
42	−70°6.99′	39°54.94′	
43	−70°6.56′	39°53.85′	
44	−70°4.99′	39°53.24′	
45	−70°02.97′	39°52.62′	
46	−70°02.70′	39°53.66′	
47	−70°01.24′	39°54.69′	
48	−70°00.34′	39°53.26′	
49	−69°59.41′	39°52.49′	
50	−69°57.88′	39°52.61′	
51	−69°57.05′	39°53.05′	
52	−69°56.35′	39°53.59′	
53	−69°56.11′	39°54.94′	
54	−69°55.76′	39°55.08′	
55	−69°54.62′	39°53.23′	
56	−69°53.02′	39°54.29′	
57	−69°52.21′	39°54.39′	
58	−69°52.34′	39°53.64′	
59	−69°50.97′	39°53.36′	
60	−69°50.65′	39°53.73′	
61	−69°49.45′	39°52.85′	
62	−69°49.63′	39°52.32′	
63	−69°48.88′	39°52.96′	
64	−69°47.91′	39°52.54′	
65	−69°48.06′	39°51.85′	
66	−69°42.35′	39°52.03′	
67	−69°42.19′	39°52.68′	
68	−69°41.32′	39°52.27′	
69	−69°39.66′	39°52.33′	
70	−69°40.03′	39°53.03′	
71	−69°39.34′	39°53.81′	
72	−69°38.51′	39°53.04′	
73	−69°38.11′	39°53.27′	
74	−69°37.59′	39°52.38′	
75	−69°36.93′	39°51.89′	
76	−69°36.99′	39°53.42′	
77	−69°37.44′	39°53.85′	
78	−69°37.02′	39°54.34′	
79	−69°37.52′	39°55.59′	
80	−69°37.01′	39°57.70′	
81	−69°36.71′	39°56.34′	
82	−69°36.27′	39°55.53′	
83	−69°34.57′	39°54.60′	
84	−69°33.63′	39°52.98′	
85	−69°32.47′	39°52.93′	
86	−69°31.87′	39°53.95′	
87	−69°30.29′	39°53.10′	
88	−69°29.48′	39°53.43′	

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(2)(ii)—Continued

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Note
89	−69°28.95′	39°54.14′	
90	−69°27.35′	39°54.43′	
91	−69°27.56′	39°53.86′	
92	−69°26.77′	39°53.38′	
93	−69°26.07′	39°53.97′	
94	−69°25.88′	39°53.50′	
95	−69°24.94′	39°53.79′	
96	−69°24.47′	39°53.50′	
97	−69°23.95′	39°54.81′	
98	−69°23.32′	39°54.05′	
99	−69°21.95′	39°54.09′	
100	−69°21.07′	39°54.38′	
101	−69°20.72′	39°54.97′	
102	−69°19.83′	39°54.78′	
103	−69°19.16′	39°55.00′	
104	−69°18.60′	39°56.03′	
105	−69°18.28′	39°55.46′	
106	−69°17.12′	39°55.53′	
107	−69°16.92′	39°56.20′	
108	−69°16.27′	39°55.87′	
109	−69°15.58′	39°56.29′	
110	−69°14.44′	39°57.54′	
111	−69°13.82′	39°57.37′	
112	−69°13.47′	39°58.01′	
113	−69°12.44′	39°56.95′	
114	−69°12.06′	39°57.69′	
115	−69°11.10′	39°56.69′	
116	−69°10.92′	39°57.04′	
117	−69°10.86′	39°58.26′	
118	−69°10.40′	39°58.14′	
119	−69°10.07′	39°59.85′	
120	−69°08.70′	39°59.01′	
121	−69°07.72′	39°59.00′	
122	−69°07.97′	39°58.50′	
123	−69°07.00′	39°57.74′	
124	−69°06.31′	39°57.59′	
125	−69°05.31′	39°58.82′	
126	−69°04.61′	39°58.14′	
127	−69°04.44′	39°58.88′	
128	−69°03.89′	39°58.95′	
129	−69°04.27′	40°00.04′	
130	−69°03.33′	40°00.15′	
131	−69°03.04′	40°00.45′	
132	−69°03.43′	40°02.96′	
133	−69°02.67′	40°04.10′	
134	−69°03.34′	40°05.17′	
135	−69°02.91′	40°05.86′	
136	−69°02.12′	40°04.15′	
137	−69°01.85′	40°02.32′	
138	−69°01.28′	40°01.87′	
139	−69°00.75′	40°01.92′	
140	−68°59.76′	40°00.83′	
141	−68°59.08′	40°01.51′	
142	−68°58.63′	40°00.89′	
143	−68°57.67′	40°00.45′	
144	−68°56.65′	40°00.44′	
145	−68°56.3′	40°00.92′	
146	−68°55.27′	40°00.56′	
147	−68°55.34′	40°01.22′	
148	−68°53.97′	40°01.40′	
149	−68°53.58′	40°00.82′	
150	−68°53.14′	40°01.24′	
151	−68°52.73′	40°00.99′	
152	−68°51.53′	40°02.81′	
153	−68°50.76′	40°03.08′	
154	−68°50.10′	40°03.77′	
155	−68°50.40′	40°04.73′	
156	−68°48.94′	40°04.35′	
157	−68°49.05′	40°05.84′	
158	−68°48.11′	40°05.05′	
159	−68°47.58′	40°03.99′	
160	−68°47.90′	40°03.25′	

