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## SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

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### WILDLIFE & PROTECTED AREAS

#### Marine Protected Areas Order 2013

S. R. & O. No: 1 of 2013

*Made:* 30 May 2013

*Published:* 12 June 2013

*Coming into force:* on publication

IN EXERCISE of my powers under sections 18(1) and 20(1) of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 (No 1 of 2011) and being satisfied that the criteria identified in section 18(2) of that Ordinance apply, I make the following order —

#### 1. Title

This order is the Marine Protected Areas Order 2013.

#### 2. Commencement

This order comes into force on publication in the *Gazette*.

#### 3. Interpretation

In this order —

“benthic closed area” means each of the areas described in Schedule 1;

“bottom fishing” —

(a) means fishing on the sea floor;

(b) includes bottom trawling; and

(c) also includes the use of lines, pots, nets or traps on the sea floor;

“bottom trawling” means towing a trawl or fishing net along (and in contact with) the sea floor;

“closed season”, means, in respect of fishing for Antarctic krill, the season described in Schedule 2”

“fishing vessel” —

(a) means a vessel of any size that is used for, equipped to be used for, or intended for use for the purposes of fishing or fishing related activities;

(b) includes vessels engaged in transshipment of fish or fishery products; and

(c) also includes carrier vessels equipped for the transportation of fish or fishery products;

“no-take zone” means each of the zones described in Schedule 3;

“pelagic closed area” means the area described in Schedule 4;

“pelagic fishery” means a fishery that uses a trawl, long line, jig or other method that is not designed to come into contact with the sea floor during normal fishing operations;

“SGSSI MPA” means the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area designated by article 4; and

“SGSSI waters” means —

(a) the internal waters of the Territory between —

(i) the baselines established by article 3 of the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (Territorial Sea) Order 1989 (SI 1989/1995); and

(ii) mean high water at spring tide;

(b) the territorial sea established for the Territory by article 2 of the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (Territorial Sea) Order 1989; and

(c) the maritime zone established for the Territory by Proclamation No. 1 of 1993.

#### **4. South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area**

(1) A Marine Protected Area around South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is designated under section 18(1) of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance.

(2) The name of the Marine Protected Area is the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area (SGSSI MPA).

(3) The SGSSI MPA consists of SGSSI waters northwards of the line of latitude 60 degrees south of the equator.

(4) The purpose of designating the SGSSI MPA is for the conservation of —

(a) the seabed and its overlying waters; and

(b) their associated organisms.

(5) The principal conservation objectives for the SGSSI MPA are to —

(a) conserve marine biodiversity, habitats and critical ecosystem function;

(b) ensure that fisheries are managed sustainably, with minimal impact on associated and dependent ecosystems;

(c) manage other human activities including shipping and scientific research, to minimise

environmental impacts on the marine environment;

(d) protect the benthic marine organisms from the destructive effects of bottom trawling;

(e) facilitate recovery of previously over-exploited marine species;

(f) increase the resilience of the marine environment to the effects of climate change; and

(g) prevent the introduction of non-native marine species.

## **5. Conservation order prohibitions**

(1) The following prohibitions apply within the SGSSI MPA —

(a) bottom trawling is prohibited;

(b) fishing is prohibited in the no-take zones;

(c) fishing vessels are prohibited from entering the no-take zones, except in exercise of the right of innocent passage or under force majeure;

(d) bottom fishing is prohibited in the following waters —

(i) where the depth of the seabed is less than 700 metres or is greater than 2250 metres;

(ii) in the benthic closed areas;

(e) pelagic fishing is prohibited in the pelagic closed area; and

(f) fishing for Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*) is prohibited during the closed season.

(2) The prohibitions in this article do not apply to —

(a) anything carried out for research purposes in accordance with a permit granted by the Commissioner under section 21 of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance;

(b) anything permitted by section 20(8) of that Ordinance.

## **6. Repeal**

The Marine Protected Areas Order 2012 is repealed.

**SCHEDULE 1**  
**Benthic closed areas**

(Section 3)

<b>Area</b>	<b>Boundaries</b>	<b>Protected features</b>	<b>Conservation objectives</b> To conserve & protect:
West Shag Benthic Closed Area	53°12' - 53°24'S; 43°30' - 42°48'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 1039 km <sup>2</sup>	The vulnerable marine fauna identified in this location; provides refugia for toothfish.
West Gully Benthic Closed Area	1: 53°36' - 54°00'S; 40°42' - 40°06'W 2: 53°36' - 53°54'S; 40°06' - 39°54'W 3: 53°36' - 53°48'S; 39°54' - 39°42'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 2236 km <sup>2</sup>	The vulnerable marine fauna in this area and protect juvenile toothfish, which are abundant in this area.
Northern Benthic Closed Area	53°36' - 53°54'S; 35°48' - 35°36'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 441 km <sup>2</sup>	The vulnerable marine fauna identified in this location; provides refugia for toothfish.
Eastern Benthic Closed Area	54°48' - 54°54' S; 34°00' - 34°12' W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 143 km <sup>2</sup>	The vulnerable marine fauna identified in this area (particularly gorgonians).
Southern Seamounts Benthic Closed Area A	55°30' - 55°50'S; 37°30' - 36°50'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 1557 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna; provides refugia for adult toothfish.
Southern Seamounts Benthic Closed Area B	55°50' - 56°10'S; 36°50' - 36°20'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 1158 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna; provides refugia for adult toothfish.
North Georgia Rise Benthic Closed Area	52°20' - 53°00' S; 36°45' - 37°40' W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 4590 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna of this area; provides refugia for adult toothfish.
North East Georgia Rise Benthic Closed Area	51°12' - 52°24' S; 32°36' - 34°00' W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 9853 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna of this area; provides refugia for adult toothfish.
Protector Shoals Benthic Closed Area	55°45' - 56°05' S; 27°30' - 28°20' W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 1935 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna; provides refugia for adult toothfish.
Kemp Seamount & Calderas Benthic Closed Area	59°40' - 59°45' S; 27°45' - 28°25' W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 352 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (largely unknown) benthic fauna of this seamount and caldera. Protects different chemosynthetic habitats, including white smoker vent fields

