



NOAA FISHERIES

Office of Law Enforcement

Sector Vessel Regulations Overview Fishing Year 2015

To report suspected fishery law violations, call the OLE hotline at 1-800-853-1964.

This guide has been made available to all sector managers,
and can also be found on the sector website at

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies/>

This summary is not a substitute for the Federal regulations; rather it provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that apply to this fishery. You are strongly encouraged to read the regulations in conjunction with this information sheet, which may be found in the Code of Federal Regulations.

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Contacts by Fishery

SFD General Information, 978-281-9315

Michael Pentony, Assistant Regional Administrator - 978-281-9283

Fishery	Point of Contact	Ex. Phone	Email@noaa.gov
Northeast Multispecies	Mark Grant	978-281-9145	Mark.Grant
	Willie Whitmore	978-281-9182	William.Whitmore
	Aja Szumylo	978-281-9195	Aja.Szumylo
	Brett Alger	978-675-2153	Brett.Alger
	Sarah Heil	978-281-9257	Sarah.Heil
	Liz Sullivan	978-282-8493	Liz.Sullivan
Monkfish	Doug Christel	978-281-9141	Douglas.Christel
	Reid Lichwell	727-824-5317	Reid.Lichwell
Atlantic Sea Scallops	Emily Gilbert	978-281-9244	Emily.Gilbert
	Travis Ford	978-281-9233	Travis.Ford
Spiny Dogfish	Tobey Curtis	978-281-9273	Tobey.Curtis
Skates	Tobey Curtis	978-281-9273	Tobey.Curtis
Recreational Fisheries	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Tuna: Rec & Commercial	Brad McHale, Supervisor	978-281-9260	Brad.McHale
	Dianne Stephan	978-281-9260	Dianne.Stephan
Shark: Rec & Commercial	Jackie Wilson	240-338-3936	Jackie.Wilson
Swordfish: Recreational	Randy Blankinship	727-824-5399	Randy.Blankinship
	Rick Pearson	727-824-5399	Rick.Pearson
Swordfish: Commercial	Karyl Brewster-Geisz	301-713-2347	Karyl.Brewster-Geisz
	Guy DuBeck	301-713-2347	Guy.DuBeck
Surfclam/Ocean Quahog	Doug Potts	978-281-9341	Doug.Potts
	Reid Lichwell	727-824-5317	Reid.Lichwell
Summer Flounder (Fluke), Black Sea Bass, and Scup (Porgies)	Moira Kelly	978-281-9218	Moira.Kelly
Atlantic Herring	Carrie Nordeen	978-281-9272	Carrie.Nordeen
Small Mesh Multispecies	Moira Kelly	978-281-9218	Moira.Kelly
	Reid Lichwell	727-824-5317	Reid.Lichwell
American Lobster	Pete Burns	978-281-9144	Peter.Burns
	Alli Murphy	978-281-9122	Allison.Murphy
Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab	Moira Kelly	978-281-9218	Moira.Kelly
Golden Tilefish	Doug Potts	978-281-9341	Doug.Potts
	Reid Lichwell	727-824-5317	Reid.Lichwell
Bluefish	Tobey Curtis	978-281-9273	Tobey.Curtis
Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish	Carly Bari	978-281-9224	Carly.Bari
Hagfish	Carly Bari	978-281-9224	Carly.Bari
Research Set-Aside Programs, Exempted Fishing Permits, and Experimental Fishing	Ryan Silva	978-281-9326	Ryan.Silva
NAFO	Doug Christel	978-281-9141	Doug.Christel

Office of Law Enforcement Contacts

To contact OLE at the Regional Office, call 978-281-9213.

To report suspected fishery law violations,
call the OLE hotline at 1-800-853-1964 (available 24/7)
or use the new email address: safe.seafood@noaa.gov

Office of Law Enforcement	Point of Contact	Phone Number
General Information	Main Office Lines	978-281-9213
District 1, New England (Maine to Rhode Island)		617-565-1811
District 2, Mid-Atlantic (New York to Virginia)		732-280-6490
VMS Support		
All VMS questions	OLE Regional Office Main Line	978-281-9213 Press 1 for VMS
Multispecies & Monkfish trips Activations & Deactivations	Carol Bleszinski	978-281-9239
Scallop, Surfclam, & Ocean Quahog trips; NAFO monitoring	Carl Lemire	978-281-9274
Herring, Longfin Squid & Mackerel trips; Power Down Letters of Exemption; Welcome & Compliance letters	Aimee Ahles	978-281-9230
VMS Program Manager	Bill Semrau	978-281-9151
Outreach & Compliance		
Compliance questions, excluding VMS	OLE Regional Office Main Line	978-281-9213 Press 2 for Compliance
Compliance Liaison	Don Frei	978-675-2198

NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation Contacts

GCES	Point of Contact	Email Address	Phone #	Extension
Attorney/Advisor	Joe Heckwolf	Joseph.Heckwolf	978-281-9241	6241
Attorney/Advisor	Britta Hinrichsen	Britta.Hinrichsen	978-281-9238	6238

Director's Office Contacts

John Bullard, Regional Administrator
Dan Morris, Deputy Regional Administrator

Point of Contact	Point of Contact	Email Address	Phone Number
Main line	Director's Office	--	978-281-9200
Communications Team Supervisor	Allison Ferreira	Allison.Ferreira	978-281-9103
BWET Program and Education	Colleen Coogan	Colleen.Coogan	978-281-9181
Public Affairs Officer	Jennifer Goebel	Jennifer.Goebel	978-281-9300
Fisheries Outreach Coordinator	Olivia Rugo	Olivia.Rugo	978-675-2167

Northeast Financial Services Branch

978-281-9154

Protected Resources Division Contacts

Kim Damon-Randall - Assistant Regional Administrator, 978-282-8485

PRD	Point of Contact	Phone #	Email Address@noaa.gov
General questions	Main line	978-281-9328	--
To report strandings and entanglements for whales, dolphins, seals, and sea turtles	Marine Animal Stranding & Entanglement Hotline	866-755-6622[NOAA]	--
Acting Supervisor, Endangered Species Program	Lynn Lankshear	978-282-8473	Lynn.Lankshear
Supervisor, Section 7 Program	Mark Murray Brown	978-281-9306	Mark.Murray-Brown
Fishery Liaison & Gear Research Team		Phone #	
New England (includes Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan Pinger Training Certification)	John Higgins	207-677-2316	John.Higgins
Mid-Atlantic (includes Sea Turtle VA Pound Net Modified Leader Inspection)	Glenn Salvador	757-414-0128	Glenn.Salvador
Gear Research and Analysis	John Kenney	401-294-0443	John.Kenney
Marine Mammal Program		Phone #	
Supervisor, Marine Mammal Program	Dave Gouveia	978-281-9280	David.Gouveia
Take Reduction Plan Coordinator	Kate Swails	978-282-8481	Kate.Swails
Northeast Ship Strike Coordinator	Michael Asaro	978-282-8469	Michael.Asaro
Marine Mammal Authorization Program	Allison Rosner	978-282-8462	Allison.Rosner
Sea Turtle Program		Phone #	
Sea Turtle Program Coordinator (pound net and gillnet requirements)	Carrie Upite	978-282-8475	Carrie.Upite
Sea Turtle Strategy (scallop dredge and trawl requirements)	Ellen Keane	978-282-8476	Ellen.Keane
Stranding and Disentanglement Coordinator	Kate Sampson	978-282-8470	Kate.Sampson
Sturgeon Program		Phone #	
Atlantic Sturgeon	Lynn Lankshear	978-282-8473	Lynn.Lankshear

Analysis and Program Support Contacts

[Hannah Goodale](mailto:hannah.f.goodale@noaa.gov) (hannah.f.goodale@noaa.gov) - Assistant Regional Administrator, 978-281-9101

APSD	Phone #	Point of Contact	Email Address@noaa.gov
Supervisor, Permits and Limited Access Programs	978-281-9296	Ted Hawes	Ted.Hawes
Vessel, dealer, or operator permits	978-282-8438		
DAS leases, vessel replacements; baselines	978-282-8483		
Requests for data	978-281-9133		
Fish-on-Line PINs; IVR PINs	978-281-9133		
Supervisor, Data Processing & Quality Programs	978-281-9369	Jim St.Cyr	James.StCyr
Dealer Electronic Reporting	978-281-9212		
IVR reporting	978-281-9209		
Vessel Trip Reporting	978-281-9246		
Data Quality	978-281-9348		
Request for vessel logbooks	978-281-9157		

Northeast Fisheries Science Center Contacts

NEFSC	Point of Contact	Email Address	Phone Number
Observer Program Fisheries Sampling Branch Chief	Amy Martins	Amy.Martins	508-495-2266
Pre-Trip Notification System*	Sarah Cierpich	Sarah.Cierpich	508-495-2309
Observer Data Requests	Gina Shield	Gina.Shield	508-495-2139
Cooperative Research	Carolyn Woodhead	Carolyn.Woodhead	978-281-9197
Observer Program Groundfish Lead	Katherine McArdle	Katherine.McArdle	508-495-2377

***PTNS trip notification and trip changes:**

preferred method is internet: <http://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS/>

secondary means is email: nefsc.ptns@noaa.gov

and back-up method is phone: 1-855-FISHES1

Fisheries Data Services Contacts, continued (Port Agents)

[Greg Power](#) - Supervisor, 978-281-9304 / cell 978-609-4154

New England Area	Point of Contact	Office Location	Phone Number	Email Address
Portland, ME	Pam Thames (Acting)	312 Fore St. U.S. Custom House Portland, ME 04101	207-780-3322	Pam.Thames
Gloucester, MA	Caleb Gilbert	55 Great Republic Dr Gloucester, MA 01930	978-281-9338	Caleb.Gilbert
	Don Mason		978-281-9363	Donald.Mason
New Bedford, MA	Bill Duffy	Hastings Keith Federal Building 53 North 6th St Suite 211 New Bedford, MA 02740	508-717-0210/ Cell: 978-290-1723	William.Duffy
Point Judith, RI	Walter Anoushian	P.O. Box 3356 83 State St 2nd Flr Narragansett, RI 02882	401-783-7797/ Cell: 978-609-4145	Walter.Anoushian
Mid-Atlantic Area				
East Hampton, NY	Victor Vecchio	62 Newtown Ln, # 203 East Hampton, NY 11937	631-324-3569/ Cell: 978-609-4155	Victor.Vecchio
Toms River, NJ	Joanne Pellegrino	26 Main St, Suite O Toms River, NJ 08753	732-818-1311/ Cell: 978-609-7980	Joanne.Pellegrino
Cape May, NJ	Josh O'Connor	1382 Lafayette Street Cape May, NJ 08204-5226	609-884-2113/ Cell: 290-9339	Joshua.O'Connor
Hampton, VA	Steve Ellis	P.O. Box 69172 1006N Settlers Landing Rd Hampton, VA 23669	757-723-3369/ Cell: 978-609-4147	Steve.Ellis

Sector Vessel Monitoring and Reporting Flowchart

This flowchart is a reminder for vessel operators of the monitoring and reporting requirements for sector fishing trips. It is the vessel owner's responsibility to adhere to all Federal regulatory requirements and to any additional operating instructions issued by the sector manager through the approved Sector Operating Plan.

To start your fishing trip:

#1: Ensure your sector has sufficient ACE for all stocks in the areas you intend to fish.

#2: Ensure that your USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal and other essential safety items are current, such as EPIRB battery and hydro, life raft servicing and hydro, flares, and fire extinguishers.

#3: Notify the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program at least 48 hours in advance of the start of a trip through one of the three methods listed below so that it may be determined if your vessel has been selected for coverage by an observer or an at-sea monitor:

<http://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS>
1-855-FISHES1
nefsc.ptns@noaa.gov

#4: Ensure that you have a correct copy of your sector's operations plan and your vessel's Letter of Authorization issued by NMFS on board.

#5: Prior to leaving port, submit a trip declaration via VMS or by calling the IVR system to confirm the use of a previous VMS code.

See below for more information about the new IVR feature.

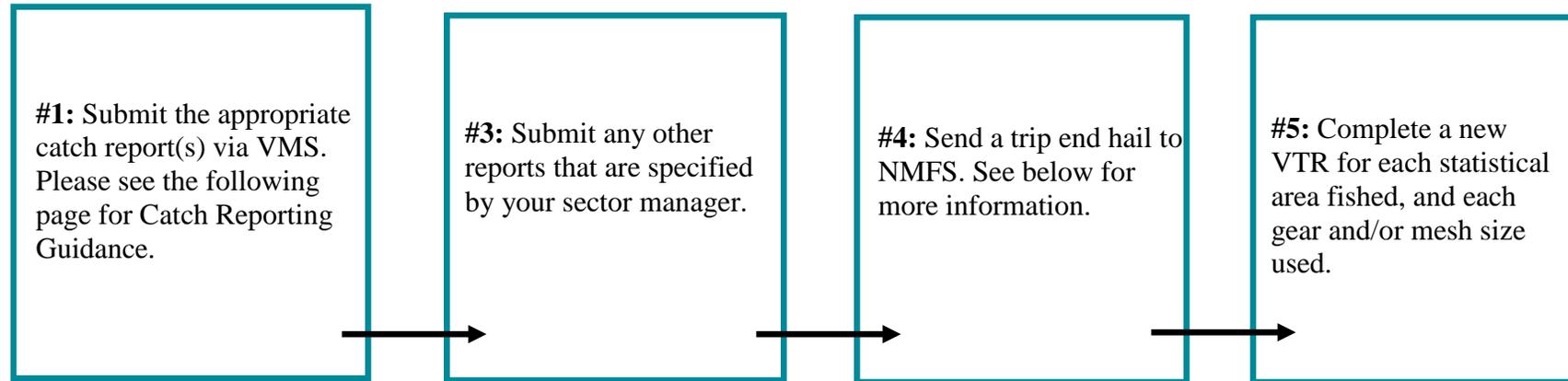
Trip-start hails are optional, but are required when using certain exemptions.

Exemptions that require Trip-Start hails include:

- Redfish Exemption
- Nantucket Lightship Closed Area Exemption
- Small-Mesh Exemption in Southern New England

Trip end hails are still required. If your sector decides to still use trip start hails or dockside monitoring, contact your sector manager for further instruction.

To end your fishing trip...



