



This map illustrates revised proposed critical habitat for the Arctic ringed seal. For clarification of the revised proposed critical habitat designation, please refer to the narrative description found in the revised proposed rule published in the Federal Register.

*Essential features.* The revised proposed essential features for the conservation of the Arctic subspecies of the ringed seal are:

(1) Snow-covered sea ice habitat suitable for the formation and maintenance of subnivean birth lairs used for sheltering pups during whelping and nursing, which is defined as areas of seasonal landfast (shorefast) ice and dense, stable pack ice, excluding any bottom-fast ice extending seaward from the coastline (typically in waters less than 2 m deep), that have undergone deformation and contain snowdrifts of sufficient depth, typically at least 54 cm deep.

(2) Sea ice habitat suitable as a platform for basking and molting, which is defined as areas containing sea ice of 15 percent or more concentration, excluding any bottom-fast ice extending seaward from the coastline (typically in waters less than 2 m deep).

(3) Primary prey resources to support Arctic ringed seals, which are defined to be Arctic cod (*Boreogadus saida*), saffron cod (*Eleginus gracilis*), shrimps, and amphipods.