**SCHEDULE 2**  
**Closed season (Antarctic krill)**

(Section 3)

<b>Description</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Protected features</b>	<b>Conservation objectives</b> To conserve and protect:
Seasonal closure of the fishery for Antarctic krill	November-March inclusive.	The pelagic ecosystem in an area of 1.07 million km <sup>2</sup> during a 5 month period.	Mammalian and avian krill dependent predators, such as penguins and fur seals during the key part of the breeding season.

**SCHEDULE 3**  
**No-take zones**

(Section 3)

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Boundaries</b>	<b>Protected features</b>	<b>Conservation objectives</b> To conserve & protect:
South Georgia No-take Zone	Between: (1) a line 12 nautical miles from the baselines around the coast of South Georgia; and (2) mean high water at spring tide.	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 13899 km <sup>2</sup>	The shallow marine environment around South Georgia including: 1. The spawning grounds of many fish species, including mackerel icefish; 2. The inshore foraging areas of marine predators such as gentoo penguins, cormorants, petrels and prions.
Clerke Rocks No-take Zone	Between: (1) a line 12 nautical miles from the baselines around Clerke Rocks and the Office Boys; and (2) mean high water at spring tide.	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 1923 km <sup>2</sup>	The shallow marine environment to the SE of South Georgia including: 1. The spawning grounds of many fish species, including mackerel icefish; 2. The inshore foraging areas of marine predators such as gentoo penguins, cormorants, petrels and prions; 3. The “spirulid reef” at approximately 55°00’S, 34°31’W.
Shag Rocks No-take Zone	Between: (1) a line 12 nautical miles from the baselines around Shag Rocks & Black Rock; and (2) mean high water at spring tide	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 2337 km <sup>2</sup>	The shallow marine environment of the Shag Rocks shelf incorporating: 1. The principal recruitment area for juvenile Patagonian toothfish; 2. Spawning grounds of mackerel icefish; 3. A key foraging area for black-browed albatross, Antarctic fur seals and baleen whales.
South Sandwich Islands No-take Zones	Between: (1) lines 3 nautical miles from the baselines around the coasts of the South Sandwich Islands; and (2) mean high water at spring tide	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in areas that total 2272 km <sup>2</sup>	The shallow marine environment around each of the South Sandwich Islands including: 1. The inshore foraging grounds of marine predators; 2. The spawning grounds of fish species.

**SCHEDULE 4**  
**Pelagic closed area**

(Section 3)

<b>Area</b>	<b>Boundaries</b>	<b>Protected features</b>	<b>Conservation objectives</b> To conserve & protect:
South Sandwich Islands Pelagic Closed Area	Between: (1) lines 12 nautical miles from the baselines around the coasts of each of the South Sandwich Islands; and (2) mean high water at spring tide	The pelagic ecosystem around each of the South Sandwich Islands in an area of 18,042 km <sup>2</sup>	The pelagic ecosystem and dependent predators in the area around each of the South Sandwich Islands, particularly the highly abundant chinstrap and Adelie penguins.

Made 30 May 2013

N.R. Haywood C.V.O.,  
*Commissioner.*

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**  
*(not part of the order)*

This order replaces and updates the Marine Protected Order 2012.

Section 18(1) of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (No 1 of 2011) allows the Commissioner to designate areas of sea as marine protected areas (MPAs).

The criteria for designation of a marine protected area are set out in section 18(2) and the requirements for orders designating MPAs are set out in the rest of section 18 and in section 19.

Section 20(1) allows the Commissioner to make conservation orders to further the objectives of an MPA. Section 20(3) allows the Commissioner to prohibit or restrict activities in a conservation order and section 20(6) allows for different prohibitions or restrictions to apply in different parts of an MPA.

This order designates the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area (the SGSSI MPA) to protect the seabed and overlying waters and associated organisms.

The SGSSI MPA consists of waters north of a latitude 60 degrees south that are between mean high water at spring tide and the 200 nautical mile limit.

SGSSI waters south of 60 degrees south of the equator are similarly protected through the SGSSI fishery licensing regime, which does not permit fishing in these waters.

The order also defines a number of no-take zones: 12 nautical miles around South Georgia Island, Clerke Rocks, Shag and Black Rocks; and 3 nautical miles around each of the South Sandwich Islands. Fishing is prohibited in these zones.

To protect benthic marine organisms, the order prohibits bottom trawling throughout the SGSSI MPA and all bottom fishing in waters of less than 700 m depth and in waters depths greater than 2250 m. Bottom fishing is also prohibited in areas identified in Schedule 2.