Trip End Hail

- All users:
 - For all trips longer than 6 hours and occurring more than 6 hours from port, vessels must send trip end hail to NMFS at least 6 hours in advance of landing.
 - For trips shorter than 6 hours or for trips occurring within 6 hours of port, refer to your sector’s operating plan to determine when you must send your trip end hail notification.
 - The trip start hail is no longer required.
- SkyMate VMS Users:
 - Select “Forms NE”, “Multispecies” and then “Trip End”.
- Boatracs VMS Users:
 - Select Macro 37 “Multispecies Trip End Hail”.
- Thrane VMS Users:
 - Select ‘Report’, “Multispecies Plan”, and then “Multispecies Trip End Hail”. Under the reports section, you must submit the trip end hail form.

VTRs

1. Submit all VTR copies to your sector manager as required.
2. Submit all VTRs for the week, including “did not fish” reports (which may be submitted through Fish On-Line), to NMFS by midnight of the first **Tuesday** following the end of the reporting week.



NOAA FISHERIES

Catch Reporting Guidance

Trip-Level Reporting

Submit one Multispecies Catch Report before crossing the VMS demarcation line if:

1. You are declared into a single Broad Stock Area (BSA), and you have not declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area or the sector exemptions listed below. Complete Steps 1 and 2.
Example: Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) BSA only
2. You are declared into multiple BSAs outside of the Gulf of Maine (GOM) BSA, and you have not declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area or the exemptions listed below. Complete Steps 1, 2, and 4.
Example: SNE/MA BSA and Inshore Georges Bank (GB) BSA

Daily Reporting

Submit a Multispecies Catch report for each day of your entire trip by completing Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4. Each daily report must include a good faith estimate of all catch from 0000 to 2359 hours and must be submitted by 0900 (9:00 AM) the following day. A report is required even if you do not catch fish, and regardless of the area actually fished. Daily catch reports are required if:

1. You are declared into the GOM BSA and any another BSA.
Example: GOM BSA and Inshore GB BSA
2. You are declared into any part of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.
Example: Offshore GB BSA and Eastern Area U.S./Canada Haddock Special Access Program
3. You are declared into the Redfish Exemption Area (See more information below).

Sector Exemption Reporting

Before fishing under any exemption, ensure that your sector has been granted the exemption. All of the requirements of using the exemptions listed below are provided in a sector's operation plan. Only the reporting requirements for the Multispecies Catch Report are repeated here.

Redfish Exemption

1. You must submit a Multispecies Catch Report for each day of your entire trip by completing Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4. Each report must include a good faith estimate of all catch from 0000 to 2359 hours and must be submitted by 0900 (9:00 a.m.) the following day. A report is required even if you declare the exemption, but do not target redfish.
2. You must also submit a report before switching codends by completing Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. This report is in addition to the daily reports that are required when using this exemption. The report sent before switching codends must provide a good faith estimate of all catch that day between 0000 hours (12:00 AM) and the time of the report. The daily report the following day at 0900 hours must include any catch from the time you switched codends, until 2359 hours.
3. You must submit a final report once you have stopped fishing and begin your return to port by completing Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Small-Mesh Exemption in Southern New England

1. You must submit a Multispecies Catch Report by completing Steps 1, 2, 4, and 5 with a good faith estimate of all catch on board, upon completing the large-mesh portion of the trip.
2. You must submit a final Multispecies Catch Report by completing Steps 1, 2, and 4 with a good faith estimate of all catch on board once you have stopped fishing and begin your return to port.

Pre-Trip Notification System

Vessel Instructions for Multispecies Trips

Notifications for multispecies trips must be made a full 48 hours in advance.

Notifications received less than 48 hours in advance may be required to delay departure up to 48 hours from the time of initial notification if an observer is not available earlier.

Updates:

- **VMS Activity Declaration** will now be collected in the suite of new trip notification information for PTNS-eligible groundfish trips. This new field was added to comply with regulations that allow for coverage of specific monkfish PTNS trips to be lower than other PTNS-eligible trips continuing in 2014. The field does not change what fishermen are entering into their VMS units. However, their notification should reflect what they will be declaring when they take the trip.
- **Multispecies (NMS)** should be selected for any generic groundfish trip using A DAS. When a fisherman makes a declaration via VMS, most units/macros will show that the VMS activity code begins with "NMS" when declaring a "Mults" (Northeast Multispecies) trip.
- **Monkfish (MNK)** should be selected for any trips for which the vessel is using a monkfish DAS (except when fishing with exempt gear in exempt areas - there is a special VMS declaration for monkfish exempt trips, and exempt trips do not need to be entered into the PTNS). VMS activity codes for monkfish begin with "MNK".

There are 3 different methods available for 48-hour pre-trip notification for multispecies trips:

1. **Internet (preferred method)** - This should be the primary means of trip notification and trip changes. Follow these basic steps to submit your notifications online:

Step 1. Log into your PTNS account

1. Navigate your browser to <http://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS>
2. Enter the same username (Permit Number) and password (PIN) as used for Fish-On-Line
3. Click the "Login" button
4. After logging into your PTNS account, verify vessel name
5. Enter/verify contact phone numbers and email addresses under the "Registration" tab

Step 2. Enter a new trip

- a. Click on the "New Trip" tab
- b. Enter sail date and time of planned trip
- c. Select fishery – "Multispecies (MUL)"
- d. Select VMS activity code
- e. Enter estimated trip duration in whole days
- f. Select port of departure
- g. Select gear intending to fish
- h. Select area intending to fish
- i. Select Special Management Program, if applicable (i.e. **US/Canada Area**, Closed Area I Hook Haddock SAP)
- j. If making a set-only gillnet trip, check the box next to "Set-Only Trip"
- k. Click on "Submit" once and wait for the site to show your confirmation number and selection status

For trips 1 or 2 days in length: Enter information for *each* potential sail date separately, up to 9 days in advance (48 hours of notification time allows a maximum of 7 sail dates)

2. **Email** – This should be the secondary means of trip notification. **There may be a delay in receipt of vessel selection status notification if using email or telephone notification.** The email address to submit trip notifications, trip changes, questions, or problems is nefsc.ptns@noaa.gov.

Include in the email:

1. Vessel permit number
2. Planned sail date and time
3. Fishery: multispecies
4. Estimated trip duration in whole days
5. Port of sail
6. Gear (trawl, longline, handline, gillnet < 8", gillnet 8" and larger)
7. Area fishing (Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic)
8. Special Management Program if applicable (i.e. US/Canada Area, Closed Area I Hook Haddock SAP)
9. Phone number, if new to using PTNS

3. **Telephone** – This is the backup means of notification. The phone number is **1-855-FISHES1 (1-855-347-4371)**. At this number, the PTNS coordinator is available from 8:00 AM – 5:00PM on business days. After business hours, and on weekends and holidays, calls will be fielded by an answering service operator who is qualified to enter notifications, to answer frequently asked questions, and to help troubleshoot common PTNS issues. In emergency situations, the operator will immediately contact a NMFS representative for assistance.

All notification information listed below should be relayed to the answerer or left in a clear voicemail:

1. Caller's name and phone number
2. Vessel permit number
3. Planned sail date and time
4. Fishery: multispecies
5. Estimated trip duration in whole days
6. Port of sail
7. Gear (trawl, longline, handline, gillnet >8", gillnet 8" and larger)
8. Area fishing (Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic)
9. Special Management Program if applicable (i.e. US/Canada Area, Closed Area I Hook Haddock SAP)

There may be a delay in receipt of vessel selection status notification if using email or telephone notification.

After a trip is entered, you will be notified of your selection status

Once a trip is entered into the PTNS, either by the vessel or a PTNS administrator, it will be issued a confirmation number and will be either selected for coverage or assigned a waiver. Under the "Pending Trips" tab, the status of each trip is immediately viewable once it is entered. The vessel's VMS and email contacts will receive an automated email upon trip entry indicating coverage selection or issuance of a waiver.

If selected for coverage, await contact from the provider

If your vessel is selected for coverage, a service provider will contact you within 24 hours of receiving the notification. If an observer is not available to cover your trip, the vessel will receive a waiver notification via email within 24 hours of trip entry. Once an observer arrives at the vessel or a waiver is received, the vessel may begin its trip. *A trip may not sail without an observer unless it has been issued a waiver.*

DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS

If a vessel must delay a multi-day trip sail date, it should notify the PTNS coordinator and its observer, if applicable. If a vessel is selected for coverage and must cancel the trip, the vessel will be selected for coverage on its next notified trip. Please notify the PTNS coordinator of any trip cancellations, whether the trip has been selected for coverage or if it has been issued a waiver.



NOAA FISHERIES

Pre-Trip Notification System Frequently Asked Questions

General coverage questions

Q: How can I find out what my sector's observer coverage rates are?

In general, for fishing year 2015, NOAA Fisheries is targeting observer coverage of groundfish trips at 4% for common pool vessels and 24% for sector vessels, with the exception of declared sector vessel monkfish gillnet trips in the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic region, which have a target of 4%. Coverage is accomplished through a combination of observer and at-sea monitor coverage. To obtain your sector's realized (actual) coverage rate, contact your sector manager.

Q: Why is my vessel getting selected for coverage at a rate higher/lower than 4% or 24% for groundfish trips?

The target observer coverage was determined based on the activity of the groundfish fleet in past years and the budget allocated to provide at-sea monitoring coverage in fishing year 2015. Depending on several factors, including the number of trips taken in 2015, the average length of each trip, and the ability of providers to cover selected trips, NOAA Fisheries may adjust the trip selection rate throughout the year in order to achieve the target coverage. For this reason, vessels should not assume that the targeted coverage rates will be constant or identical among all vessels.

Additionally, the at-sea monitor selection process attempts to achieve the target coverage at the stratum level, not the vessel level. For groundfish monitoring, the stratum is primarily defined as the individual sector (or common pool), gear, and area fished. For example, for all vessels of a particular sector, fishing in the Gulf of Maine with gillnet gear 7.9" or less, the selection process will attempt to cover 24% of these trips. Some gillnet vessels within this stratum may be selected for coverage on greater than 24% of their trips, while other vessels may be selected for less than 24% of their trips. As more trips are taken within a stratum (i.e., as the fishing year progresses), the deviation from target will diminish and the coverage across all vessels should begin to approach the target coverage levels.

Q. What is the difference between an At-Sea Monitor and Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) observer?

Both monitors and observers have undergone extensive training to collect commercial fishing trip data. At-sea monitors collect similar data to that of observers; however they collect a reduced set of data with an emphasis on quantifying catch (determining weights of kept and discarded fish) with less biological sampling. There is no difference in the laws pertaining to observers and at-sea monitors; they are subject to the same standards with regards to data quality, data confidentiality, safety, and harassment.

Using the PTNS

Q: I received a waiver for a day trip, but I did not sail that day. Do I need to cancel day trips in the PTNS, even if the trips were not selected for observer coverage?

Yes. You should cancel any trip that you do not take, regardless of whether it was selected for observer coverage or not. NOAA Fisheries is monitoring the PTNS trip declarations and comparing these to VMS activity declarations to identify discrepancies. Failure to cancel trips through the PTNS will result in a greater number of trips being selected for observer coverage. You may cancel a trip using your PTNS account online or by contacting the PTNS coordinator. You should not cancel trips for dates on which you have sailed; you need an active notification in the system for each date on which you have departed on a PTNS-eligible fishing trip.

Q: I did not sail on a multi-day trip on the date entered in the PTNS because of weather, mechanical issues, etc. Do I need to cancel the trip and provide another 48 hours' notice?

If your decision to sail is based on weather, for example, you may not know in advance for how long you will need to delay a trip. If you are departing 48 hours or more past the PTNS sail date, you may keep the same confirmation number and do not need to re-notify. However, you should delay the sail date using the PTNS website or by calling the PTNS coordinator at 1-855-FISHES1 (1-855-347-4371). Providing accurate trip information makes for more accurate coverage and compliance rates.

If the trip will be delayed for the long term, due to the need for a haul-out, for example, please use the website or call the PTNS coordinator to cancel the trip, and then re-notify when new trip plans are known.

Q: Can I notify for more than 48 hours in advance of my next trip?

Yes. Trip notifications must be submitted *at least* 48 hours in advance of the anticipated sailing time; however, notifications can be submitted up to 9 days in advance of the sail date.

Q: Why can't I notify for 9 day trips?

You are able to notify for trips up to 9 days in advance of the sail date. You are required to give 48 hours' notice. This means that you can notify for up to 7 days at one time, as you would be notifying for the 7th trip 9 days in advance.

Q: Why am I receiving so many emails?

When a notification is entered into the system, it either receives a waiver or is selected for coverage. If your vessel receives an initial waiver, it will get only one trip status email, which will contain the confirmation number, the departure date to which it applies, and its waiver status. If your vessel is initially selected for coverage, you will receive an email containing the confirmation number, date to which it applies, and its selection status. Up to 24 hours after your initial selection, you will receive a second email. If an observer provider has accepted the trip, you will receive an email containing the confirmation number, date to which it applies, and its accepted status, with the name of the provider and a contact phone number. If no observers are available to cover the trip, you will receive a secondary waiver; the email will contain the confirmation number, date to which it applies, and its waiver status.

You may also determine your status by checking your PTNS account online.

Q: Can I only call during business hours to deal with an issue or make a notification?

The PTNS line is monitored 24/7. When the PTNS coordinator is not answering the calls and checking voicemails during business hours, an answering service will be answering the calls. The answering service can enter notifications, help troubleshoot issues, and contact a NMFS representative in the event of an urgent situation.

Q: Why did I just get selected for coverage for a number of trips in a row?

It is the nature of random selection that this occurs sometimes. However, the system does react when a trip selected for observer coverage is canceled, as well. After a selected trip is canceled in the system, all trips entered after the cancellation may be selected for observer coverage if the individual vessel coverage rate in the system is below a threshold level. If this is the case, once the vessel carries an observer, any trips entered after that point will go through the random selection process.

Troubleshooting

Q: I can't get onto the website at all – I'm getting a message that says I'm forbidden. What's wrong?

The web address is case sensitive. Type fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS into your browser, ensuring that the "PTNS" at the end is in all capital letters.

Q: I called/emailed in to notify for a trip, and I have not received any notice to my VMS. Why?

When you enter your own notifications online, you receive your entry confirmation email within 15 minutes. When you email or call in your notification, there will be a delay due to data entry by FSB staff. If it is 24 hours or less before your trip is set to depart, and you have still not received any notice to your VMS, please contact the PTNS coordinator with plenty of time to spare before your departure time.