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(2)(ii)—Continued

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Note
161	−68°47.71′	40°02.93′	
162	−68°46.96′	40°03.36′	
163	−68°46.51′	40°04.02′	
164	−68°46.21′	40°03.41′	
165	−68°45.61′	40°03.36′	
166	−68°45.44′	40°03.86′	
167	−68°45.08′	40°03.60′	
168	−68°45.11′	40°04.24′	
169	−68°44.63′	40°04.06′	
170	−68°44.12′	40°04.58′	
171	−68°43.78′	40°02.68′	
172	−68°42.97′	40°03.02′	
173	−68°42.28′	40°01.90′	
174	−68°41.01′	40°02.72′	
175	−68°41.16′	40°03.54′	
176	−68°41.50′	40°04.04′	
177	−68°41.06′	40°04.02′	
178	−68°40.15′	40°05.30′	
179	−68°39.31′	40°04.19′	
180	−68°38.69′	40°04.57′	
181	−68°37.78′	40°03.47′	
182	−68°37.07′	40°04.08′	
183	−68°36.76′	40°03.68′	
184	−68°36.36′	40°04.02′	
185	−68°36.55′	40°04.82′	
186	−68°35.91′	40°05.56′	
187	−68°35.16′	40°04.83′	
188	−68°33.63′	40°04.04′	
189	−68°32.76′	40°04.76′	
190	−68°32.44′	40°05.91′	
191	−68°31.58′	40°05.48′	
192	−68°30.88′	40°05.81′	
193	−68°30.89′	40°06.29′	
194	−68°30.29′	40°06.40′	
195	−68°31.11′	40°06.95′	
196	−68°30.46′	40°07.60′	
197	−68°30.46′	40°08.19′	
198	−68°29.29′	40°08.05′	
199	−68°29.48′	40°09.55′	
200	−68°30.08′	40°11.48′	
201	−68°28.16′	40°10.69′	
202	−68°27.41′	40°10.95′	
203	−68°27.66′	40°10.26′	
204	−68°26.67′	40°09.09′	
205	−68°26.81′	40°07.63′	
206	−68°25.20′	40°06.46′	
207	−68°24.46′	40°06.12′	
208	−68°24.07′	40°07.70′	
209	−68°23.39′	40°07.29′	
210	−68°22.17′	40°07.15′	
211	−68°21.86′	40°08.26′	
212	−68°22.03′	40°08.77′	
213	−68°21.58′	40°08.86′	
214	−68°20.52′	40°09.57′	
215	−68°19.88′	40°09.36′	
216	−68°19.14′	40°10.44′	
217	−68°18.51′	40°10.02′	
218	−68°17.72′	40°09.64′	
219	−68°17.76′	40°10.66′	
220	−68°16.86′	40°10.68′	
221	−68°16.78′	40°11.65′	
222	−68°16.70′	40°12.27′	
223	−68°16.81′	40°13.24′	
224	−68°16.29′	40°14.68′	
225	−68°14.75′	40°13.04′	
226	−68°14.00′	40°12.79′	
227	−68°13.88′	40°12.21′	
228	−68°13.14′	40°11.49′	
229	−68°13.30′	40°12.07′	
230	−68°12.84′	40°12.48′	
231	−68°12.54′	40°13.08′	
232	−68°12.20′	40°12.80′	