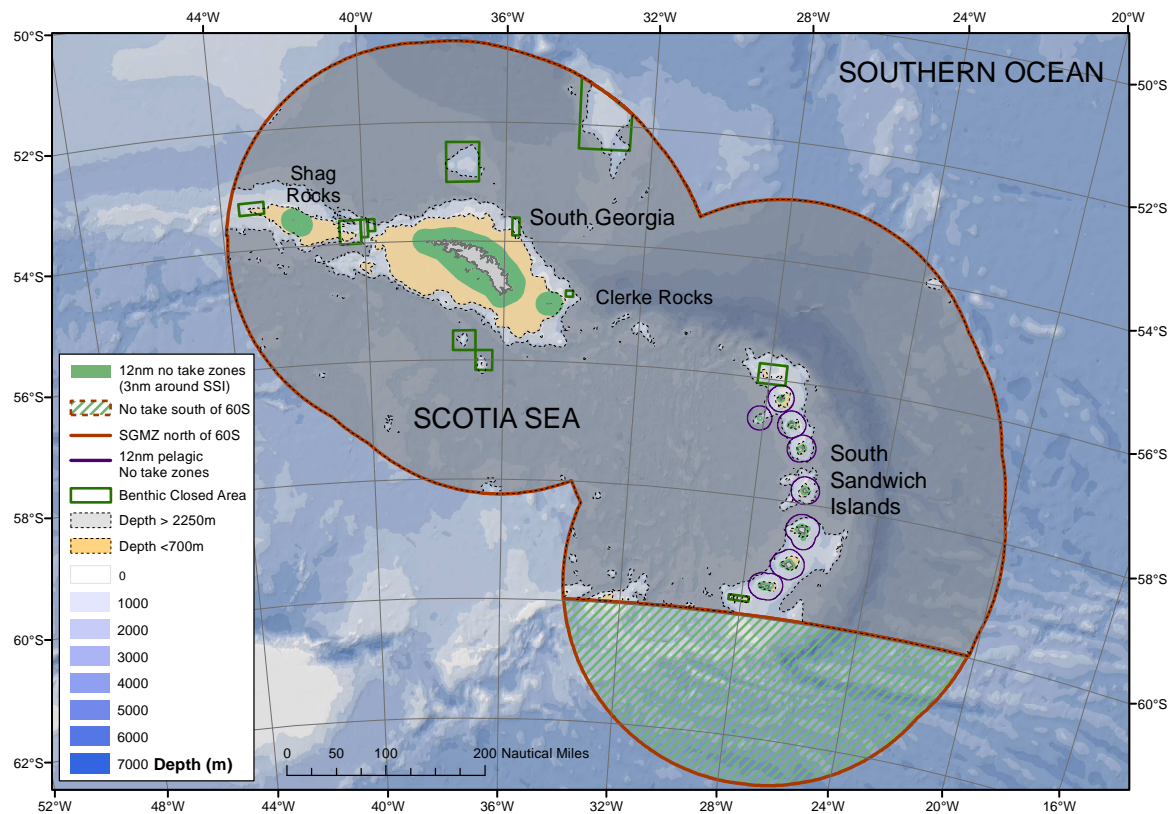
Fishing for Antarctic krill is prohibited between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>. Pelagic fishing is prohibited within 12 nautical miles of the South Sandwich Islands.

These prohibitions do not apply to activities covered by one of the limited exceptions in section 20(8) or by a licence granted by the Commissioner under section 21.

Breach of the prohibitions is an offence against section 20(9) of the Ordinance.

The following maps illustrate the boundaries of the SGSSI MPA, the no-take zones, the pelagic closed areas and the benthic closed areas.

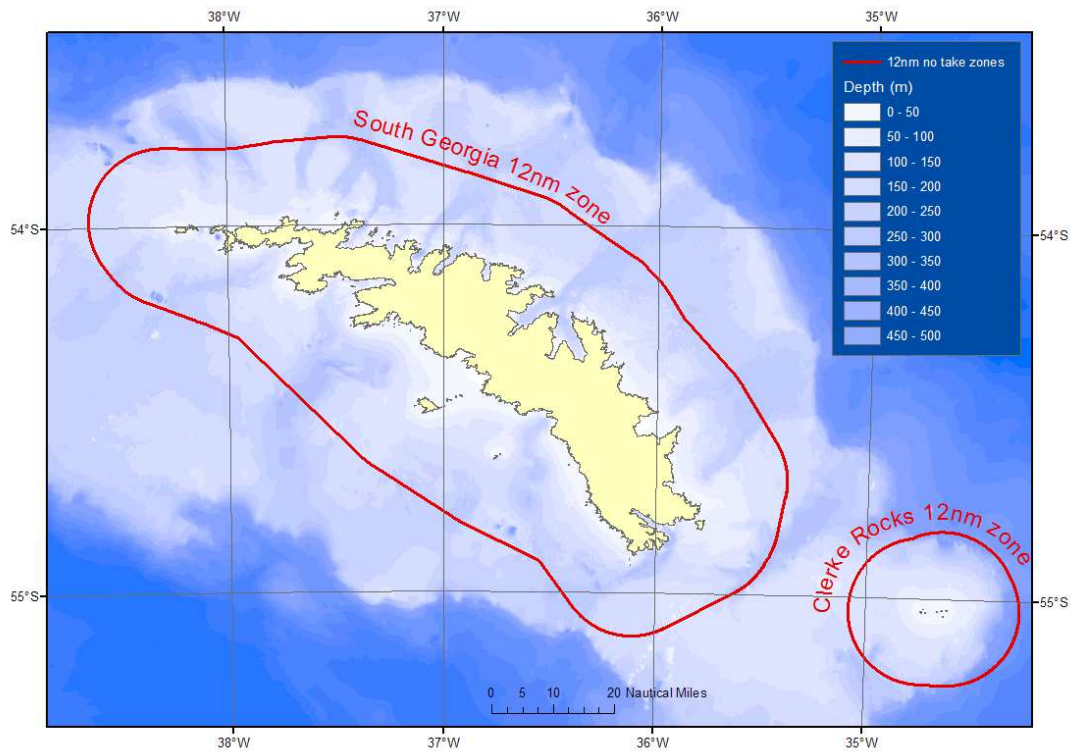
## The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area