Q: It's 24 hours prior to the scheduled sail time for my selected trip and I have not yet heard from an observer. Why?

The providers have up to 24 hours prior to trip sail time to accept a trip. Sometimes trips are accepted late at night, and providers feel that it would be inappropriate to contact the captain at that time.

Q: I called in to notify for a trip. Why hasn't anyone called me back to give me my confirmation number and status?

When you call to notify for a trip, your information is entered into the system by the PTNS coordinator or other FSB staff. Your trip status will be updated on the PTNS website and a confirmation email will be sent to your VMS, as well as any additional email addresses that you have provided. If you do not have internet access and cannot check your email accounts, please specify during your notification that you would like to receive a phone call regarding your status.

Q: I was selected for coverage, but an observer has not yet contacted me. What should I do?

Double-check your emails to be sure that you were not issued a secondary waiver for your departure date. Sometimes trips are selected for coverage initially but are not accepted by a service provider. If your trip has been accepted for coverage by a service provider and you have not heard from an observer, contact the service provider listed in your email for that trip.

If you are at the dock at your scheduled departure time and the observer is not at the dock, you have not heard from the observer, and you have called the observer and gotten no answer, call 1-855-FISHES1 (1-855-347-4371) to obtain clearance to depart from on-call NMFS staff. Do not leave the dock without an assigned observer if you have not contacted NMFS at 1-855-FISHES1 (1-855-347-4371).

Q: I have a problem with my VMS – what do I do?

Contact the NOAA Fisheries VMS Office at 978-281-9213 or the VMS Support Center at 888-219-9228. You may also send an e-mail at any time to the NOAA Fisheries VMS Office, NMFS.OLE.NE@NOAA.GOV.



NOAA FISHERIES

Call the Northeast VMS team
at **978-281-9213**,
Press option 1 for VMS

Power-Down Guidance

1: Does your vessel hold one or more of these permits?

- Scallop (Category 2,3,5,6,7,8)
- Herring (Category A,B,C,E)
- Surfclam or Ocean Quahog (Category 1,6)
- Longfin Squid or Mackerel (Category 1, T1, T2, T3)
- Monkfish (Category F) annually from October 1 to April 30

NO

2: Has your vessel taken a VMS-declared trip under one or more of these permits?

- Monkfish (Category A,B,C,D,G,H) since May 1 of the current fishing year
- Maine Mahogany Quahog (Category 7) since Jan 1, 2009
- Multispecies (Category A,C,D,E,F,HA) since May 1 of the current fishing year

NO

3: Does your vessel hold a Limited Access General Category Scallop (Category A,B,C) permit?

NO

You may turn the power off to your VMS unit until one or more of the conditions in #1, #2 or #3 apply to your vessel.

YES

You are **NOT** authorized to turn the power off to your VMS unit when in port.

You may request a Letter of Exemption (LOE) if you meet certain requirements. More information about a LOE is available at:

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/vms/forms/index.html>

STOP

YES

You may declare the Power Down declaration (**PWD-PWD-XXXXXX**) from your VMS unit after all product is offloaded. NMFS recommends that you await an acknowledgment, and then turn the power off to your VMS unit while your vessel is at the dock/ mooring. *Please remember to turn the power back on to your VMS unit **AND** send the appropriate declaration before leaving port on the next trip.*



NOAA FISHERIES

Vessel Trip Reporting Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any fishing regulation questions, please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

If you have any questions regarding VTRs, please call the Vessel Trip Report Office at (978) 281-9246.

This guide provides a list of commonly asked questions regarding Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs). It is intended as an overview only. The complete regulations can be found at 50 CFR Part 648, under the “Fishery Regulations” section of the NOAA Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) website. For additional details on how to fill out a VTR please click this link:

http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/evtr/doc/vtr_inst.pdf

Basic VTR Requirements

Owners and operators of federally permitted vessels possessing any of the permits listed below are **required to submit a VTR for every trip taken**, regardless of where they fish or what they catch. Note: Any vessel landing Surf Clams, Ocean Quahogs or Maine Mahogany’s under an ITQ allocation must use the Surf Clam / Ocean Quahog Log Book instead of the standard VTR (NOAA Form 88-30).

Table 1: Permits

Northeast multispecies	Atlantic bluefish	Spiny dogfish
Atlantic sea scallop	Atlantic herring	Summer flounder
Monkfish	Northeast skate	Scup
Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish	Tilefish	Surfclam
Black sea bass	Atlantic deep-sea red crab	Ocean quahog

If I don't fill out my VTR accurately and submit it on time, does it really affect me?

- Incomplete VTRs will be returned to you for correction.
- The renewal of your permit can be delayed if all of your required VTRs have not been received and accepted by us.
- VTRs provide critical data about fishing areas, trip length, and gear used. These data are used to support stock assessments and analyses of vessel fishing activity over time, which can impact fishery allocations.
- Dealer-reported landings, along with accurate and timely VTRs, are used to monitor quotas. Until we receive a missing VTR, we must estimate your catch for a trip.
- Effort data from VTRs (gear, chart area, number of hauls, and soak time) is used to estimate bycatch of protected species, such as harbor porpoises and sea turtles. We need accurate effort data to accurately estimate bycatch.

Submit the signed white original (NOAA Fisheries Copy) to:
NOAA Fisheries
Vessel Trip Reporting Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Permits	Frequency of Reporting	VTR Deadlines	If you did not fish...
All permits except for those in the row below	Monthly	Must be received or postmarked by the 15th day of the month, following the month in which the trip occurred	“Did Not Fish” reports are due in accordance with the permit-specific deadlines, and may be submitted electronically up to 3 months in advance
NE Multispecies, Herring, Surf Clam & Ocean Quahog, Squid, Mackerel and Butterfish	Weekly	Must be submitted by midnight of the Tuesday following the reporting week (Sunday through Saturday) in which fish were offloaded for any trip, including trips landing other species	

Vessel Reporting Issues

Q: As a federally permitted vessel, am I required to provide a dealer with my VTR serial number?

A: Yes, as a requirement of offloading your catch to a federally permitted dealer you must also provide that dealer with your vessel name, your federal permit number or your hull number, and the serial number from the VTR for the trip you are selling.

Q: I fished in more than one chart area or used more than one gear on a trip and so used more than one VTR. What serial number do I provide to the dealer?

A: The serial number from the first VTR in the series used on a trip should be provided.

Q: I operate an offshore clam vessel, what do I provide the dealer since I do not use the VTR?

A: Provide the dealer with the serial number of the clam report form. This is in the same location as the serial number on the VTR.

Q: Can a permitted vessel sell his federally regulated catch to a non-permitted dealer?

A: No. A Federally permitted vessel must sell federally managed species to a federally permitted dealer. Any dealer of federally managed species must have a federal dealer permit. You must record each dealer’s four digit federal permit number next to the dealer name on the Vessel Trip Report.

Q: Can a permitted vessel sell non-permitted species to a non-permitted dealer?

A: Yes.

Q: If I sell non-federally regulated species to a non-federally permitted dealer, do I still have to provide that dealer with my VTR serial number?

A: No.



NOAA FISHERIES

Sector Vessel Groundfish Requirements

May 2015

1. Discard requirements [648.87 (b)(1)(v)(A)]

Sector vessels may not discard any legal-sized groundfish of allocated stocks, including legal-sized, unmarketable fish (LUMF) of stocks allocated to sectors, unless that vessel's sector is otherwise exempt (please check with your sector manager). If LUMF is caught, it must be reported through your vessel trip report (VTR) and brought to shore, where it may be disposed.

In addition, sector vessels are prohibited from retaining any ocean pout, windowpane flounder, and Atlantic wolffish. Atlantic halibut has a one-fish per trip limit.

2. Current federal minimum fish sizes for commercial vessels (inches) [648.83 (a)(1)]

Species	Minimum Size as of May 1, 2015
Cod	19"
Haddock	16"
Pollock	19"
Redfish	7"
Atlantic halibut	41"
Yellowtail flounder	12"
American plaice (dabs)	12"
Winter flounder (blackback)	12"
Witch flounder (gray sole)	13"
White hake	No minimum size
Windowpane flounder	N/A
Ocean Pout	N/A
Atlantic Wolffish	N/A

3. Observer Responsibilities [648.11 (i)(3)(v); 648.5 (c)]

Sector vessel captains are responsible for determining if caught fish are of legal size. Observers are responsible for recording information about the catch, including the reason a captain retains or discards fish. For questions about these requirements, contact your sector manager or NOAA Fisheries Service staff at (978) 281-9315, or the Fisheries Observer Program at (508) 495-2266



NOAA FISHERIES

FY 2015 Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measures

Why are the AMs necessary?

AMs are management controls that either slow down catch so that catch limits are not exceeded, or correct for a catch over a previous year's catch limit.

What are the FY 2015 AMs for windowpane flounder?

For fishing year 2015, commercial groundfish vessels fishing on a groundfish trip with trawl gear are required to use selective trawl gear when fishing in the large northern windowpane flounder accountability measure (AM) area (see Figure 1 for a map of this restricted gear area). Approved selective trawl gears include the: 1) Haddock separator trawl; 2)

Ruhle trawl; 3) mini-Ruhle trawl; or 4) rope separator trawl. These gears are designed to minimize the catch of flounder species. Coordinates for this area are included below.

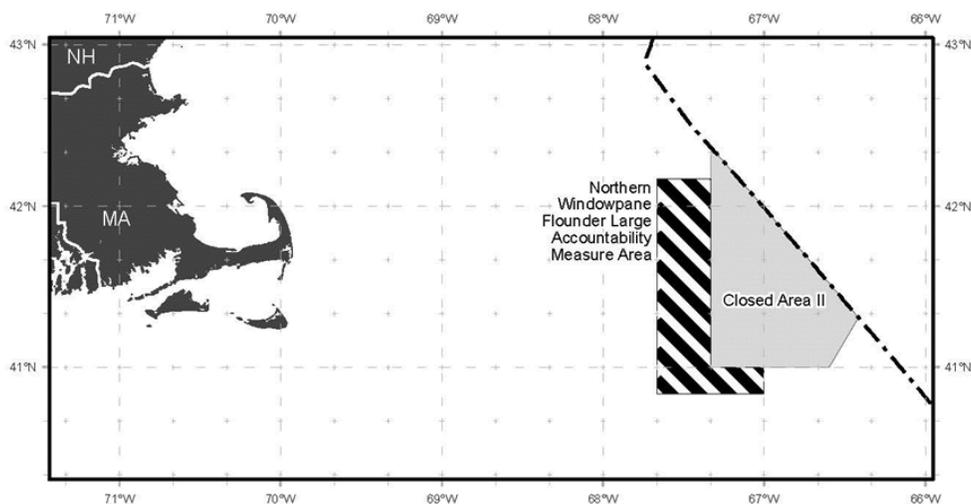
Do the AM areas restrict other gear types besides trawl gear?

No. There are no restrictions on vessels fishing with longline or gillnet gear.

Can a sector request an exemption from these AMs?

No. These AMs are designed to constrain all commercial groundfish fishing activity (i.e., both sector and common pool vessels), so sectors are not allowed to request an exemption from these AMs.

Figure 1: N. Windowpane Flounder Large AM Area



N. Windowpane Flounder Large AM Area		
Point	N. Latitude	W. Longitude
1	42°10'	67°40'
2	42°10'	67°20'
3	41°00'	67°20'
4	41°00'	67°00'
5	40°50'	67°00'
6	40°50'	67°40'
1	42°10'	67°40'



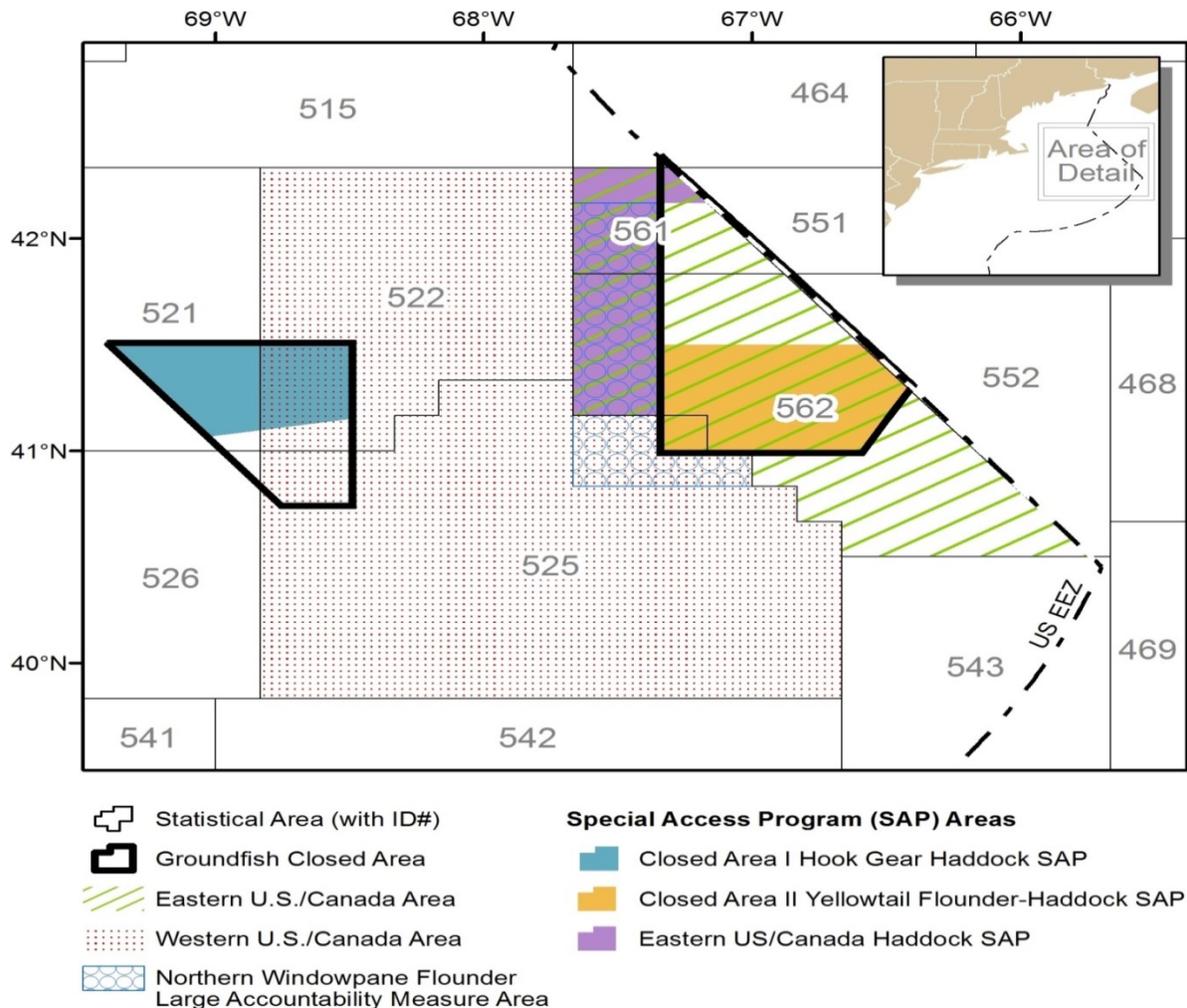
NOAA FISHERIES

2015 Sector US/Canada Management Areas and Special Access Program

This summary provides a broad overview of US/CA and SAP areas and coordinates; the regulations may be found at 50 CFR part 648.85. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 for more information.

