

Proposed Amendment 89 Text for the GOA Groundfish FMP

The following changes should be made to the GOA Groundfish FMP:

1. In the Executive summary, add the following to the “Authorized Gear” section of the Table ES-2:

Flatfish: For vessels using nonpelagic trawl gear, elevating devices on the sweeps are required when directed fishing for flatfish species in the Central GOA Regulatory Area.

2. In the Executive Summary, in the “Time and Area Restrictions” section of the Table ES-2, revise the paragraph “Nonpelagic trawl” restrictions as follows:

Nonpelagic trawl: The use of nonpelagic trawl is prohibited in Cook Inlet. Three types of king crab protection areas are designated around Kodiak Island. Type I areas prohibit nonpelagic trawling year-round; and Type II areas prohibit nonpelagic trawling from February 15 to June 15; and adjacent areas designated as Type III may be reclassified by the Regional Administrator as Type I or Type II following a recruitment event. The Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Area is closed to nonpelagic trawling year-round. Trawling in the Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area is prohibited year-round, except for pelagic trawl gear used to directed fish for pollock.

3. Add the following to Section 3.4.2 of the FMP:

Flatfish

For vessels using nonpelagic trawl gear, modifications that include elevating devices on the sweeps are required when directed fishing for flatfish species in the Central GOA Regulatory Area.

4. In Section 3.5.2.2.1 Revise the title of the section to read:

King and Tanner Crab Closure Areas around Kodiak Island

5. In Section 3.5.2.2.1 insert the following new paragraph before the last paragraph as follows:

In order to protect Tanner crab, the Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area is established to prevent the impacts of nonpelagic trawl gear in this area. This area had been observed to have the highest rate of incidental catch of Tanner crab by nonpelagic trawl gear in the GOA.

6. The title of Table 3-2 is revised to read:

Table 3-2 Names and Definitions of Type I, II, and III king Crab and Tanner crab closure areas around Kodiak Island. Insert the following row for the Tanner crab closure

Area Type	Name	Definitions
Tanner Crab Trawl Closure	Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area	A Tanner crab area of high abundance and high incidence of bycatch in the groundfish trawl fisheries, where a high level of protection will be provided to

	Tanner crab by closing the area year-round to trawling, except for pelagic trawling for pollock. Fishing with other gear would be allowed.
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7. The existing figure 3.3 should be deleted and the new Figure 3.3, included below, be substituted. The title should read, "King and Tanner crab closures around Kodiak Island.

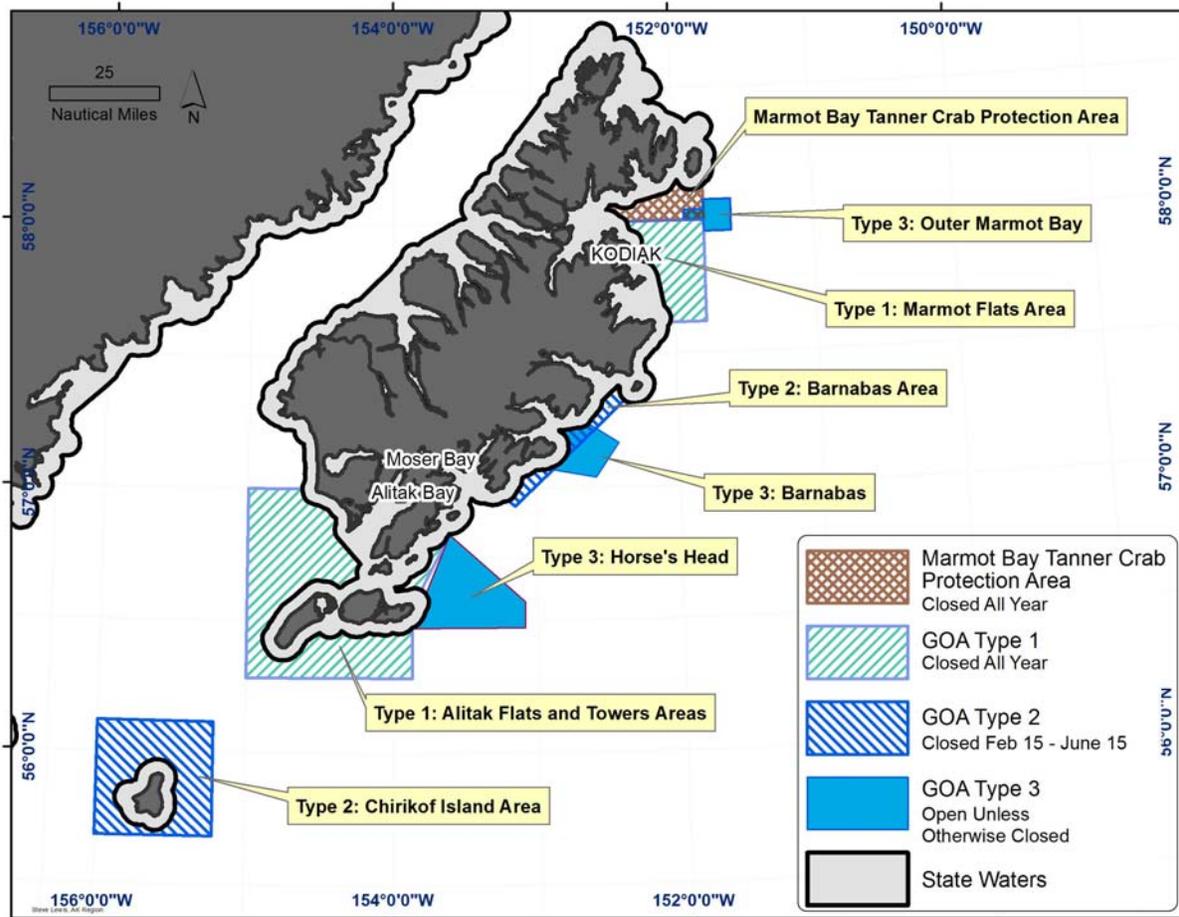


Figure 3.3 King and Tanner Crab Closure Areas Around Kodiak Island

8. In Appendix A, add the following description of Amendment 89 in numerical order, and fill in the implementation date when it is known:

Amendment 89, implemented _____ :

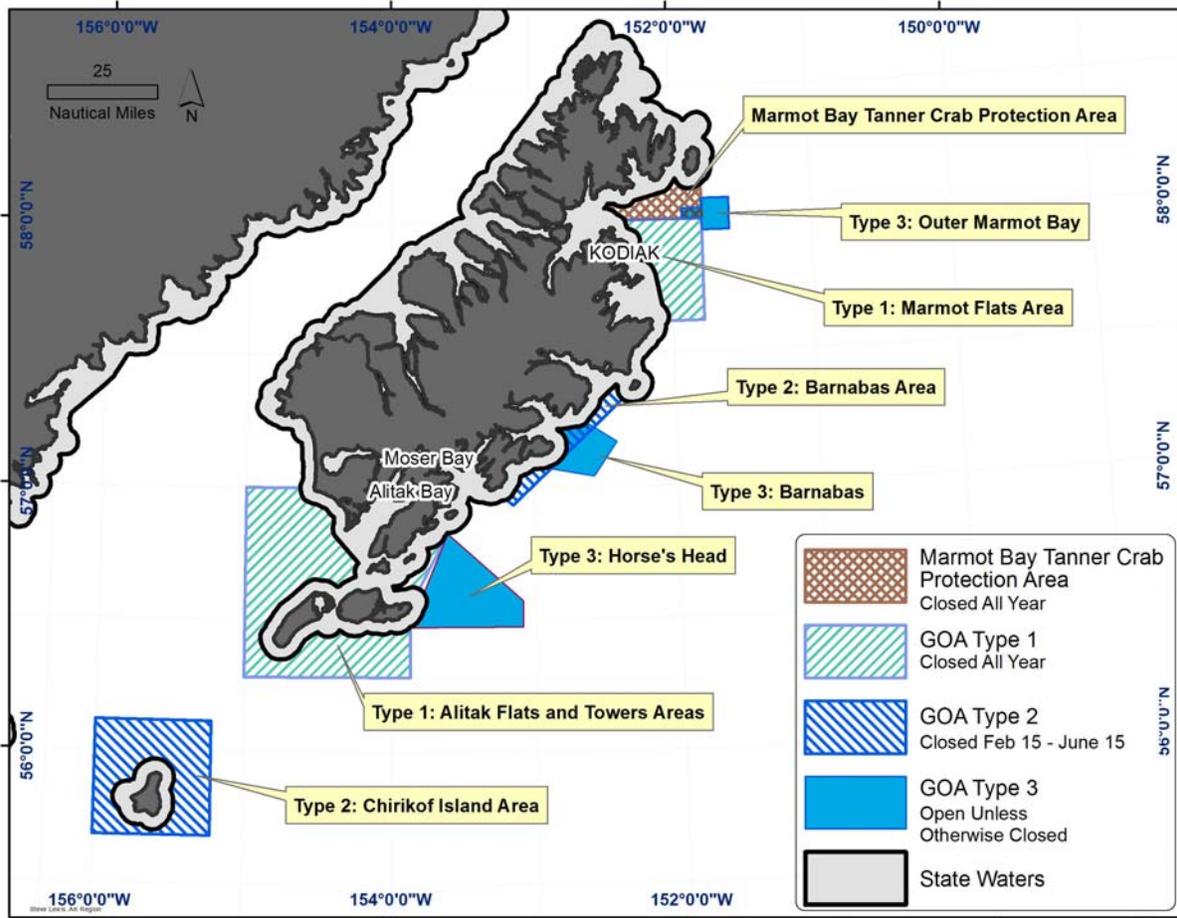
1. Establish the Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area nonpelagic trawl gear closure area to protect Tanner crab. This closure applies to all trawl gear, except pelagic trawl gear used to directed fish for pollock.
2. Required the use of modified nonpelagic trawl gear by vessels directed fishing for flatfish in the Central GOA regulatory area.

9. In Appendix B

a. In section B.2.2, revise the name “Chirkof Island” to “Chirikof Island”

b. insert a new section B.2.2, “Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area”, and renumber the remainder of the sections in Appendix B.2 accordingly. Insert text and map in section B.2.2 as follows:

The use of trawl gear, except pelagic trawl gear used for directed fishing for pollock, is prohibited in the Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area.



Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area: The area is defined by all waters of the EEZ enclosed by straight lines across EEZ waters and following the boundary of the State of Alaska waters connecting the following six points clockwise in the order listed:

- 58°15.0'N, 152°30.0'W
- 58°15.0'N, 151°47.0'W
- 58°00.0'N, 151°47.0'W
- 58°00.0'N, 152°30.0'W
- 58°15.0'N, 152°30.0'W