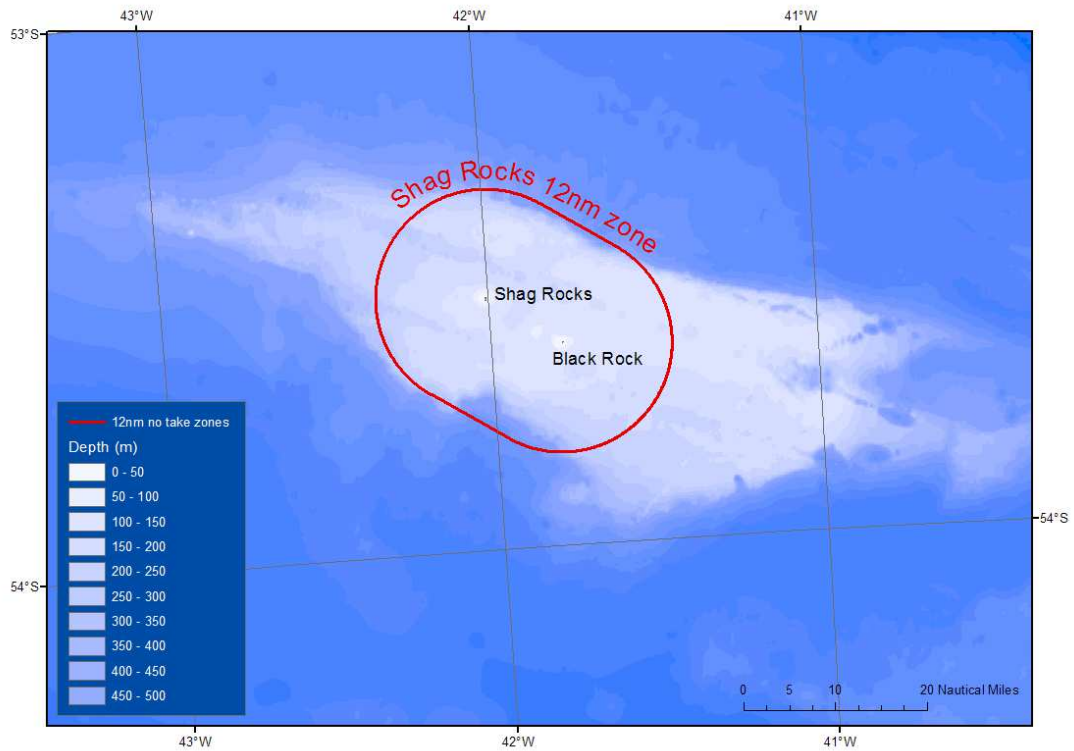
1. The green areas are the No-Take zones around South Georgia, Shag Rocks, Clerke Rocks and each of the South Sandwich Islands.
2. The pale orange area indicates depths less than 700 m in which bottom fishing is prohibited.
3. The dark shaded area includes depths greater than 2250 m in which bottom fishing is prohibited.
4. The narrow band, between the pale orange area and the shaded area, includes the depths between 700 and 2250 in which bottom fishing is permitted.
5. The boxes with a green border are the benthic closed areas in which bottom fishing is also prohibited.
6. The blue-bordered areas around the South Sandwich Islands are the pelagic closed areas.
7. The area south of 60 °S, with green stripes, that falls within the SGSSI Maritime Zone whilst not formally part of the MPA is already a no-take zone as no fishing licences are issued for this area.