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(2)(ii)—Continued

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Note
233	−68°11.51′	40°13.48′	
234	−68°10.65′	40°12.05′	
235	−68°10.05′	40°13.00′	
236	−68°08.65′	40°12.16′	
237	−68°08.33′	40°13.06′	
238	−68°08.60′	40°14.17′	
239	−68°08.15′	40°15.30′	
240	−68°08.33′	40°15.56′	
241	−68°09.02′	40°16.17′	
242	−68°08.73′	40°16.56′	
243	−68°09.02′	40°17.94′	
244	−68°08.82′	40°18.63′	
245	−68°09.14′	40°21.96′	
246	−68°09.19′	40°22.96′	
247	−68°07.89′	40°24.16′	
248	−68°08.53′	40°22.91′	
249	−68°08.36′	40°21.85′	
250	−68°07.94′	40°20.88′	
251	−68°07.22′	40°19.75′	
252	−68°06.28′	40°17.81′	
253	−68°05.00′	40°16.41′	
254	−68°03.61′	40°17.70′	
255	−68°03.27′	40°15.88′	
256	−68°02.93′	40°15.07′	
257	−68°01.95′	40°14.69′	
258	−68°00.78′	40°15.22′	
259	−68°00.67′	40°15.85′	
260	−67°59.14′	40°14.75′	
261	−67°58.80′	40°15.83′	
262	−67°58.28′	40°15.58′	
263	−67°57.85′	40°16.63′	
264	−67°57.58′	40°17.38′	
265	−67°56.51′	40°16.19′	
266	−67°55.99′	40°16.45′	
267	−67°55.23′	40°14.90′	
268	−67°54.31′	40°16.24′	
269	−67°53.88′	40°17.41′	
270	−67°52.96′	40°16.95′	
271	−67°52.29′	40°17.18′	
272	−67°52.46′	40°19.25′	
273	−67°52.26′	40°19.59′	
274	−67°52.88′	40°20.05′	
275	−67°52.54′	40°20.86′	
276	−67°53.31′	40°21.24′	
277	−67°53.07′	40°22.08′	
278	−67°51.62′	40°21.24′	
279	−67°51.26′	40°20.48′	
280	−67°49.97′	40°18.81′	
281	−67°49.29′	40°18.78′	
282	−67°49.49′	40°18.49′	
283	−67°49.40′	40°18.13′	
284	−67°49.12′	40°18.09′	
285	−67°47.94′	40°15.79′	
286	−67°46.47′	40°16.00′	
287	−67°46.23′	40°16.37′	
288	−67°45.61′	40°16.18′	
289	−67°45.80′	40°16.54′	
290	−67°45.66′	40°17.53′	
291	−67°45.34′	40°18.75′	
292	−67°44.52′	40°18.25′	
293	−67°44.13′	40°18.39′	
294	−67°43.50′	40°18.84′	
295	−67°43.42′	40°18.00′	
296	−67°42.81′	40°18.27′	
297	−67°42.61′	40°17.62′	
298	−67°41.69′	40°17.88′	
299	−67°41.81′	40°19.20′	
300	−67°42.61′	40°20.29′	
301	−67°39.96′	40°22.27′	
302	−67°40.38′	40°24.07′	
303	−67°39.92′	40°25.32′	
304	−67°39.77′	40°24.13′	