Within the U.S./Canada Management Area, Georges Bank cod, Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder are managed under Total Allowable Catches (TACs), which are developed with Canada. The U.S./Canada Management Area is divided into the Western Area and the Eastern Area. The Eastern Area encompasses the U.S. portion of the U.S./Canada shared stock of Georges Bank cod and Georges Bank haddock, as well as a portion of Georges Bank yellowtail flounder stock. The Western Area encompasses the remaining area of the U.S./Canada Georges Bank yellowtail flounder stock. Within the Eastern Area, there are two special access programs (SAPs), and a third SAP that sits partially within the Western Area

In fishing year (FY) 2015, sectors have been granted several exemptions that can be used in the U.S./Canada Management Area, including an exemption from trawl gear restrictions. However, be aware that accountability measures (AMs) are effective May 1, 2015, for the entire FY 2015 groundfish fishery, due to northern windowpane flounder catch limits being exceeded in FY 2014. The AM for this overage is a restricted gear area; the northern windowpane flounder AM lies within the U.S./Canada Management Area and supersedes any gear exemptions given to the sectors. You should review each section of information to determine how it applies to your vessel.



General Requirements of the U.S./Canada Management Area

What are the coordinates of the areas?

The Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Management Areas are defined by the lines connecting the following points:

Western U.S./Canada Area		
Point	N. lat.	W. long.
USCA 1	42° 20'	68° 50'
USCA 2	39° 50'	68° 50'
USCA 3	39° 50'	66° 40'
USCA 4	40° 40'	66° 40'
USCA 5	40° 40'	66° 50'
USCA 6	40° 50'	66° 50'
USCA 7	40° 50'	67° 00'
USCA 8	41° 00'	67° 00'
USCA 9	41° 00'	67° 20'
USCA 10	41° 10'	67° 20'
USCA 11	41° 10'	67° 40'
USCA 12	42° 20'	67° 40'
USCA 1	42° 20'	68° 50'

Eastern U.S./Canada Area		
Point	N. lat.	W. long.
USCA 12	42° 20'	67° 40'
USCA 11	41° 10'	67° 40'
USCA 10	41° 10'	67° 20'
USCA 9	41° 00'	67° 20'
USCA 8	41° 00'	67° 00'
USCA 7	40° 50'	67° 00'
USCA 6	40° 50'	66° 50'
USCA 5	40° 40'	66° 50'
USCA 4	40° 40'	66° 40'
USCA 15	40° 30'	66° 40'
USCA 14	40° 30'	65° 44.3'
USCA 13	42° 20'	67° 18.4'
USCA 12	42° 20'	67° 40'

What is the FY 2015 season?

The portions of the Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas that are outside of Closed Areas I and II, are open year-round

How do I declare a U.S./Canada trip?

Under the groundfish sector declaration screen on your vessel monitoring system (VMS) unit, you must declare one or more of the defined sub-areas (Eastern Area, Western Area, or SAPs) of the U.S./Canada Management Area in Step 4, and one or more broad stock areas (BSAs) in Step 5, prior to leaving the dock. If necessary, call our VMS team at 978-281-9213 for assistance with your VMS declaration.

Can I flex at-sea into any areas?

Yes, a flex is allowed once per trip by adding areas to the initial declaration while you're out fishing and away from the dock. Meaning, your new declaration must include the initial program area(s) and BSA(s) you declared from the dock, in addition to the other information (e.g., gear, DAS type) that was in your initial declaration. Most areas are available to flex into with a few exceptions.

- 1) You're not allowed to flex into the Eastern Area (outside of the SAPs) if your initial declaration didn't include the CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP or the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP. Meaning, if your initial declaration is only an Open Area, or an Open Area + Western Area, you can't flex into the Eastern Area. However, you can start in an Open Area and/or the Western Area and flex into any of the three SAPs.
- 2) The same exception applies to the Western Area. You're not allowed to flex into the Western Area if your initial declaration didn't include any of the three SAPs or the Eastern Area. Meaning, if your initial declaration is only an Open Area, you can't flex into the Western Area. However, you can start in an Open Area and flex into any of the three SAPs.

What are the VMS reporting requirements after I declare into the Eastern Area?

If you're declared into the Eastern Area, including the CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP or the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP, you must submit a **daily catch report** via VMS. The report must be submitted by 9AM the following day and include all fields. You must enter each chart area fished under Step 4 on the form, and report all groundfish and non-groundfish kept.

If you do not declare the Eastern Area from the dock, and instead use the sector exemption to declare the CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP or the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP while at sea (known as flexing), you are required to submit a report indicating all of your catch from that trip up until the time you declared into the SAPs. Once you've declared into either of these SAPs, you must submit **daily reports for the remainder of the trip**.

Beginning FY 2015, vessels that declare their intent to fish within and outside of the Gulf of Maine Broad Stock Area on the same trip must submit daily VMS catch reports for the duration of the trip.

What are the VMS reporting requirements if I do NOT declare into the Eastern Area?

If you're declared into the Western Area only and do not flex at sea into either of the Eastern Area SAPs, you must submit a trip level report via VMS. If you only fish in a single broad stock area, only fill out Steps 1 and 2. If you fish in more than one broad stock area, you must fill out all fields, including Step 4 for each chart area fished.

What are my Vessel trip report (VTR) requirements?

You must submit a VTR for each gear type, mesh/ring size, or chart area fished. In the event that tows or placement of fixed gear (gillnets, long lines, etc.) crosses chart area boundaries, you must fill out a VTR for each area and apportion your catch based upon a good faith estimate.

EXAMPLE: If you're a trawler and your tow goes across areas 515 and 521, with 80% of your time spent in area 515, you would allocate 80% of your total catch for the tows to chart area 515 and the remaining 20% to area 521. The same basic method applies to fixed gear. If your gillnet string or long line straddles a chart area boundary, you must apportion the total catch based upon what percentage of the string was in each chart area. Please contact the VTR Support Team at 978-281-9246 if you require clarification of this requirement.

How are my VTRs and VMS catch reports used for catch attribution?

We use the chart areas reported on VMS catch reports and VTRs to apportion catch to specific stock allocations. For example, cod caught in chart area 562 is attributed to Eastern Area cod, while cod caught from chart area 515 is attributed to Gulf of Maine cod.

Do I have groundfish landing limits?

You remain exempt from trip limits for most groundfish species, however, you are allowed one halibut per trip, and may not possess Atlantic wolffish, ocean pout, or windowpane flounder.

What are my gear restrictions this year?

Because of a sector exemption, you may use all approved gear types that are allowed in the GB Regulated Mesh Area (RMA) in areas that do not overlap with the northern windowpane flounder AM. When fishing in the northern windowpane flounder AM area, you are required to use one of the following selective trawl gears: 1) Haddock separator trawl; 2) Ruhle trawl; or a 3) rope separator trawl. If you are using a haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl, you are allowed to use a cod end as small as 6-inches, otherwise, you must use a cod end of at least 6.5 inches. The chart above depicts the northern windowpane flounder AM area; the coordinates are below.

Northern Windowpane Flounder AM Area		
Point	N. Latitude	W. Longitude
1	42°10'	67°40'
2	42°10'	67°20'
3	41°00'	67°20'
4	41°00'	67°00'
5	40°50'	67°00'
6	40°50'	67°40'
1	42°10'	67°40'

Do I get a DAS credit for fishing only in the Eastern Area?

Yes, if you declare and fish exclusively in the Eastern Area, your DAS are charged only for the time inside the area. If you fish inside and outside of the Eastern Area on the same trip, DAS are charged normal.

Eastern U.S./Canada Area Haddock SAP:

What are the coordinates of the areas?

The Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP Area is defined by lines connecting the following points, in order:

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
1	42° 22'	67° 20'
2	42° 20'	67° 20'
3	42° 20'	67° 40'
4	41° 10'	67° 40'
5	41° 10'	67° 20'
6	42° 10'	67° 20'
7	42° 10'	67° 10'
1	42° 22'	67° 20'

What is the FY 2015 season?

The Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP is open May 1 through December 31.

What are my gear restrictions this year?

You may use all approved gear types that are allowed in the GB RMA in areas that do not overlap with the northern windowpane flounder restricted gear area AM. When fishing in the northern windowpane flounder AM area, you are required to use one of the following selective trawl gears: 1) Haddock separator trawl; 2) Ruhle trawl; or a 3) rope separator trawl. If you are using a haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl, you are allowed to use a 6-inch cod end, otherwise, you must use 6.5-inch cod end.

Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP:

What are the coordinates of the areas?

The CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP is defined by lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
1	41° 30'	67° 20'
2	41° 30'	66° 34.8'
3	41° 18.6'	66° 24.8'
4	41° 00'	66° 35.8'
5	41° 00'	67° 20'
1	41° 30'	67° 20'

What is the FY 2015 season?

The CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP is open May 1 through January 31.

What are my gear restrictions this year?

With the exception of a flounder trawl, you may use all approved gear types that are allowed in the GB RMA in areas that do not overlap with the northern windowpane flounder restricted gear area AM. When fishing in the northern windowpane flounder AM area, you are required to use one of the following selective trawl gears: 1) Haddock separator trawl; 2) Ruhle trawl; or a 3) rope separator trawl. If you are using a haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl, you are allowed to use a 6-inch cod end, otherwise, you must use 6.5-inch cod end.

Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP:

What are the coordinates of the area?

The CA I HGH Access Area is defined by lines connecting the following points, in order:

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
1	41° 09'	68° 30'
2	41° 30'	68° 30'
3	41° 30'	69° 23'
4	41° 04'	69° 01'
1	41° 09'	68° 30'

What are my gear restrictions this year?

If you are declared into and fishing in this SAP, you may only possess on board and fish with demersal longline gear or tub trawl gear.

What is the overall haddock TAC?

For FY 2015, there is a shared Sector and common pool haddock TAC of 5,396,916 lb for this SAP. Once this TAC is caught, the SAP shall be closed to all NE multispecies vessels

What are my VMS reporting requirements?

You must submit a daily catch report for each day fished in the CA I HGH SAP Area in 24-hr intervals, measured from 0000 hr to 2400 hr. If your sector does not have an exemption from the daily reporting requirement, then the report must be sent to your sector manager. If your sector has an exemption from this requirement, you must submit your daily catch report to us.

Beginning FY 2015, vessels that declare their intent to fish within and outside of the Gulf of Maine Broad Stock Area on the same trip must submit daily VMS catch reports for the duration of the trip.

What are my sector's reporting requirements?

The sector manager must submit daily reports to us summarizing the sector's: Total pounds of haddock, cod, yellowtail flounder, winter flounder, witch flounder, American plaice, and white hake kept; total pounds of haddock, cod, yellowtail flounder, winter flounder, witch flounder, American plaice, and white hake discarded; date fish were caught; and VTR serial numbers of each trip. Some sectors have an exemption from this requirement, so refer to your operation's plan.

Gear Definitions

Haddock separator trawl: A haddock separator trawl is defined as a groundfish trawl modified to a vertically oriented trouser trawl configuration, with two extensions arranged one over the other, where a codend is attached only to the upper extension, and the bottom extension is left open and does not have a codend attached. A horizontal large-mesh separating panel constructed with a minimum of 6.0-inch diamond mesh must be installed between the selvages joining the upper and lower panels, extending forward from the front of the trouser junction to the aft edge of the first belly behind the fishing circle. Either a two-seam or a four-seam bottom trawl net may be used, provided they meet the requirements below.

-Two-seam bottom trawl nets: For two-seam nets, the separator panel must be constructed such that the width of the forward edge of the panel is 80-85 percent of the width of the after edge of the first belly of the net where the panel is attached. For example, if the belly is 200 meshes wide (from selvedge to selvedge), the separator panel must be no wider than 160-170 meshes wide.

-Four-seam bottom trawl nets: For four-seam nets, the separator panel must be constructed such that the width of the forward edge of the panel is 90-95 percent of the width of the after edge of the first belly of the net where the panel is attached. For example, if the belly is 200 meshes wide (from selvedge to selvedge), the separator panel must be no wider than 180-190 meshes. The separator panel must be attached to both of the side panels of the net along the midpoint of the side panels. For example, if the side panel is 100 meshes tall, the separator panel must be attached at the 50th mesh.

Ruhle trawl: A Ruhle trawl is defined as a four-seam bottom groundfish trawl with large meshes in the forward panels, reducing in size toward the trawl's codend. All meshes in the forward panels, except for the square and square side panels, must measure at least 7.9 ft. The square and square side panel meshes, and those panel meshes immediately aft of the fishing circle, must measure at least 31.5 inches. The first bottom belly must contain meshes measuring at least 7.9 ft. The second bottom belly meshes must measure at least 31.5 inches. All remaining panels must contain meshes measuring at least 7.9-inches. For complete construction parameters, including fishing circle, sweep, and kite requirements, please see § 648.85(b)(6)(iv)(J)(3).

Flounder trawl: A flounder trawl net is defined as bottom trawl gear meeting one of the following net descriptions:

- A two-seam, low-rise net constructed with 6-inch diamond mesh or 6.5-inch square mesh, where the maximum footrope length is not greater than 105 ft and the headrope is at least 30 percent longer than the footrope. The footrope and headrope lengths shall be measured from the forward wing end. The codend must be either 6.5-inch diamond or 6.5-inch square mesh.

- A two-seam, low-rise net constructed with 6-inch diamond mesh or 6.5-inch square mesh, with the exception that the top panel of the net contains a section of mesh at least 10 ft long and stretching from selvedge to selvedge, composed of at least 12-inch mesh that is inserted no farther than 4.5 meshes behind the headrope. The codend must be either 6.5-inch diamond or 6.5-inch square mesh.