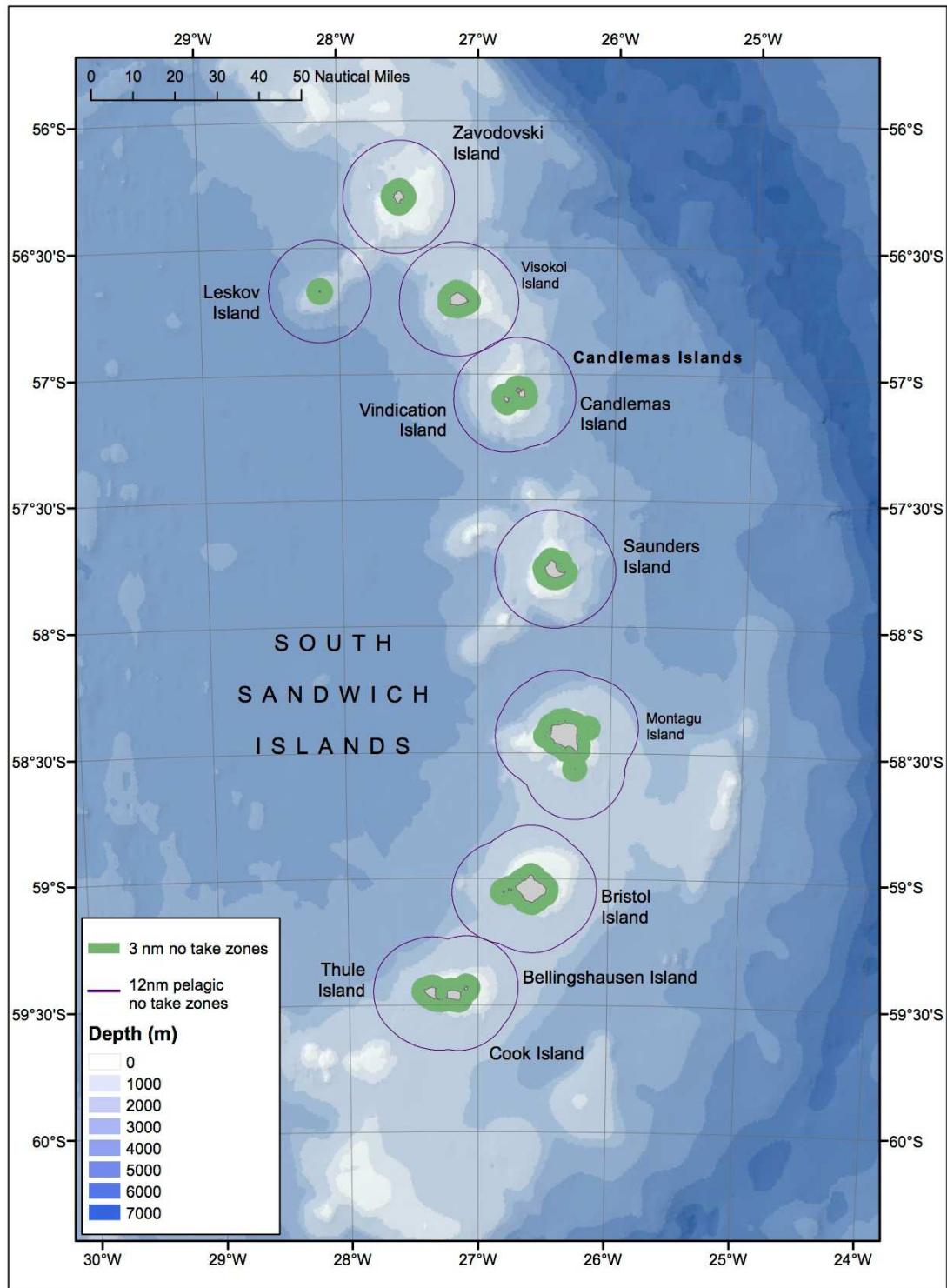
## The South Georgia no-take zone and the Clerke Rocks no-take zone