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(2)(ii)—Continued

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Note
305	−67°39.64′	40°23.12′	
306	−67°39.20′	40°21.31′	
307	−67°39.88′	40°20.41′	
308	−67°39.06′	40°19.39′	
309	−67°37.75′	40°18.86′	
310	−67°37.54′	40°19.41′	
311	−67°36.18′	40°19.12′	
312	−67°35.49′	40°20.23′	
313	−67°34.74′	40°19.65′	
314	−67°34.16′	40°21.13′	
315	−67°33.06′	40°20.46′	
316	−67°32.36′	40°21.41′	
317	−67°31.99′	40°20.77′	
318	−67°30.93′	40°20.91′	
319	−67°30.69′	40°20.52′	
320	−67°30.02′	40°21.66′	
321	−67°29.38′	40°21.09′	
322	−67°28.94′	40°21.57′	
323	−67°28.35′	40°22.81′	
324	−67°27.79′	40°22.19′	
325	−67°26.75′	40°21.57′	
326	−67°25.66′	40°22.31′	
327	−67°25.43′	40°22.61′	
328	−67°25.30′	40°23.42′	
329	−67°25.36′	40°24.34′	
330	−67°25.16′	40°24.64′	
331	−67°25.53′	40°24.93′	
332	−67°24.73′	40°25.43′	
333	−67°24.13′	40°27.58′	
334	−67°23.69′	40°24.23′	
335	−67°22.74′	40°23.27′	
336	−67°21.70′	40°23.12′	
337	−67°21.33′	40°23.77′	
338	−67°20.68′	40°23.40′	
339	−67°20.05′	40°24.39′	
340	−67°19.11′	40°23.85′	
341	−67°18.75′	40°25.17′	
342	−67°18.09′	40°24.77′	
343	−67°17.32′	40°25.14′	
344	−67°17.33′	40°25.59′	
345	−67°16.37′	40°25.50′	
346	−67°15.62′	40°25.40′	
347	−67°15.19′	40°25.64′	
348	−67°14.76′	40°26.24′	
349	−67°14.99′	40°26.93′	
350	−67°13.99′	40°26.63′	
351	−67°13.29′	40°27.31′	
352	−67°12.58′	40°26.87′	
353	−67°12.77′	40°27.74′	
354	−67°12.23′	40°28.01′	
355	−67°12.05′	40°27.56′	
356	−67°11.37′	40°27.75′	
357	−67°10.84′	40°27.12′	
358	−67°10.19′	40°27.14′	
359	−67°09.05′	40°28.84′	
360	−67°07.83′	40°28.25′	
361	−67°07.55′	40°28.65′	
362	−67°07.58′	40°29.49′	
363	−67°05.80′	40°28.71′	
364	−67°04.83′	40°29.41′	
365	−67°04.52′	40°29.86′	
366	−67°03.56′	40°29.83′	
367	−67°03.27′	40°31.27′	
368	−67°01.67′	40°30.25′	
369	−67°00.06′	40°31.03′	
370	−66°59.48′	40°31.63′	
371	−67°00.01′	40°32.61′	
372	−66°59.56′	40°32.78′	
373	−67°00.34′	40°34.03′	
374	−67°01.15′	40°34.92′	
375	−67°01.25′	40°36.83′	
376	−66°59.94′	40°35.55′	

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(2)(ii)—Continued

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Note
377	−66°59.40′	40°35.40′	
378	−66°58.89′	40°35.52′	
379	−66°58.73′	40°34.91′	
380	−66°58.44′	40°34.94′	
381	−66°58.13′	40°35.50′	
382	−66°57.52′	40°34.93′	
383	−66°57.43′	40°35.42′	
384	−66°56.72′	40°35.16′	
385	−66°56.44′	40°35.81′	
386	−66°56.09′	40°35.36′	
387	−66°55.56′	40°35.65′	
388	−66°55.61′	40°34.90′	
389	−66°54.85′	40°34.42′	
390	−66°54.68′	40°35.40′	
391	−66°52.45′	40°36.18′	
392	−66°52.51′	40°36.80′	
393	−66°51.93′	40°36.82′	
394	−66°51.88′	40°37.40′	
395	−66°51.38′	40°37.30′	
396	−66°51.44′	40°37.81′	
397	−66°50.36′	40°37.77′	
398	−66°50.78′	40°38.81′	
399	−66°49.27′	40°38.41′	
400	−66°48.84′	40°38.70′	
401	−66°49.25′	40°39.85′	
402	−66°47.92′	40°39.57′	
403	−66°47.83′	40°39.82′	
404	−66°47.79′	40°40.82′	
405	−66°46.91′	40°40.33′	
406	−66°46.02′	40°40.07′	
407	−66°45.89′	40°41.47′	
408	−66°44.79′	40°41.19′	
409	−66°44.30′	40°41.37′	
410	−66°44.17′	40°42.32′	
411	−66°43.43′	40°42.42′	
412	−66°42.39′	40°42.67′	
413	−66°42.87′	40°44.75′	
414	−66°42.49′	40°45.21′	
415	−66°42.67′	40°45.83′	
416	−66°43.02′	40°46.23′	
417	−66°41.12′	40°45.96′	
418	−66°40.98′	40°45.61′	
419	−66°40.63′	40°45.35′	
420	−66°39.37′	40°45.98′	
421	−66°39.74′	40°46.65′	
422	−66°39.99′	40°46.93′	
423	−66°39.23′	40°46.97′	
424	−66°38.17′	40°47.99′	
425	−66°37.69′	40°47.13′	
426	−66°36.94′	40°47.36′	
427	−66°37.05′	40°47.83′	
428	−66°36.49′	40°47.87′	
429	−66°36.12′	40°48.59′	
430	−66°35.63′	40°48.13′	
431	−66°35.30′	40°48.35′	
432	−66°35.35′	40°49.96′	
433	−66°34.96′	40°50.30′	
434	−66°34.50′	40°50.33′	
435	−66°34.26′	40°50.91′	
436	−66°34.76′	40°51.34′	
437	−66°33.57′	40°51.38′	
438	−66°34.29′	40°52.10′	
439	−66°33.55′	40°52.16′	
440	−66°33.32′	40°52.70′	
441	−66°32.88′	40°52.69′	
442	−66°32.62′	40°51.96′	
443	−66°32.01′	40°51.53′	
444	−66°30.28′	40°53.07′	
445	−66°30.69′	40°53.61′	
446	−66°30.15′	40°53.84′	
447	−66°30.14′	40°54.17′	
448	−66°30.67′	40°54.62′	