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NOAA FISHERIES

Northeast Sector Skate Fishery Prohibitions and Possession Limits

General Information

This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements; the regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR part 648, subpart O. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 for more information.

Prohibitions

Possession or landing of barndoor and thorny skates is prohibited throughout the Skate Management Unit (Figure 1). In addition, possession or landing of smooth skates from the Gulf of Maine Regulated Mesh Area (Figure 2) is prohibited.

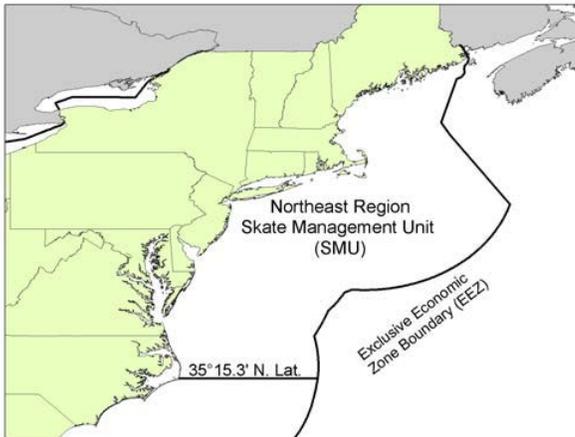


Figure 1. Skate Management Unit

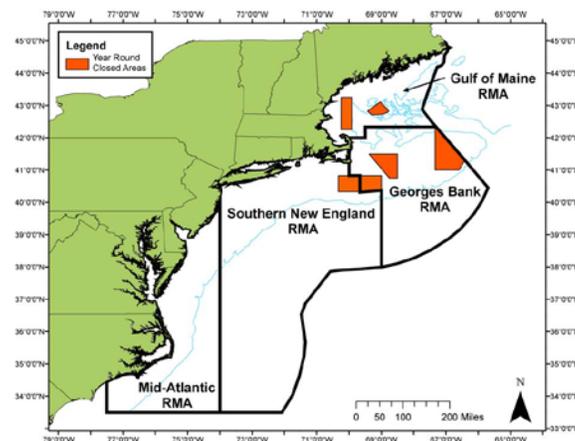


Figure 2. Northeast Region Regulated Mesh Areas

What Federal Permits are available for skates?

An open access commercial skate permit is required to possess, land, or sell skates. To obtain a permit application, contact our Permits Office at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/permits/> Or call (978) 281-9370.

How are skate allowable landings allocated?

Each fishing year (May 1-April 30), the skate wing fishery is allocated 66.5 percent of the Federal total landings (TAL) for skates, and the skate bait fishery is allocated 33.5 percent of the Federal TAL.

What are the skate wing fishery possession limits?

Vessels fishing on a NE multispecies "A", scallop, or monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) may possess and land: 2,600 lb of skate wings (5,902 lb whole weight) per trip from May 1 to August 31; and; 4,100 lb of skate wings (9,307 lb whole weight) per trip from September 1 to April 30 (Table 1).

Vessels fishing on a NE multispecies category "B" DAS (regardless of gear type) may only possess 220 lb of skate wings (500 lb whole weight).

A vessel not fishing in any DAS program, including sector vessels, may possess and land an incidental limit of 500 lb of skate wings (1,135 lb whole weight) per trip, as long as the vessel possesses a valid skate permit. A sector vessel that lands the higher trip limit described above must use a DAS.

Table 1. Skate Possession Limits during Open Fishing Seasons		Trip Limit (lb)		
		Skate Wings	Whole Skates	Whole Skate Bait w/ LOA
NE Multispecies, Scallop, or Monkfish DAS	May 1 - Aug 31	2,600	5,902	25,000*
	Sept 1 - April 30	4,100	9,307	
NE Multispecies B DAS	May 1 - April 30	220	500	500
Non-DAS	May 1 - April 30	500	1,135	1,135

*These limits also apply to vessels fishing in an approved Skate Fishery Exemption Area defined in the NE multispecies regulations at § 648.80.

What is the in season adjustment of wing possession limits?

When 85 percent of the Skate Wing TAL is landed, the skate wing possession limit will be reduced to the incidental limit of 500 lb of skate wings (1,135 lb whole weight) for all vessels for the remainder of the fishing year.

Which forms of skate are allowed in the skate fishery?

Vessels may possess and land skate wings, skate carcasses, and/or whole skates. The weight of skate carcasses may not exceed 1.27 times the weight of skate wings, and vessels may not possess skate carcasses without retaining the associated wings. Any combination of landed skate products must adhere to the trip limits described above.

What are the NE Multispecies DAS exemption programs in the skate fishery?

If you are fishing for skate wings, there are no DAS exemption programs and you must be fishing on a DAS in order to possess and land more than the incidental limit of 500 lb of skate wings (1,135 lb whole weight).

If you are fishing for skate bait, and possess a Skate Bait Letter of Authorization (LOA), you do not have to be on a DAS to possess more than the incidental limit of 500 lb of skate wings (1,135 whole weight) in the Mid Atlantic Exemption Area as well as the skate exemption areas in Southern New England.

If you are fishing in a NE multispecies DAS exemption program that permits skate retention, without a Skate Bait LOA, you may possess and land skate or skate parts equal to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board, or 500 lb of skate wings (1,135 lb whole weight), whichever is less. Additional information on the NE multispecies DAS exemption programs can be found at: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies/>.

What is a Skate Bait LOA?

A Federal skate permit holder may request from NMFS and exemption from the skate wing possession limits described above to land whole skates for use as bait. A vessel with a valid Skate Bait LOA may possess and land up to 25,000 lb of whole skates (Table 1). The LOA can be obtained from the Permits Office at (978) 281-9370.

If you have a Skate Bait LOA, you must follow these requirements:

- Possession/landing of only whole skates less than 23 inches total length;
- compliance with the at-sea transfer provisions, if applicable (see below); and,
- enrollment for at least 7 days.

The Skate Bait LOA does not exempt the participating vessel from DAS requirements of the NE multispecies, monkfish, or scallop fisheries, unless fishing in a DAS exemption program as described above.

What are the skate bait fishery seasons and possession limits?

The Skate Bait TAL is divided into three seasons to help maintain a supply of bait throughout the fishing year (Table 2).

Table 2. Skate Bait Fishery Seasons

Season		Percentage of Skate Bait TAL
1	May 1–July 31	30.8
2	August 1–October 31	37.1
3	November 1–April 30	Remainder of Skate Bait TAL

What is the inseason adjustment of bait possession limit?

When 90 percent of the seasonal quota is landed in either Season 1 or 2, or when 90 percent of the annual Skate Bait TAL is landed, the directed fishery will be closed by reducing the skate bait possession limit to the whole weight equivalent of the skate wing possession limit in effect at that time (either 5,902 lb; 9,307 lb; or 1,135 lb).

Can I transfer skate bait at sea?

Yes. A vessel issued a Federal skate permit may transfer skates at sea, provided:

- The transferring vessel has an LOA onboard (see above);
- The transferring vessel maintains a record of the quantity of skates transferred according to the current vessel trip report (VTR) reporting requirements;
- The transferring vessel provides the receiving vessel documentation showing the date and amount of skates transferred, regardless of monetary exchange; and
- The transferring vessel maintains onboard, for at least 1 year from the date of the transfer, a copy of the documentation.

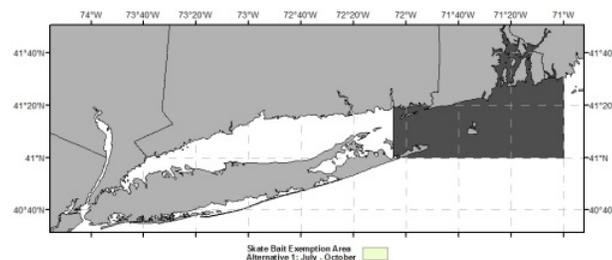
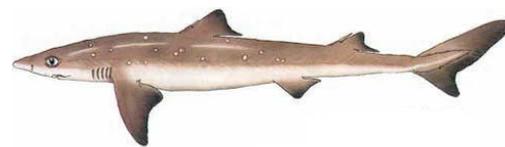


Figure 3. Recently approved skate bait exemption area. Season: July 1 - October 31.



NOAA FISHERIES



Northeast Sector Spiny Dogfish Fishery Possession and Gear Requirements

General Information

This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements; the regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR part 648, subpart L. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 for more information.

What Federal permits are available for dogfish?

An open access commercial dogfish permit is required to possess, land, or sell dogfish. To obtain a permit application, contact our Permits Office at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/permits/index.html> or (978) 281-9370.

What are the permit requirements for dogfish?

In order to possess dogfish in Federal waters, you must have a Federal dogfish permit, and you must also be fishing under one of the following conditions:

- A NE multispecies trip (including day-at-sea (DAS), B DAS, non-DAS sector, Handgear A and B);
- A scallop DAS;
- A monkfish-only DAS (if fishing in a monkfish exemption area as defined in the large mesh information sheet found at http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/Large_mesh_exemption.pdf); or
- An exempted fishery (see Tables 2 and 3).

Any catch of allocated groundfish stocks by a NE multispecies sector vessel while targeting spiny dogfish will count against its sector's annual catch entitlement, unless the vessel is fishing in an exempted fishery or with exempted gear outside of the DAS program.

How is the quota allocated and managed in Federal waters?

The quota is established annually based upon the estimated size of the dogfish population and sustainable harvest rates. In Federal waters, the quota is allocated coastwide for the fishing year May 1 – April 30. All spiny dogfish landings, whether from Federal or state waters, are counted toward that quota and monitored by NMFS. When the annual quota is fully harvested, the dogfish fishery will be closed for the remainder of the fishing year. Commercial landings are not permitted following a closure announcement. Weekly landings reports are available at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/spinydogfish.html>.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission manages dogfish in a slightly different way by setting its own quota and allocating that quota by state or region. Check with your state's fisheries agency to determine if there is a different season or closure than in Federal waters for the dogfish fishery.

What is the commercial possession limits?

The dogfish possession limit is 5,000 lb in Federal waters; however, individual states may set more restrictive possession limits.

Check with your state's fisheries agency. Only one landing per day is allowed.

What is the minimum fish size?

There is no minimum fish size for spiny dogfish

What are the gear requirements?

There are four regulated mesh areas (RMAs) that serve to determine which gear can be used in each of the following areas (Figure 1): Gulf of Maine (GOM); Georges Bank (GB); Southern New England (SNE); and Mid-Atlantic (MA). For coordinates defining these RMAs, see 50 CFR 648.80 or go to:

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/fishermen/charts/mul3.html>

Within these RMAs, if you are fishing with gillnet or trawl gear you must abide by the minimum mesh sizes required by the NE multispecies regulations in the Table 1.

If you have a limited access NE multispecies permit, and you are not fishing on a NE multispecies sector trip, must also comply with the NE multispecies Restricted Gear Areas (RGAs). For coordinates of the RGAs see the Closed Area Information Sheet at: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/reg/infodocs/multsclosedareas.pdf>

There are additional gear requirements for some of the exempted fishing areas which are detailed below for each specific area.

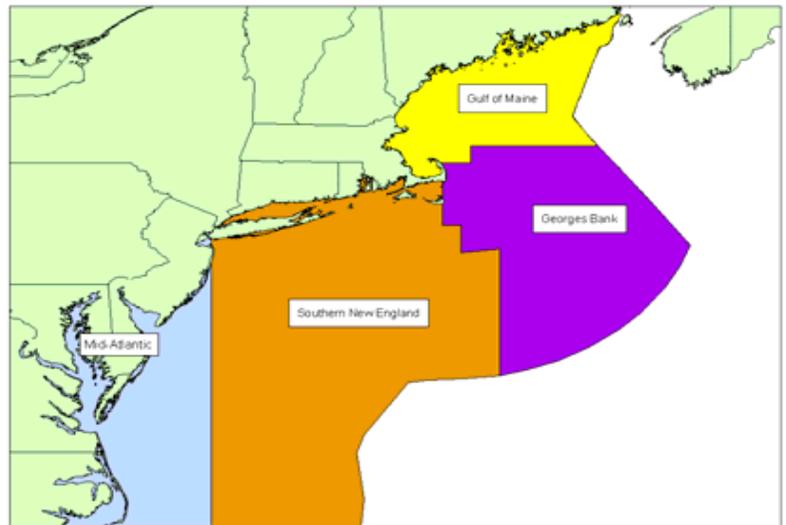


Figure1. Regulated Mesh Areas

Table 1. Regulated Mesh Area Requirements

Regulated Mesh Area	Trawl codend mesh size requirement	Gillnet mesh size requirements	Gillnet net size requirements
Gulf of Maine (GOM)	6.5-inch square or diamond	6.5 inches throughout the entire net	Nets may not be longer than 300 ft (91.4 m), or 50 fathoms (91.4 m) in length
Georges Bank (GB)			
Southern New England (SNE)			
Mid-Atlantic (MA)		6.5-inch square or diamond	

What are the gillnet requirements for protected species?

In addition to the gear requirements above, protected species requirements may also apply, depending on the season and area being fished. These additional requirements are to reduce incidental interactions between fishing gear and protected species, such as marine mammals and sea turtles. All vessels fishing with gillnets in Federal waters must comply with the applicable provisions of the:

1. Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan found in 50 CFR 229.32 and on the internet at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/Protected/whaletrp/>. Requirements include time-area closures (with limited exceptions) and gear modifications (e.g., weak links, anchoring requirements, sinking groundline, gear marking) from Maine through the east coast of Florida.
2. Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan found at 50 CFR 229.33 (Gulf of Maine) and 229.34 (Mid-Atlantic) and on the internet at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected/porptrp/>. Requirements include time-area closures and seasonal gear modifications (e.g., pingers in the Gulf of Maine and gear requirements in the Mid-Atlantic) from Maine through North Carolina.
3. Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan found in 50 CFR 229.35 and on the internet at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/trt/bdtrp.htm>. Requirements include time-area closures and gear restrictions (e.g., prohibited night sets, net tending, gear length requirements, etc.) from New Jersey through the east coast of Florida.
4. Gear Restrictions in the NC/VA Large Mesh Gillnet Fishery for the Protection of Sea Turtles found in 50 CFR 223.206 and on the internet at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/Protected/seaturtles/>. Requirements include seasonal time-area closures to large-mesh gillnet fishing (≥ 7 inches).