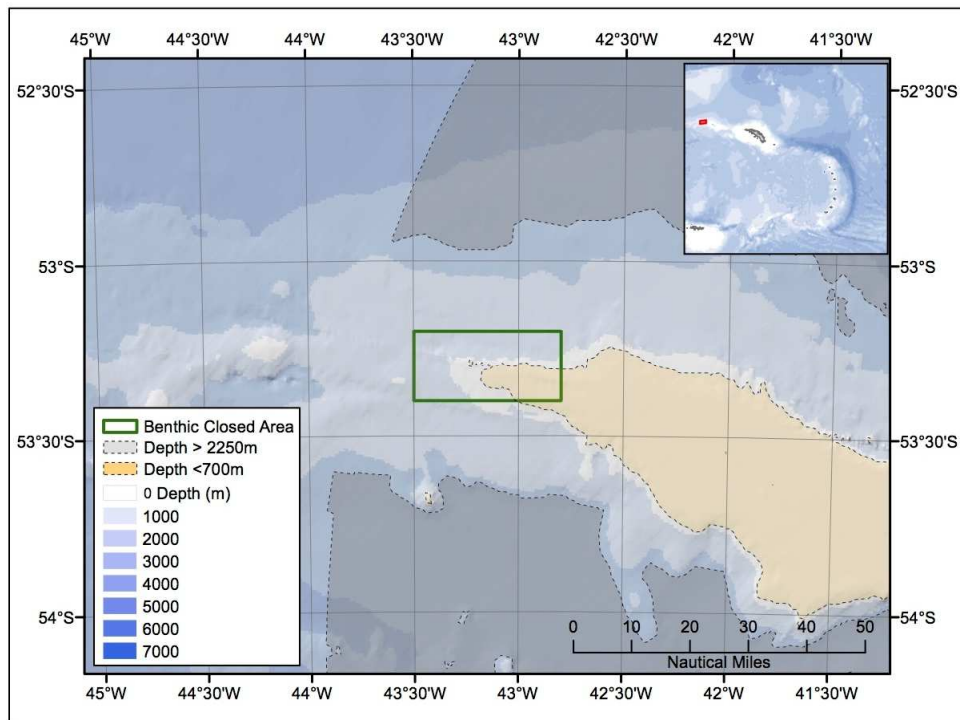
## The Shag Rocks no-take zone



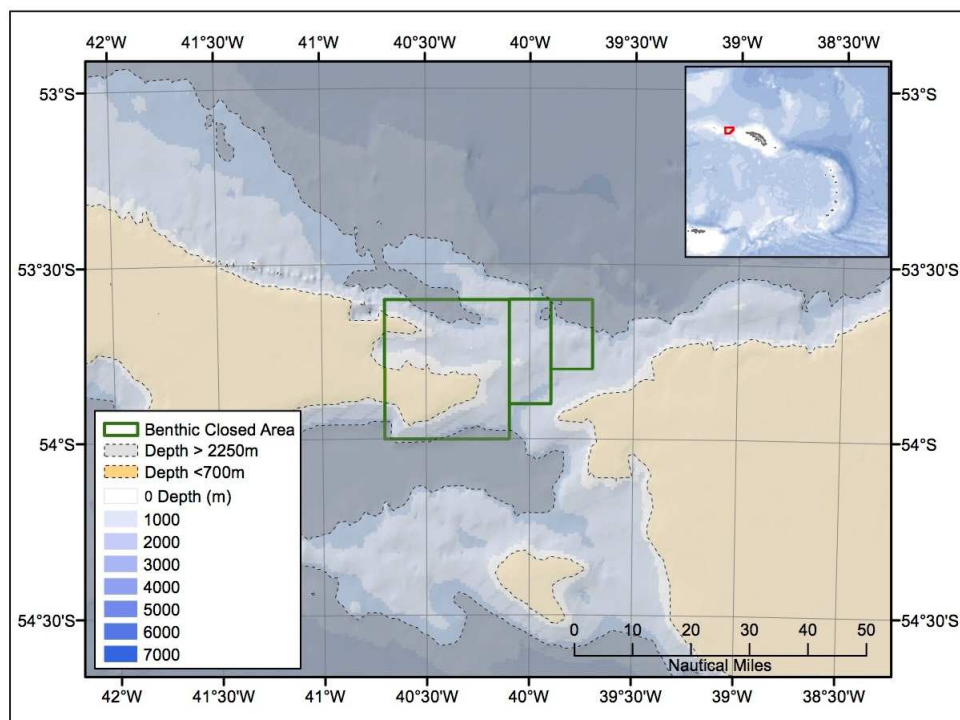
## The South Sandwich Islands no-take zones and pelagic closed areas