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(2)(ii)—Continued

Point	Longitude	Latitude	Note
449	−66°28.81′	40°54.47′	
450	−66°28.84′	40°55.04′	
451	−66°28.16′	40°55.03′	
452	−66°27.30′	40°55.99′	
453	−66°25.16′	40°58.14′	
454	−66°24.11′	40°59.64′	
455	−66°24.37′	41°00.32′	
456	−66°23.57′	41°00.33′	
457	−66°22.61′	41°01.68′	
458	−66°23.05′	41°02.64′	
459	−66°24.77′	41°03.86′	
460	−66°24.03′	41°04.11′	
461	−66°24.60′	41°04.95′	
462	−66°22.60′	41°04.23′	
463	−66°21.17′	41°04.35′	
464	−66°21.11′	41°05.02′	
465	−66°19.77′	41°04.45′	
466	−66°18.07′	41°06.00′	
467	−66°18.24′	41°07.82′	
468	−66°17.07′	41°08.68′	
469	−66°16.90′	41°08.93′	
470	−66°16.86′	41°08.98′	(4)

Notes:
(3) POINT 17 represents where the western and northern boundaries meet.
(4) POINT 470 represents the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.

(iii) The eastern and southern boundary (from Point 470) follows the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary southeasterly to its intersection with the outer limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. The boundary then follows the outer limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone southwesterly back to its origin at POINT 01.

(b) *Mount Desert Rock Coral Protection Area.* (1) No vessel may fish with bottom-tending mobile gear, as defined in § 648.2, within the Mount Desert Rock Coral Protection Area described in this section, unless transiting pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section. Bottom-tending mobile gear includes, but is not limited to, otter trawls, beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, and seines (with the exception of a purse seine).

(2) The Mount Desert Rock Coral Protection Area is defined by the following coordinates, connected in the order listed by straight lines:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (b)

Point	Longitude	Latitude
MDR1	−68°13.16′	43°56.99′
MDR2	−68°12.00′	43°57.00′
MDR3	−68°11.45′	43°56.17′
MDR4	−68°12.21′	43°52.62′
MDR5	−68°14.32′	43°52.11′
MDR1	−68°13.16′	43°56.99′

(c) *Outer Schoodic Ridge Coral Protection Area.* (1) No vessel may fish with bottom-tending mobile gear, as defined in § 648.2, within the Outer Schoodic Ridge Coral Protection Area described in this section, unless transiting pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section. Bottom-tending mobile gear includes, but is not limited to, otter trawls, beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, and seines (with the exception of a purse seine).

(2) The Outer Schoodic Ridge Coral Protection Area is defined by the following coordinates, connected in the order listed by straight lines:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (c)(2)

Point	Longitude	Latitude
OSR1	−67°35.60′	44°13.49′
OSR2	−67°33.10′	44°12.56′
OSR3	−67°39.70′	44°02.48′
OSR4	−67°42.29′	44°03.48′
OSR1	−67°35.60′	44°13.49′

(d) *Transiting.* Vessels may transit the New England Deep-Sea Coral Management Areas defined in this section, provided bottom-tending trawl nets are out of the water and stowed on the reel and any other fishing gear that is prohibited in these areas is onboard, out of the water, and not deployed. Fishing gear is not required to meet the definition of ''not available for immediate use'' in § 648.2, when a vessel transits the New England Deep-Sea Coral Management Areas.

(e) *Framework adjustments.* The Council may at any time initiate a framework adjustment to add or adjust management measures within the New England Deep-Sea Coral Management Areas if it finds that action is necessary to meet or be consistent with the goals and objectives of those areas. The Council shall develop and analyze appropriate management actions over the span of at least two Council meetings. The Council shall provide the public with advance notice of the availability of both the proposals and the analyses, and opportunity to comment on them prior to and at the second Council meeting. Measures that may be changed or implemented through framework action include:

(1) Adding, revising, or removing coral areas;

(2) Changing fishing restrictions in coral areas; and

(3) Developing new, or changing existing, coral area fishery access or exploratory fishing programs.

[FR Doc. 2019–28424 Filed 1–2–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P