For more information, contact NMFS Greater Atlantic Region's Protected Species Division at (978) 281-9328.

What are the record keeping and reporting requirements?

The owner or operator of any vessel issued a Federal dogfish permit must maintain on board the vessel and submit an accurate Federal fishing vessel trip report (VTR) for all fishing trips (regardless of species retained). For vessels not issued a limited access NE multispecies permit, VTRs must be received by NMFS or postmarked within 15 days after the end of the reporting month. For NE multispecies limited access permit holders, VTRs must be submitted weekly and received by NMFS or postmarked by midnight of the Tuesday following the reporting week. Copies of VTRs must be retained on board the vessel for 1 year after the date of the last entry on the log. If no fishing activity took place during a fishing month, then a VTR must be submitted stating that no fishing trips were taken. Instructions for completing VTRs can be found at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ro/fso/vtr.htm>.

What are the exempted fishing areas?

Within the GOM and GB RMAs there are six exempted fishing areas that are summarized in Table 2. A Letter of Authorization (LOA) is required to participate in some of these exempted fishing areas. LOAs can be obtained from our Permits Office at (978) 281-9370 or at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/permits/>.

There are two exempted fishing areas in the SNE RMA and one exempted fishing area in the MA RMA that are summarized in Table 3.

If you are fishing for spiny dogfish in Federal waters, you must also comply with closed areas for other fisheries, including NE multispecies. However, if you are using gear that is defined as not capable of catching NE multispecies, you are exempt from those closed areas and can fish in them. The following is a list of gear defined as not capable of catching NE multispecies: Pelagic hook and line; pelagic longline; spears; rakes; diving gear; cast nets; tong; harpoons; weirs; dipnets; stop nets; pound nets; pelagic gillnets; pots and traps; shrimp trawls (with properly configured grates); and surfclam/ocean quahog dredges.

The NE multispecies Closed Area regulations can be found at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/multsclosedareas.pdf>. These include seasonal and year-round closures, Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) closures, and transiting/gear stowage requirements. More information regarding multispecies regulations is available on the NMFS Greater Atlantic Region website at: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies/index.html>.

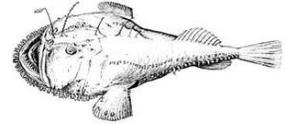
Table 2. Exemption Areas (EAs) in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank

Area Name	Gear Allowed	LOA Required
Nantucket Shoals Dogfish Fishery EA	Trawl, Gillnet	Yes
Cultivator Shoals Whiting Fishery EA	Trawl	Yes
Small Mesh Areas 1 & 2	Trawl	No
Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery Areas	Trawl	Yes
GOM/BG Dogfish Gillnet EA	Gillnet	No
Cape Cod Spiny Dogfish EAs	Gillnet, Longline, Handgear	No

Table 3. Exemption Areas (EAs) in Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic

Area Name	Gear Allowed	LOA Required
SNE EA (includes part of GB RMA)	Trawl	No
SNE Dogfish Gillnet EA	Gillnet	No
Mid-Atlantic EA (includes part of SNE RMA)	Trawl, Gillnet	No

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Sector Vessel Monkfish Fishery Summary of Regulations

Last updated June 2014

General Information

This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements; the regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR 648. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 for more information.

1. What is the minimum fish size?

The monkfish minimum size is 17 inches total length, or 11 inches tail length.

2. What are the landing limits while on a monkfish DAS?

Table 1. Summary of Monkfish Landing Limits

Permit Category →	A or C	B or D	A, C, or G	B, D, or H	F
Area	Northern Fisheries Management Area (NFMA)		Southern Fisheries Management Area (SFMA)		Offshore Fishery Program Area
Landing Limit¹ (tail weight per DAS²)	1,250 lb (3,638 lb whole weight)	600 lb (1,746 lb whole weight)	610 lb (1,776 lb whole weight)	500 lb (1,455 lb whole weight)	1,600 lb (4,656 lb whole weight)

3. How does the automatic DAS adjustment trip limit overage provision work?

A limited access monkfish vessel may land up to one additional day's worth of monkfish landing limits than would otherwise be authorized based on the vessel's actual monkfish DAS usage for that trip. In order to land the additional day's worth of monkfish, you must declare the extra fish via VMS by submitting the 'Monkfish Trip Limit Overage DAS Adjustment' form prior to crossing the demarcation line upon returning to port, or, for non-VMS vessels, via the IVR line 1 hour prior to landing. To account for the landing limit overage, your monkfish DAS charge will be rounded to the next 24-hr period plus 1 minute.

Example: If you have two monkfish landing limits worth of fish on board and you have declared into the DAS program for 15 hours you would be permitted to land two monkfish trip limits. Your DAS charge for the trip would be adjusted from 15 hours to 24 hours and 1 minute. Also, after using the DAS adjustment provision, you may go right back out, even if the additional time has not passed for which your previous trip was charged.

Table 2. Incidental Landing Limits while on a NE Multispecies DAS, but not on a Monkfish DAS

Permit Category	NFMA			SFMA	
	C	D	E, F, or H	E or H	C, D, or F
Gear	All gear			Non-trawl	Trawl
Landing Limit¹ (tail weight per DAS²)	600 lb (1,746 lb whole weight)	500 lb (1,455 lb whole weight)	Up to 25% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight ²) of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 300 lb (873 lb whole weight/DAS)	50 lb (146 lb whole weight)	300 lb (873 lb whole weight)

If you are under a NE multispecies DAS, you may have additional possession restrictions based on the fishery in which you are participating (e.g., Regular B-DAS Program, Closed Area I Hook-Gear Haddock Special Access Program, or the U.S./Canada Management Areas). Please visit

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/sectoruscanadaandsaps.pdf> for more information on these areas.

Table 3. Incidental Landing Limits while on a Scallop DAS or in the Sea Scallop Access Area Program

	Sea Scallop Access Area DAS Program ³	Scallop DAS Program
Area	NFMA & SFMA	
Gear	All gear	
Landing Limit¹ (tail weight per DAS²)	300 lb (873 lb whole weight)	

Table 4. Incidental Monkfish Landing Limits for Vessels not under a DAS Program

DAS Program	Area	Gear	Landing Limit ¹ (per trip unless stated otherwise)
No DAS	Gulf of Maine (GOM) or Georges Bank (GB) Regulated Mesh Areas (RMAs)	Minimum mesh size or larger. See question 17.	Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight ²) of the total weight of fish on board.
	Southern New England RMA east of the Mid-Atlantic Exemption Area boundary at 72° 30' W longitude		Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight ²) of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 50 lb (146 lb whole weight) per day ⁵ , up to 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.
	SNE RMA west of the Mid-Atlantic Exemption Area boundary or Mid-Atlantic RMA.		Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight ²) of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 450 lb (1,310 lb whole weight) per trip.
	NFMA or SFMA	Mesh smaller than minimum. See question 17. Rod and reel or handlines only	50 lb (146 lb whole weight) per day ⁵ , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.
No DAS and fishing under a skate bait Letter of Authorization	SNE RMA	Minimum mesh size or larger. See question 17.	Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight ²) of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 50 lb (146 lb whole weight) per day ⁵ , up to 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.

Table 5. Incidental Monkfish Landing Limits for Vessels not under a DAS Program that also hold permits in other fisheries

Additional Permit	Area	Gear	Landing Limit ¹ (per trip unless stated otherwise)
And a NE Multispecies Small Vessel Permit ⁶	NFMA or SFMA	All gear	50 lb (146 lb whole weight) per day ⁵ , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.
And a surfclam or ocean quahog permit		Hydraulic clam dredge or mahogany quahog dredge	
And a sea scallop permit		Scallop dredge only (except scallop dredge exemption areas) ⁷	If in a scallop dredge exemption area, 50 lb (146 lb whole weight) per trip. Otherwise, 50 lb per day ⁵ , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.

¹ Vessels may also land monkfish heads separate from tails, provided the total head weight does not exceed 1.91 times the total weight of tails onboard.

² Or any prorated combination of tail weight and whole weight is based on the conversion factor for tail weight to whole weight of 2.91 (tail weight x 2.91 = whole weight; or whole weight/2.91 = tail weight). NOTE: A vessel may possess or land monkfish livers up to 25% of the tail weight of monkfish, or up to 10% of the whole weight of monkfish, per trip. If a vessel possesses or lands both monkfish tails and whole monkfish, the vessel may land up to 10% of the whole weight of monkfish per trip using the following weight ratio: $(0.10) \times [(\text{tail weight} \times 2.91) + (\text{whole fish} \times 1)]$.

³ For vessels with limited access sea scallop permits fishing in an established Sea Scallop Access Area, the monkfish possession limit is per day fished inside the access area (as determined by VMS), not including steaming time.

⁴ A day is the 24-hour period that begins when the vessel leaves port or, if the vessel has an operational VMS, when the vessel crosses the VMS demarcation line when leaving port and ends when the vessel returns to port or, if the vessel has an operational VMS, crosses the VMS demarcation line on its return to port.

⁵ These vessels are exempt from a NE multispecies DAS provided they meet the vessel size requirements applicable to the limited access NE multispecies small vessel permit category (vessels < 30 ft in length).

⁶ In order to possess monkfish in the scallop dredge exemption areas, small dredges must be used (combined width not to exceed 10.5 ft).

⁷ Tail weight is converted to whole weight by multiplying by 2.91

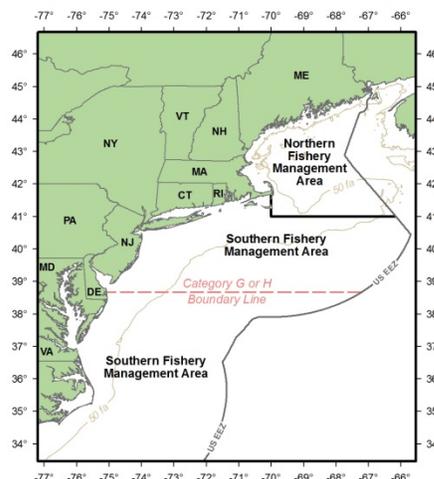
Northern & Southern Area Requirements

4. Are regulations different in different areas?

Yes. There are two management areas in the monkfish fishery: the Northern (NFMA) and Southern (SFMA) area. The boundary between the NFMA and the SFMA runs south along the 70° W longitude line from the south-facing shoreline of Cape Cod, MA, to 41° N latitude, then eastward to the U.S./Canada maritime boundary (see map at right). For commercial vessels, these management areas have different possession limits and regulatory requirements.

5. What are the different requirements for the NFMA?

Because the regulations for the SFMA are more restrictive (lower possession limits) than the NFMA, a federally permitted monkfish vessel fishing exclusively in the NFMA must obtain a monkfish exemption certificate from us. This certificate is issued for a minimum of 7 days and may be obtained by calling our Permit Office at (978) 281-9370. The vessel must also make the proper trip declaration through the interactive voice response (IVR) call-in system. If a vessel has not obtained the exemption certificate and makes a trip declaration through the IVR, it is presumed to have fished in the SFMA, and will be held to the more restrictive requirements of the SFMA. This does not apply to vessels using a vessel monitoring system (VMS) unit. Such vessels must instead declare the area to be fished using VMS.



6. But what if I am fishing only in the NFMA and need to transit through the SFMA?

If you have made the required declarations into the NFMA (exemption certificate and IVR, or through VMS), you may transit the SFMA, provided you do not harvest or possess monkfish or any other fish from the SFMA, and your fishing gear is properly stowed and not available for immediate use.

NE Multispecies and Monkfish Interactions

7. What if I exceed the incidental monkfish possession limit?

If you are fishing in the NFMA under a NE multispecies A DAS and also declared the "monkfish option" on your VMS before leaving port, then you can change your NE multispecies A DAS declaration to a monkfish DAS declaration before crossing the demarcation line on your return to port and retain monkfish in excess of the incidental landing limit. If you are fishing in the SFMA, fishing on a sector trip (i.e., not on a NE multispecies A DAS), or have not declared the "monkfish option" prior to leaving port, you cannot retain monkfish in excess of the incidental possession limit. For assistance, call our Office of Law Enforcement VMS team at (978) 281-9149 with your VMS codes.

8. What is the charging rate for monkfish DAS?

Trips using trawl gear are charged actual-time. All monkfish DAS trips using gillnet gear under 15 hours will be rounded up to 15 hours. For example, if you take a trip using gillnet gear that lasts 10 hours, you will be charged 15 hours. Trips over 15 hours will be charged actual-time.

9. What if I also have a NE multispecies DAS permit?

The monkfish DAS and NE multispecies DAS interactions are very complicated and are summarized below. Please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions.

- If your initial allocation of NE multispecies DAS is less than your monkfish DAS allocation, you will receive an allocation of monkfish-only DAS equal to the difference. These monkfish-only DAS are treated separately and can be used at any time during the fishing year in an exempted fishery. If you have monkfish-only DAS, you may choose to lease in NE multispecies Category A DAS, but these leased DAS will then be tied to the monkfish-only DAS and will no longer be considered monkfish-only DAS. Please see the Large Mesh Fishery Exemptions Information Sheet for more information. A copy of this information sheet is available by calling us or online at http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/large_mesh_exemption.pdf.
- If you also hold a limited access scallop permit, you must use a scallop DAS whenever you use a monkfish DAS.
- If you lease out NE multispecies Category A DAS, you must forfeit a monkfish DAS for each NE multispecies DAS leased to another vessel, equal to the difference between the number of remaining NE multispecies DAS and the number of unused monkfish DAS.

10. What if I am in a NE multispecies sector?

- You are exempt from the requirement to use a NE multispecies DAS to land allocated groundfish stocks. However, you must still use a NE multispecies Category A DAS when using a monkfish DAS, unless fishing on a monkfish-only DAS. Your NE multispecies DAS will be charged actual time based on the time fishing, regardless of your monkfish DAS charge.
- Catch (landings and discards) of allocated NE multispecies stocks while on a NE multispecies Category A DAS and monkfish DAS (i.e., not in an exempted fishery) will count against your sector's ACEs. This means that your sector must have ACE available for all stocks in the area you're fishing your monkfish DAS.
- If you are fishing on a monkfish DAS (i.e., but not in an exempted fishery), you are required to participate in the at-sea monitoring program, because all catch of allocated groundfish stocks on that trip (including discards) counts against your sector's ACE.
- If you are fishing only in the NFMA, you can still change your declaration from a NE multispecies Category A DAS, or sector trip declaration that does not charge a DAS, to the corresponding monkfish DAS declaration during the course of the trip.

