

To provide some additional clarity regarding salmon mitigation and spatial closures, Table 1 summarizes the area-based closures either available to or proposed by the Council for salmon mitigation in the groundfish trawl fisheries.

Table 1: Spatial closures available and/or proposed for bottom trawl and midwater trawl by depth and latitudinal range.

Gear	Closure Mechanism	Rule Package	Depth Range	Latitudinal Range
Bottom trawl	BAC (in progress) a/	Pending implementation of Amendment 28	Depth contours at §660.71-74, ranging from 10 fm-250 fm  EFHCA closure from 700 fathoms to EEZ – Amendment 19	Latitude lines specified at §660-.11
Midwater Trawl	BRA	Currently available b/	0-200 fathom	Coastwide
	BAC (proposed under Alt 1) c/	Under consideration in Agenda Item H.4.	Depth contours at §660.71-74, ranging from 10 fm-250 fm	Latitude lines specified at §660-.11

a/ BACs for bottom trawl are not available off of WA.

b/ Implemented as part of the 2019/2020 harvest specifications and management measures process

c/ BACs for midwater trawl described in section 2.1 of [ESA Salmon Bycatch Mitigation Measures](#)

For non-tribal vessels fishing bottom trawl gear, Block Area Closures (BAC) will be available as a mitigation measure when Amendment 28 is approved, noting that BACs will not be available off of Washington State. BACs would close areas based on depth contour described in regulation (50 CFR §660.71-74) and by commonly used latitude lines described at 50 CFR §660.11. Currently, the deepest depth contour available for BACs in regulation is 250 fathoms (fm). Under the Selective Flatfish Trawl Net Requirement (SFFT) Alternative 1 (Section 2.3 of [ESA Salmon Bycatch Mitigation Measures](#)), the Council could require SFFTs for groundfish vessels fishing bottom trawl gear in BACs. Meaning, if a vessel fishing bottom trawl gear wanted to fish in a BAC, they could be required to use SFFT net gear as a means of mitigating salmon bycatch.

The Council is considering a measure that would allow the extension of BACs to the western boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It is important to note that under Amendment 19, an Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area (EFHCA) for groundfish bottomtrawl was developed from 700 fm to the EEZ. Thus, bottom trawl is prohibited beyond this depth; however, between 250 fm and 700 fm, a BAC could, at present, not be set.

For whiting and non-whiting midwater trawl gear, the only spatial closure available (at present) is the 200fm Bycatch Reduction Area (BRA). This BRA was developed in the 2019/2020 harvest specifications and management measure process. The 200fm BRA would close from shore to 200 fm from Canada to Mexico. The Council is considering developing BACs for the depth contours described at 50 CFR 660.71-74 and for commonly used lines of latitude (50 CFR§ 660.11) under Alternative 1 of BAC mitigation measure (Section 2.1 of [ESA Salmon Bycatch Mitigation Measures](#)). Additionally, the Council could consider adding the western boundary of the EEZ (Section 2.2 of [ESA Salmon Bycatch Mitigation Measures](#)). This measure would allow BACs to expand from as shallow as 10 fm to the EEZ for whiting and non-whiting midwater trawl.