



Marine Conservation Alliance

promoting sustainable fisheries to feed the world

November 24, 2009

CURRENT STELLER SEA LION FISHERY RESTRICTIONS IN THE BERING SEA, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND GULF OF ALASKA

- Steller sea lion restrictions apply to all fishing gear types that participate in the pollock, Pacific cod and Atka mackerel fisheries in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska.
- While restrictions vary by gear type, fishery and region, all restrictions are designed to close areas most important to SSL and to spread the fishery out over the year to slow the pace of fishery removals over time.
- All federally permitted vessels in the pollock, Pacific Cod and Atka mackerel fisheries are prohibited from fishing between 0-3 miles of all Steller sea lion rookeries and haul outs.
- Areas within 3-10 miles of most rookeries and haul-outs are closed to trawling for Pollock, P.cod and Atka mackerel and some fixed gear cod fisheries.
- Areas within 10-20 miles of selected haul-out, rookery sites and coastlines are closed to trawling for pollock, cod and Atka mackerel and some fixed gear fisheries.
- All three fisheries are divided into multiple seasons that cause the fisheries to start and stop throughout the year.
- Allocations to the valuable pollock roe seasons were reduced in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.
- A pollock fishery virtually no longer exists in the Aleutian Islands because the fishery is closed out to 20 miles in that region and pollock do not aggregate outside 20 miles because the continental shelf falls away at around ten miles.
- A Harvest Control Rule that would prohibit all fishing for pollock, cod, or Atka mackerel if the biomass for that species drops to 20% of its pristine level.