11. What is the DAS allocation for 2015?

45.2 DAS for limited access vessels. Of these, only 32 can be used in the SFMA, not including any carry-over DAS.

12. Can I carry over unused monkfish DAS from last year?

You may carry-over up to 4 unused monkfish DAS from the previous year. You can use carry-over DAS in either area. However, you cannot carry over DAS that are not usable because they are tied to a NE multispecies DAS.

For Example, if you have 31 unused monkfish DAS and have a NE multispecies allocation of 35 DAS and you leased out 10 of your NE multispecies DAS to another vessel, you would forfeit 6 of your monkfish DAS (10- (35 NE multispecies DAS – 31 monkfish DAS) = 6). If you then fished the remainder of your NE multispecies DAS and used all of your monkfish DAS except 6, you could not carry over your 6 remaining monkfish DAS into the next fishing year.

Reporting & Monitoring

13. What are the at-sea monitoring requirements?

If you are fishing on a monkfish DAS (but not in an exempted fishery), you are required to participate in the at-sea monitoring program, because all catch of allocated groundfish stocks on that trip, including discards, counts against your sector's ACE.

Gear Information

14. Can I use dredge gear on a monkfish DAS?

No. You cannot have a dredge onboard while on a monkfish DAS.

15. What are the trawl gear requirements while on a monkfish DAS?

- The minimum mesh size is 10-inch square or 12-inch diamond mesh throughout the codend for at least 45 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net. The minimum mesh size for the remainder of the trawl net is the regulated mesh size specified by the regulated mesh area being fished.

Exception: If you have a Category C, D, or H permit and are fishing with trawl gear under both a monkfish and NE multispecies DAS, you are subject to the minimum mesh size determined by the NE multispecies fishery based on area fished.

- The maximum roller size in the SFMA is 6-inch diameter.

Gillnet restrictions	
Category A or B permit	You may not fish with, haul, possess, or set more than 160 gillnets at any time.
Category C, D, F, or H permit and a limited access NE multispecies permit	You may not fish with, haul, possess, or set more than 150 gillnets at any time.

16. What are the gillnet requirements while fishing on a monkfish DAS?

- The minimum mesh size is 10-inch diamond mesh, even when also fishing on a NE multispecies DAS.

Exception: If you have a Category C, D, or H permit and a NE multispecies permit, and you are fishing in the NFMA and switch from a NE multispecies VMS declaration to a monkfish VMS declaration by using the "monkfish option" on your VMS unit, you may continue to use gillnet gear with less than 10-inch diamond mesh for that specific trip. However, you must go by the more restrictive mesh sizes as outlined in the NE multispecies regulations.

- If you have a Category A or B permit you may not fish with, haul, possess, or set more than 160 gillnets at any time.
- If you have a Category C,D,F, or H permit and a limited access NE multispecies permit you may not fish with, haul, possess, or set more than 150 gillnets

Note: If you are also fishing on a NE multispecies DAS you must go by the more restrictive net limits of the NE multispecies regulated mesh areas.

- Gillnets must be tagged with one tag per net, and cannot be longer than 300 ft.

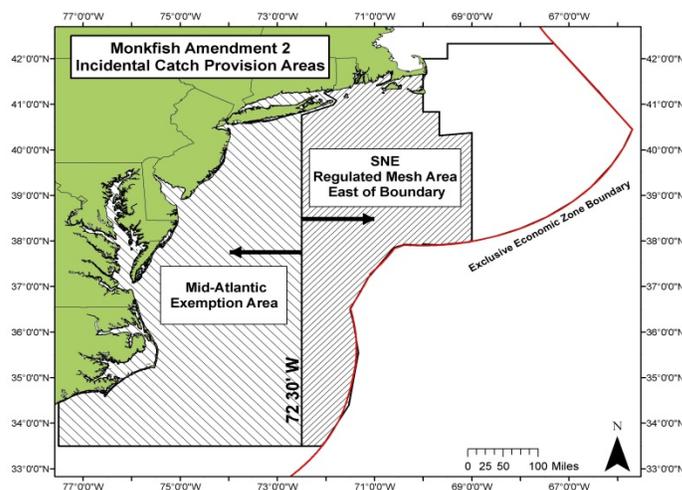
17. What about other gillnet gear requirements such as markings, pinger, and marine mammal requirements?

Gillnet and trap/pot fisheries also have protected resources requirements to protect marine mammals and other protected species. Please contact the Protected Resources Division at 978-281-9328 for more information.

18. What are the different landing limits and mesh sizes associated with the Southern New England (SNE) and Mid-Atlantic (MA) Exemption Areas?

If you are using trawl gear, you need to be aware that your monkfish incidental landing limits depend upon whether you are fishing on either the east side or the west side of the NE multispecies MA exemption areas boundary. The chart to the right depicts this area.

Your monkfish incidental landing limit is based upon the mesh size of the smallest mesh you used during the trip. For example, if you are fishing for squid using a 1-7/8-inch diamond mesh and for summer flounder using a 5.5-inch diamond mesh on the same trip west of the 72° 30' W boundary line, you are subject to the more restrictive landing limit of 50 lb tail weight per day, up to 150 lb tail weight per trip.



Minimum mesh size is defined by the summer flounder regulations when fishing west of the MA Exemption Area boundary, but is defined by the NE multispecies regulations when fishing east of this boundary, in the SNE Regulated Mesh Area. See table on the following page.

Table 6. Monkfish Landing Limits and Mesh Sizes Associated with the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Exemption Areas

Side of MA Exemption Area boundary →	West		East	
Smallest mesh fished during the trip	5.5-inch diamond/6-inch square, or larger, in body, extensions, and cod end	Smaller than 5.5-inch diamond/ 6-inch square in body, extensions, and cod end	Smaller than 6-inch diamond/ 6.5-inch square in the body and extensions and 6.5-inch square or diamond in the cod end	6-inch diamond/ 6.5 inch square in the body and extensions and 6.5-inch square or diamond in the cod end, or larger.
Landing Limit¹ (per trip unless stated otherwise)	5% of total weight of fish aboard, up to 450 lb per trip	50 lb per day ⁴ , up to 150 lb per trip		In SNE RMA: 5% of total weight of fish aboard, not to exceed 50 lb per day ⁴ , up to 150 lb per trip.

Closed Areas

19. What are the commercial closed areas?

There are also two closed areas affecting commercial monkfish vessels. See coordinates below. Vessels fishing on a monkfish DAS are prohibited from fishing in these areas regardless of gear used. These areas are not closed to recreational anglers or vessels with a monkfish permit that are not fishing on a monkfish DAS.

A number of other NE multispecies closure areas may also apply to you, depending upon your fishing activity. A copy of the NE multispecies closed areas information sheet is available by calling us, or online at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/multsclosedareas.pdf>.

Lydonia Canyon Closed Area		
Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
(1) LC1	40°16'	67°34'
(2) LC2	40°16'	67°42'
(3) LC3	40°20'	67°43'
(4) LC4	40°27'	67°40'
(5) LC5	40° 27'	67°38'
(6) LC1	40°16'	67°34'

Oceanographer Canyon Closed Area		
Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
(1) OC1	40°10'	68°12'
(2) OC2	40°24'	68°09'
(3) OC3	40°24'	68°08'
(4) OC4	40°10'	67°59'
(5) OC1	40°10'	68°12'



NOAA FISHERIES

Fish Online Login Instructions

Anyone holding a federal fishing permit is able to access vessel data via the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office's web portal, 'Fish-On-Line'. With 'Fish-On-Line', it is possible to track landings information such as information reported to NMFS by seafood dealers and quickly address any missing information or inaccuracies in the data submitted. Only permit holders or their representatives will be able to access vessel landings information.

To login to the system you will need both your 6-digit federal vessel permit number and your 5-digit personal identification number (PIN). Please keep your confidential vessel PIN safe and do not share it with anyone else. If you lose your confidential vessel PIN or cannot access Fish-On-Line please contact NMFS at (978) 281-9133 or by email at fso.data.requests@noaa.gov.

To login, type the following secure URL into your internet browser:

<https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/apps/login/login>

After entering your permit number and PIN, click the 'Login' button.

Once you have successfully logged into the system, you will see a list of the reports available to you on the left side of the page.

Opening a Report

You may view a report in your web browser by clicking on 'Reports' in the menu on the left side of the page, then selecting the report you would like to view.

Saving a Report

Reports which are available to download are on the 'Downloadable Reports' page.

To save your report, click on either the Excel or CSV format box of the report you would like to save. When the popup box appears prompting you to 'Open' or 'Save', click 'Save' and you will be able to choose where on your computer you wish to save the report. You will also be able to rename the report.

Filing an Electronic Did-Not-Fish Report

To submit Did-Not-Fish reports electronically, click the 'VTR Did Not Fish Reporting' option on the upper right side of the Fish-On-Line homepage. You will be brought to a page with an electronic copy of a paper Fishing Vessel Trip Report form. Click the blue 'DID NOT FISH (click here)' box at the top left of the page. A grid showing either reporting weeks or reporting months (depending on the types of permits you hold) will appear. If the grid shows reporting weeks, it means that you hold at least one permit requiring weekly reporting. Otherwise you can continue to report monthly.

Weeks or months available for reporting appear in blue and are clickable. Weeks or months for which you've already submitted a report or for which no report is required are grayed out and not clickable.

Click the week or month for which you would like to submit a Did-Not-Fish report. A small 'Submit VTR' button will appear above the reporting grid. Click the button and an electronic copy of your Fishing Vessel Trip Report will appear. Your vessel name, USCG Documentation Number and Federal permit number will be filled in automatically. A Trip ID number will also appear. You have successfully submitted an electronic Did-Not-Fish report! This is your official copy. Please print for your records.

Unavailable Reports

There may be times when a report is unavailable. This may occur for several reasons. One such reason would be there is no data available for a specific report or permit. There may also be times when the system is updating and all reports are unavailable. In this case, your data should be available again when the system has completed updating.

Application Time Out

Another security feature you may want to be aware of is the application time out feature. After 15 minutes of inactivity you will automatically be logged out of the system and you will need to login again. This is to prevent unauthorized access of your reports should you walk away from your computer. You may log back into the system by selecting the link 'Click to Login Again'.

It is recommended that when you have completed viewing your reports that you logout of the system by selecting the 'Log out' link at the top of the Fish-On-Line home page. This can also help prevent unauthorized access to your data.

Account Locked

You will be allowed 3 attempts to login. If after the 3rd attempt you are not able to successfully login your account will be locked in order to prevent unauthorized access to your account.

If your account is locked, contact NMFS at (978) 281-9209 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, or by e-mail at fso.data.requests@noaa.gov.

Reporting Requirement Notes

May 2015

How to Report Set-Only Fixed Gear Trips

For set-only fixed gear trips, your **Vessel Trip Report (VTR) serial number** must be entered into your vessel monitoring system (VMS) catch report. The use of your VTR serial number will link VTRs to the VMS catch report for each trip.

Vessels must submit a VTR for all trips, including trips only setting gear, trips ended because of a mechanical breakdown, and trips transiting with fish on board from one offload port to another offload port. It is important that we get VTRs from all trips, including set-only trips and trips ended early, so that we can accurately monitor catch and vessel activity.

Sector Weekly Reporting

The deadline for submission of the weekly sector catch report has been changed from 2359 hr on Thursday to **0700 hr of the second Monday following the reporting week**. Fishing weeks begin on Sunday and end on Saturday. The weekly sector catch report is now due 8 days after the end of the fishing week.

These reporting requirements are effective immediately. For more information, contact Mark Grant at Mark.Grant@noaa.gov or 978-281-9145.

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NOAA FISHERIES

Sector Closed Area Regulations

This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements for Northeast Multispecies Sector Vessels; the regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR 648.81. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 for more information.

Transiting Regulations

Transiting means traveling from a point outside the closed area to another open area, or to port, or from port to an area outside the closed area. A vessel may transit Closed Area (CA) I, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (NLCA), the Cashes Ledge Closed Area, the Western GOM Closed Area, the GOM Cod Protection Closures, the GB Seasonal Closure Area, the EFH Closure Areas, and the GOM Whaleback Cod Spawning Protection Area, provided that its gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations.

A vessel may transit CA II for valid and compelling safety reasons or when lawfully fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area, provided fishing gear is stored in accordance with the regulations.

A vessel may not enter or be in a closed area, even if its gear is stowed, in order to wait for the area to open for purposes of fishing. The groundfish regulations allow a vessel to transit a closed area with its gear stowed provided it does not engage in fishing activities in the area. Transiting means traveling from a point outside the closed area to another open area, or to port, or from port to an area outside the closed area. Transiting does not include a vessel being in the closed area waiting for the area to open, even if its gear is stowed, because such activity is considered to be fishing.

Gear Stowage Requirements

Fishing gear must be stowed and not available for use when:

- Transiting a closed area;
- Transiting from port to a scallop access area, or from a scallop access area to port;
- Transiting an area with mesh size restrictions; or
- When in possession of species that require use of a larger mesh size than the stowed gear.

Trawl Gear

Below deck storage

- The net is stored below the main working deck from which the net is deployed and retrieved; and
- The net is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference

On deck storage

- The net is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference;
- The net securely fastened to the deck or rail of the vessel; and
- The towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net.

On-reel stowage for transiting seasonal closure areas:

- The net is secured and the entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material or highly visible orange or yellow mesh material that is securely bound; and
- No containment rope, codend tripping device, or other mechanism to close off the codend is attached to the codend.

On-reel stowage for transiting the permanent closure areas:

- The net is secured and the entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material or highly visible orange or yellow mesh material that is securely bound; and
- The codend is removed and stored below deck.

Hook Gear

- All anchors and buoys are secured and all hook gear, including jigging machines, is covered.

Sink Gillnet Gear

- All nets are covered with canvas or other similar material and lashed or otherwise securely fastened to the deck or rail, and all buoys larger than 6 inches in diameter, high flyers, and anchors are disconnected.