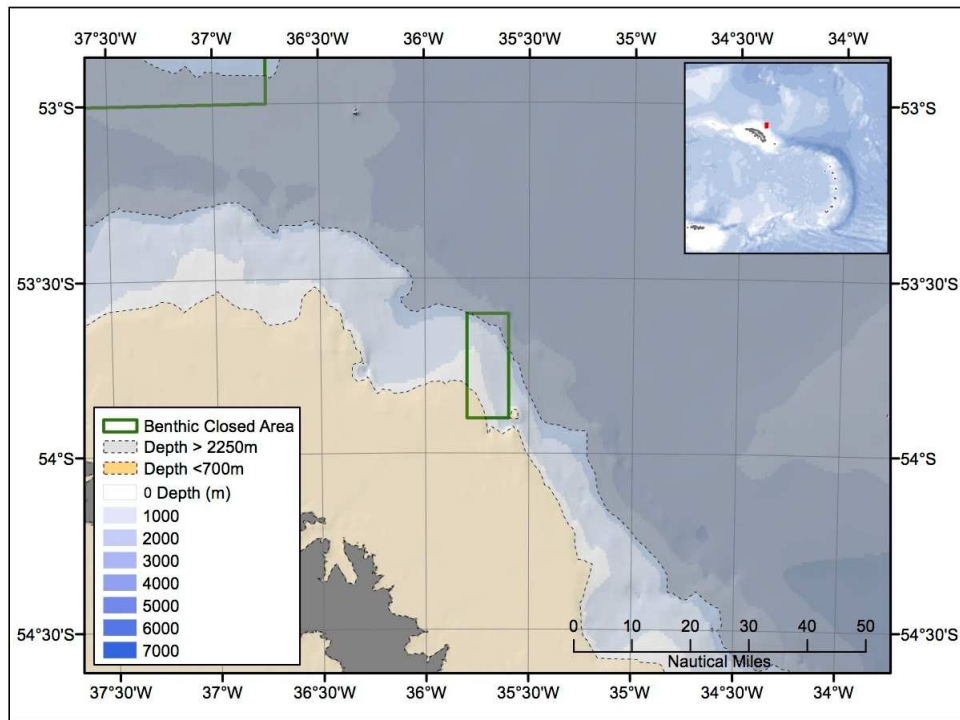
## West Shag Benthic Closed Area



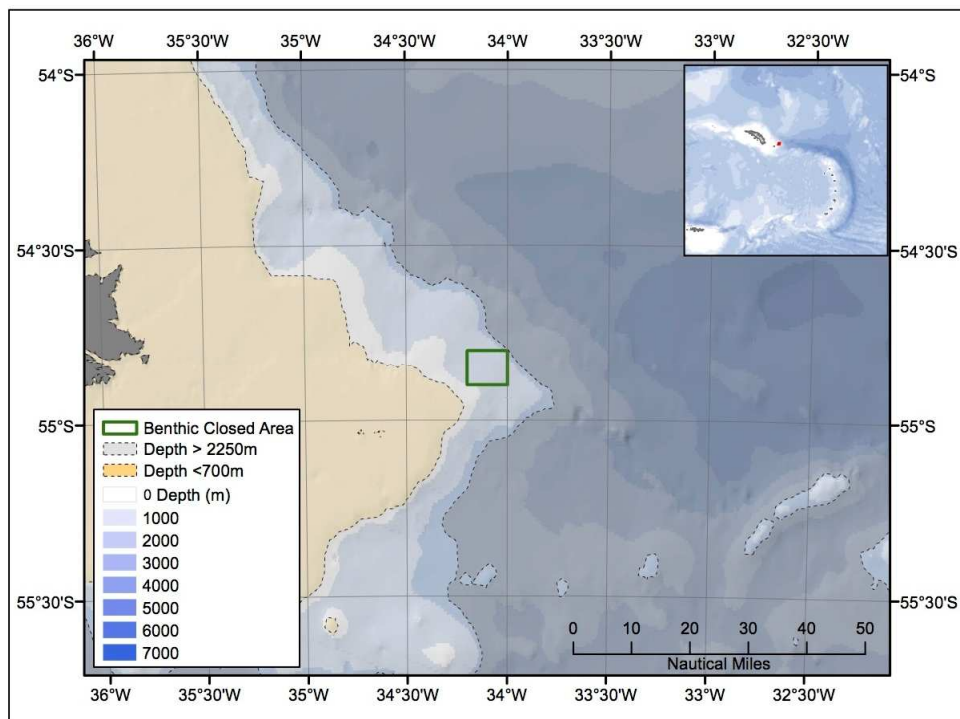
## West Gully Benthic Closed Area



## Northern Benthic Closed Area

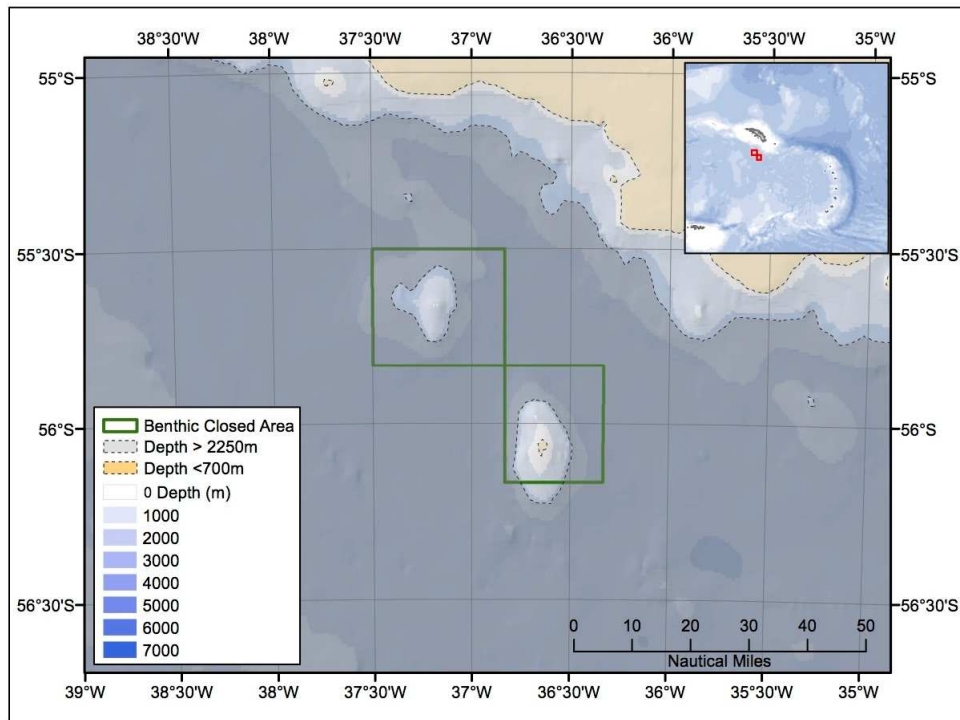


## Eastern Benthic Closed Area

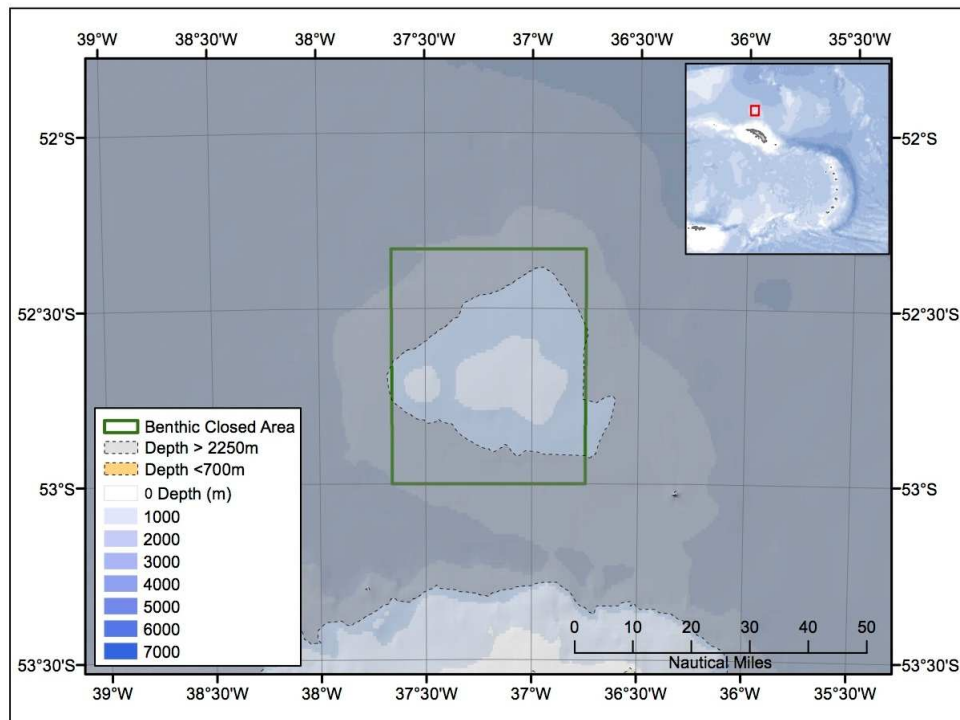