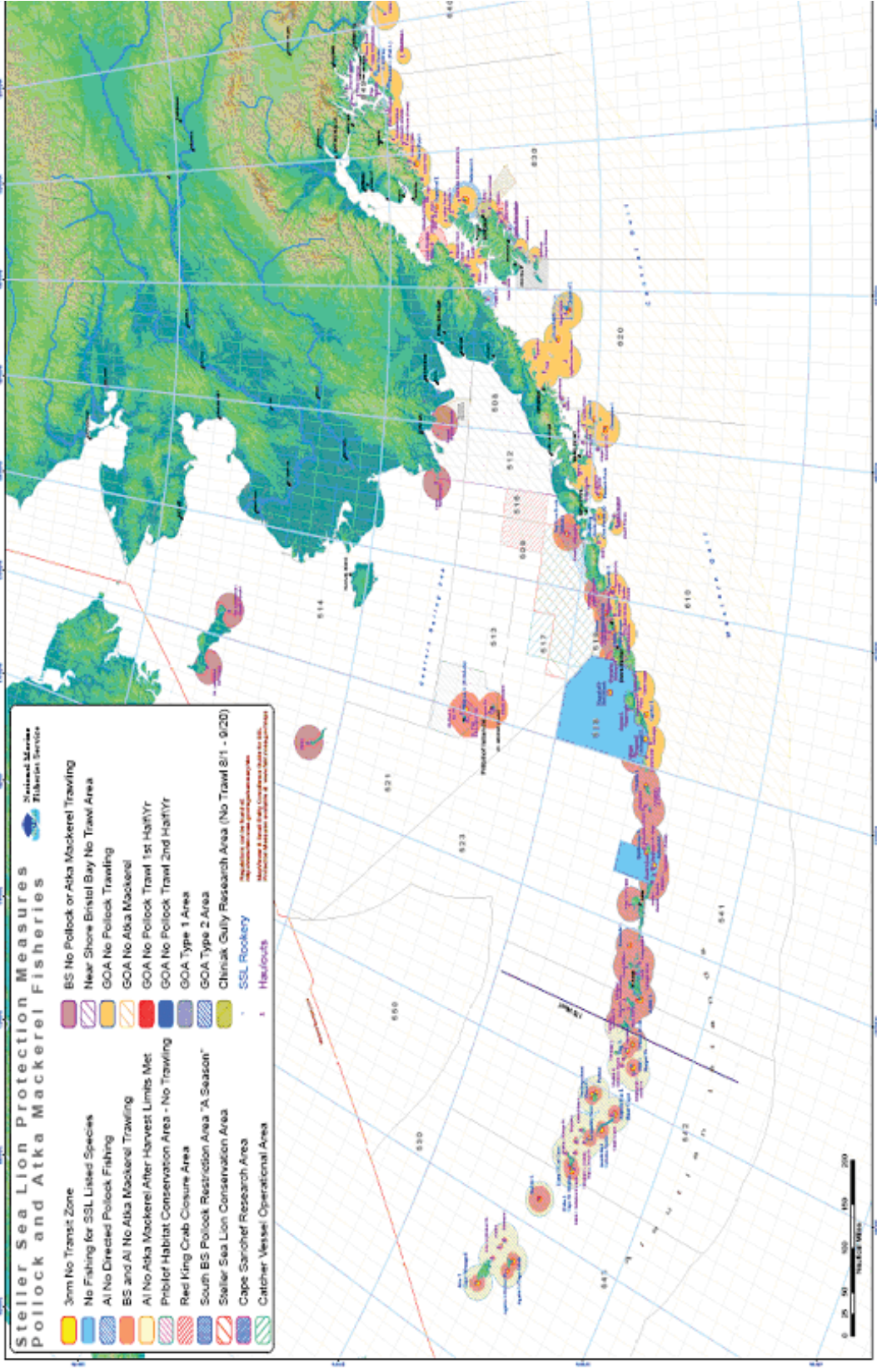


Figure 2.10 Steller sea lion protection measures for the pollock and Atka mackerel fisheries. (Source: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/stellers/maps/Pollock_Atka0105.pdf)

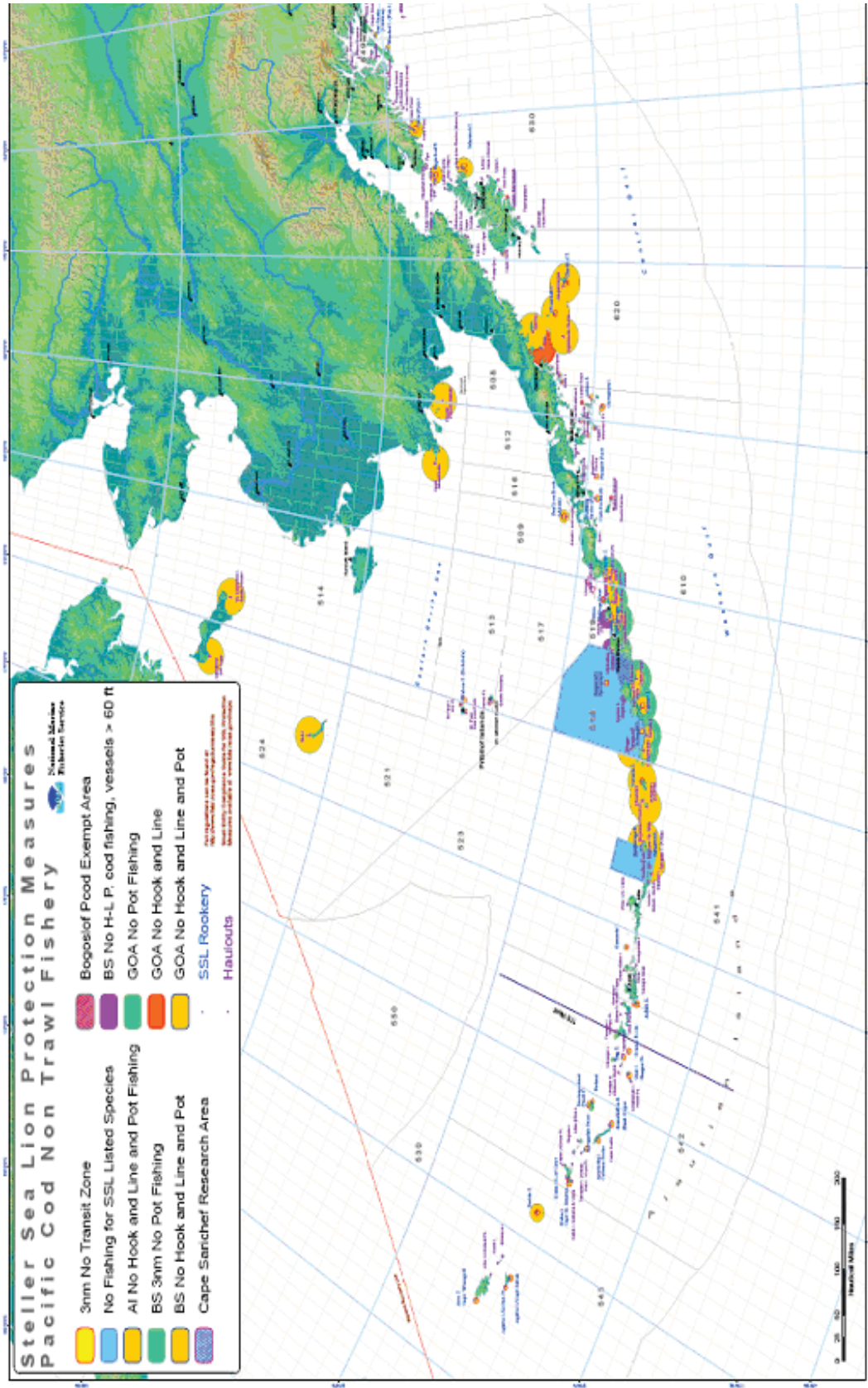


Figure 2.11 Steller sea lion protection measures for the Pacific cod non-trawl fishery. (Source: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/stellers/maps/NonTrawl_0105.pdf)

