

Incentives to encourage development of reliable technology or innovation that verifies the contact of Pelagic Trawl Gear on the bottom.

Regulatory measures to consider should include:

1. Redefining bottom contact gear and mobile bottom contact gear definition in 50 CFR 679.2 (1) and 50 CFR 679.2 (11) to include pelagic trawl gear.
2. Consider alignment of PTR definition found at (50 CFR 679.7(a)(14)): with state of Alaska Administrative Code (5 AAC 39.105 (10)(C))
 - a. *“a pelagic trawl is a trawl where the net, or the trawl doors or other trawl-spreading device, do not operate in contact with the seabed, and which does not have attached to it any protective device, such as chafing gear, rollers, or bobbins, that would make it suitable for fishing in contact with the seabed.”*
3. Redefine Pelagic Trawl gear as “semi pelagic trawl gear”; a “gear type that operates both at or near the seabed and higher in the water column”
4. Options for changes to the GOA bottom contact regulation at 50 CFR 679.24(b)(3) to improve enforceability.