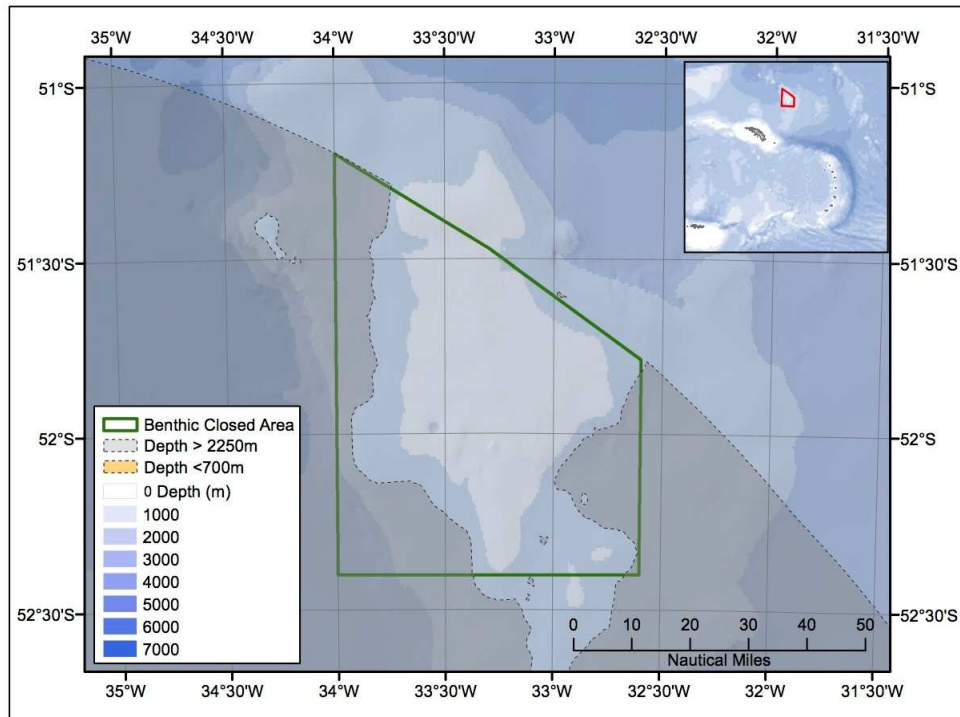
## Southern Seamounts Benthic Closed Areas



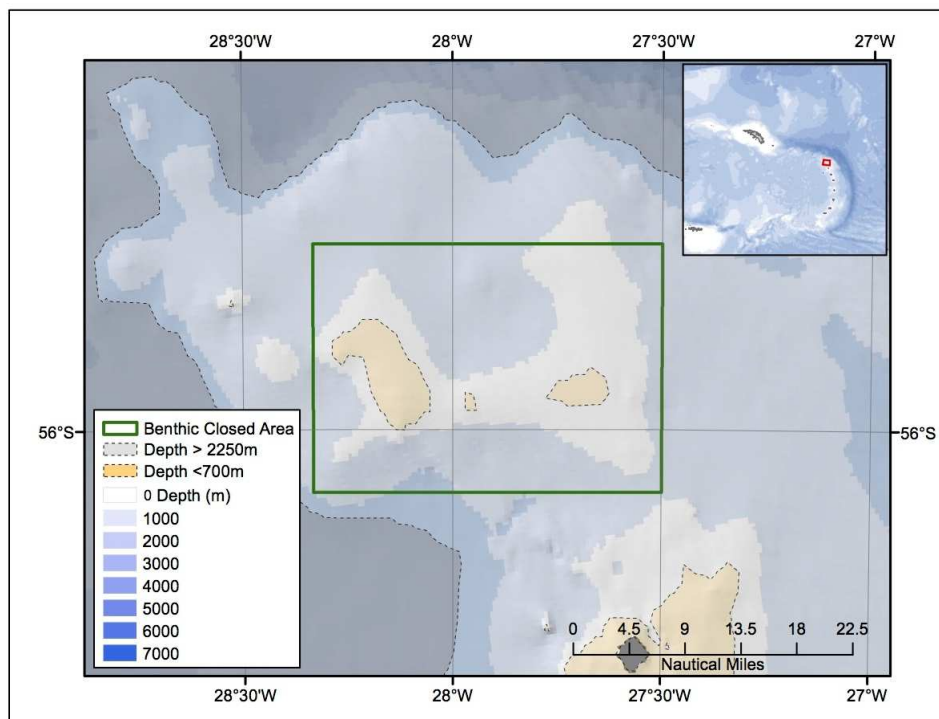
## North Georgia Rise Benthic Closed Area



## North-east Georgia Rise Benthic Closed Area



## Protector Shoals Benthic Closed Area



## Kemp and Adventure Calderas Benthic Closed Area