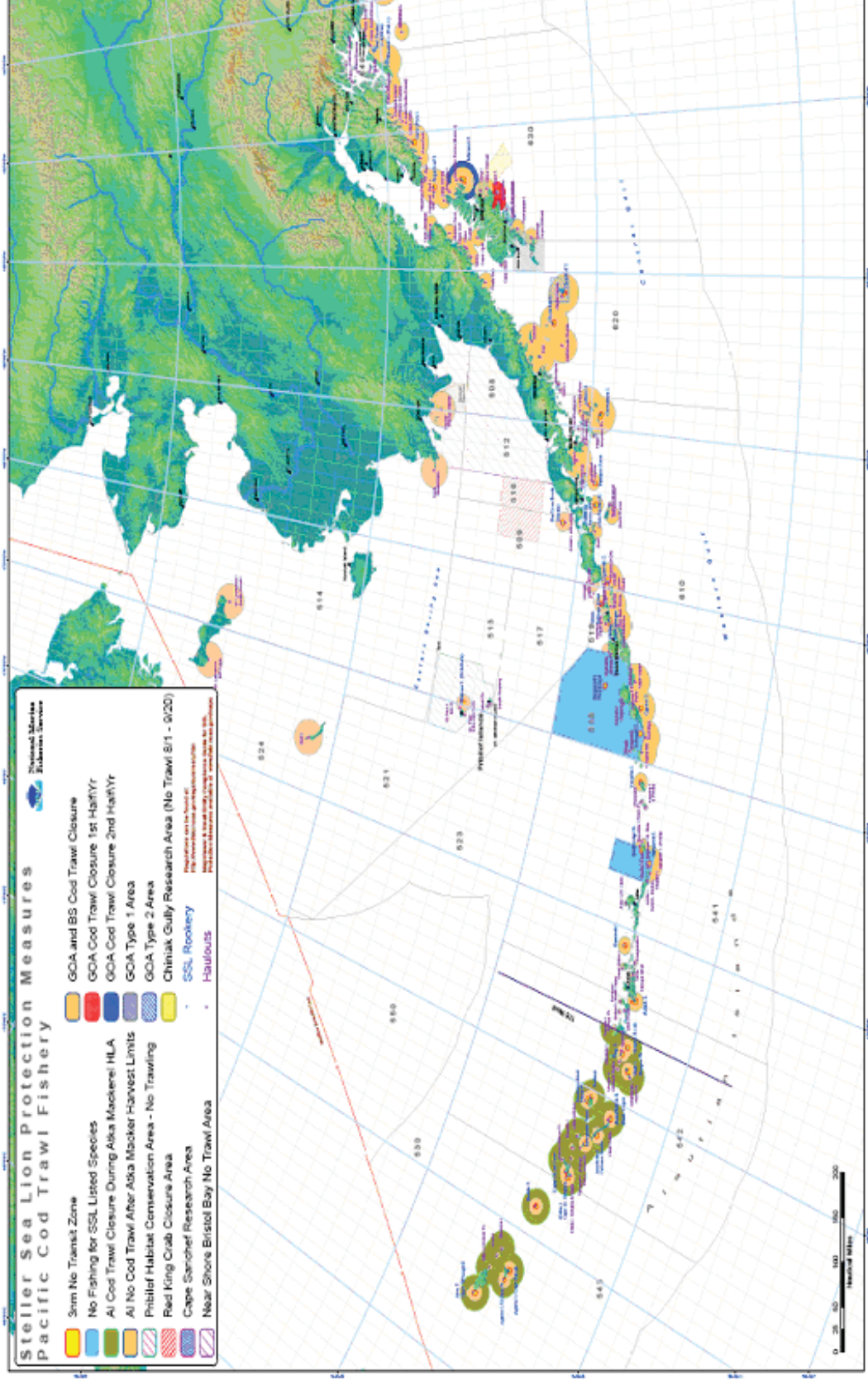


Figure 2.12 Steller sea lion protection measures for the Pacific cod trawl fishery. (Source: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/stellers/maps/Cod_Trawl0105.pdf)

Figure 2.13 The amount of area closed in the BSAI and GOA under the Stellar sea lion conservation measures as a percentage of each zone from 0-10 nm and 10-20 nm. The data is sorted as descending from 100% for the 0-10 nm zone, then the associated 10-20 nm percentage is plotted (data is from Table 2.36).

