

FMP AMENDMENT TEXT

Amendment 22 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP and Amendment 27 to the Gulf of Alaska FMP

The BSAI FMP would be amended as follows: A new section 14.8 titled Other Measures would be added. Under this, a new section 14.8.1 titled Gear Testing would be added:

14.8 Other Measures

14.8.1 Gear Testing

The Council may promulgate regulations establishing areas where specific types of fishing gear may be tested, to be available for use when the fishing grounds are closed to that gear type. Specific gear test areas contained in regulations that implement the FMP, and changes to the regulations, will be done by regulatory amendment. These gear test areas would be established in order to provide fishermen the opportunity to ensure that their gear is in proper working order prior to a directed fishery opening. The test areas must conform to the following conditions:

1. Depth and bottom type must be suitable for testing the particular gear type.
2. Must be outside State waters.
3. Must be in areas not normally closed to fishing with that gear type.
4. Must be in areas that are not usually fished heavily by that gear type.
5. Must not be within a designated Steller sea lion protection area at any time of the year.

The GOA FMP would be amended as follows: A new Section 4.4.3 titled Gear Testing would be added, which would read the same as section 14.8.1 above.