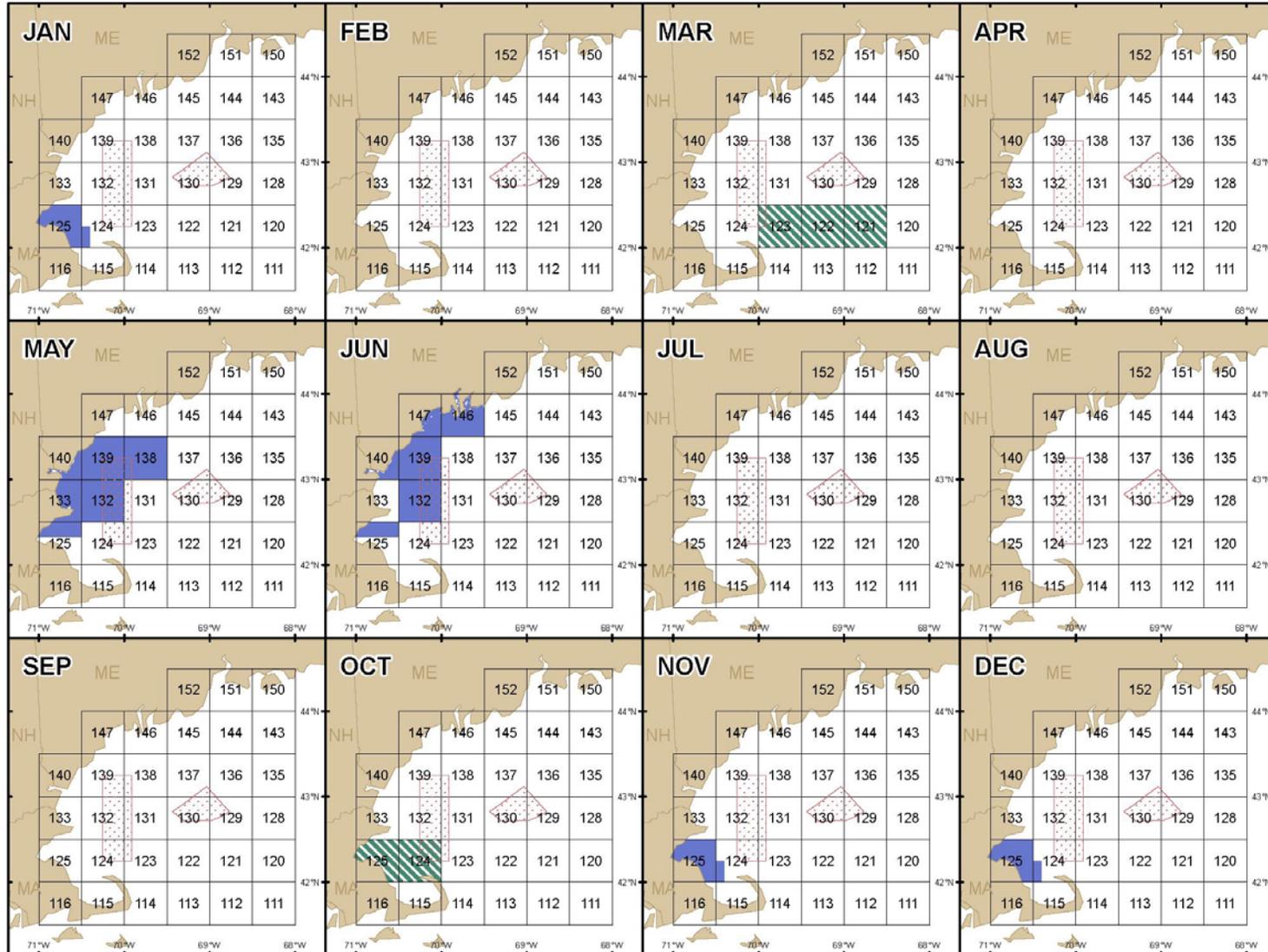
GOM COD Protection Closures

The GOM Cod Protection Closures depicted below are closed to all fishing vessels with the following exemptions: Vessels that do not have a Federal NE multispecies permit and are fishing exclusively in state waters; charter and party vessels*; recreational vessels; vessels fishing with exempted gears (spears, rakes, diving gear, cast nets, tongs, harpoons, weirs, dip nets, stop nets, pound nets, pots and traps, purse seines, surf clam/quahog dredge gear, pelagic hook and line, pelagic longlines, single pelagic gillnets, shrimp trawls (with properly configured grates)); vessels participating in the mid-water trawl exempted fishery; vessels using sea scallop dredge gear when under a scallop day-at-sea (DAS), or vessels lawfully in a scallop dredge exemption area; and vessels participating in the Raised Footrope Trawl Exempted Whiting Fishery.

*Charter and party vessels may fish in the GOM Cod Protection Closures provided they have a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the Regional Administrator to enter or fish in these areas (additional requirements also apply). An LOA may be obtained by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9370.

GOM Cod Protection Closures

- 30 Minute Square
- Common Pool and Sectors Closure
- Groundfish Closure
- Common Pool Closure (DAS, HB, & Small Vessel only)



Sector and Common Pool Closures

GOM Cod Protection Closure I

[May 1 – May 31]

Point	N. latitude	W. longitude
CPCI 1	43°30'N	(¹)
CPCI 2	43°30'N	69°30'W
CPCI 3	43°00'N	69°30'W
CPCI 4	43°00'N	70°00'W
CPCI 5	42°30'N	70°00'W
CPCI 6	42°30'N	70°30'W
CPCI 7	42°20'N	70°30'W
CPCI 8	42°20'N	(²) (³)
CPCI 1	43°30'N	(¹) (³)

¹ The intersection of 43°30'N latitude and the coastline of Maine

² The intersection of 42°20'N latitude and the coastline of Massachusetts

³ From Point 8 back to Point 1 following the coastline of the United States

GOM Cod Protection Closure II

[June 1 – June 30]

Point	N. latitude	W. longitude
CPCII 1	(¹)	69°30'W
CPCII 2	43°30'N	69°30'W
CPCII 3	43°30'N	70°00'W
CPCII 4	42°30'N	70°00'W
CPCII 5	42°30'N	70°30'W
CPCII 6	42°20'N	70°30'W
CPCII 7	42°20'N	(²) (³)
CPCII 8	42°30'N	(⁴) (³)
CPCII 9	42°30'N	70°30'W
CPCII 10	43°00'N	70°30'W
CPCII 11	43°00'N	(⁵) (⁶)
CPCII 1	(¹)	69°30'W (⁶)

¹ The intersection of 69°30'W longitude and the coastline of Maine

² The intersection of 42°20'N latitude and the coastline of Massachusetts

³ From Point 7 to Point 8 following the coastline of Massachusetts

⁴ The intersection of 42°30'N latitude and the coastline of Massachusetts

⁵ The intersection of 43°00'N latitude and the coastline of New Hampshire

⁶ From Point 11 back to Point 1 following the coastlines of New Hampshire and Maine

GOM Cod Protection Closure III

[November 1 – January 31]

Point	N. latitude	W. longitude
CPCIII 1	42°30'N	(¹)
CPC III 2	42°30'N	70°30'W
CPC III 3	42°15'N	70°30'W
CPC III 4	42°15'N	70°24'W
CPC III 5	42°00'N	70°24'W
CPC III 6	42°00'N	(²) (³)
CPC III 1	42°30'N	(¹) (³)

¹ The intersection of 42°30'W longitude and the Massachusetts coastline

² The intersection of 42°00'N latitude and the mainland Massachusetts coastline at Kingston, MA

³ From Point 6 back to Point 1 following the coastline of Massachusetts

Common Pool Closures

(includes DAS, HB, and Small Vessel Category Vessels, Excludes Sector Vessels)

GOM Cod Protection Closure IV

[October 1 – October 31]

Point	N. latitude	W. longitude
CPCIV 1	42°30'N	(¹)
CPCIV 2	42°30'N	70°00'W
CPCIV 3	42°00'N	70°00'W
CPCIV 4	42°00'N	(²) (³)
CPCIV 1	42°30'N	(¹) (³)

¹ The intersection of 42°30'W latitude and the Massachusetts coastline

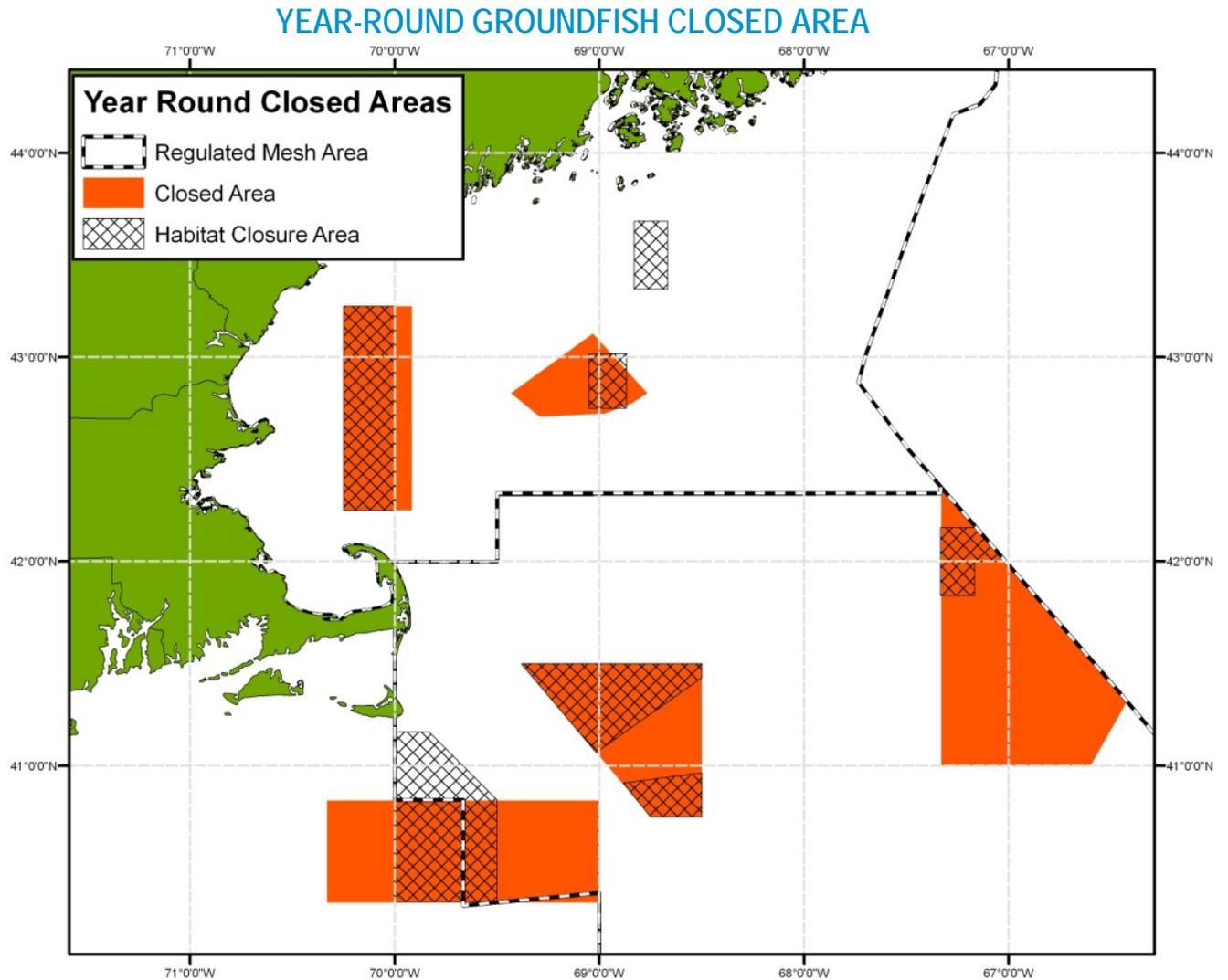
² The intersection of 42°00'N latitude and the mainland Massachusetts coastline at Kingston, MA

³ From Point 4 back to Point 1 following the coastline of Massachusetts

GOM Cod Protection Closure V

[March 1 – March 31]

Point	N. latitude	W. longitude
CPCV 1	42°30'N	70°00'W
CPCV 2	42°30'N	68°30'W
CPCV 3	42°00'N	68°30'W
CPCV 4	42°00'N	70°00'W
CPCV 1	42°30'N	70°00'W



Western Gulf of Maine and Cashes Ledge

The Western GOM and Cashes Ledge Closure Areas depicted above are closed year-round to all fishing vessels, with the following exemptions: Charter and party* or recreational vessels; vessels fishing with exempted gears (spears, rakes, diving gear, cast nets, tongs, harpoons, weirs, dip nets, stop nets, pound nets, pots and traps, purse seines, surf clam/ quahog dredge gear, pelagic hook and line, pelagic longlines, single pelagic gillnets, and shrimp trawls (with properly configured grates)); and vessels participating in the mid-water trawl exempted fishery.

*Charter and party vessels may fish in the Western GOM and Cashes Ledge Closure Areas provided they have a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the Regional Administrator to enter or fish in these areas (additional requirements also apply). An LOA may be obtained by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9370.

The Western GOM Closure Area and the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, respectively, are defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Western GOM Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
WGM1	42° 15'	70° 15'
WGM2	42° 15'	69° 55'
WGM3	43° 15'	69° 55'
WGM4	43° 15'	70° 15'
WGM1	42° 15'	70° 15'

Cashes Ledge Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CL1	43° 07'	69° 02'
CL2	42° 49.5'	68° 46'
CL3	42° 46.5'	68° 50.5'
CL4	42° 43.5'	68° 58.5'
CL5	42° 42.5'	69° 17.5'
CL6	42° 49.5'	69° 26'
CL1	43° 07'	69° 02'

Closed Area I, II, and Nantucket Lightship Closed Area

The following applies to the CA I, CA II, and the NLCA. Unless further restricted under the EFH Closure areas, these areas are closed year-round to all fishing vessels, with the following exceptions: Vessels fishing with or using pot gear designed to take lobsters or hagfish, pelagic hook and line gear, pelagic longline gear, harpoon gear, tuna purse seine, pelagic mid-water trawl gear*, and tuna purse seine gear, provided no regulated species are kept and no other gear capable of catching NE multispecies is on board. Additional area exemptions are identified below under the respective closures.

*Vessels using mid-water trawl gear must have on board a LOA issued by the Regional Administrator. Mid-water trawl vessels are issued a LOA for a minimum of 7 days. The vessel can be issued LOAs for the midwater trawl exempted fishery and the purse seine exempted fishery at the same time. An LOA may be obtained by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9370.

CA I – In addition to the exemptions summarized in the first paragraph of this section the following vessels are also exempt from CA I: Vessels participating in a NE multispecies Special Access Program (SAP) and vessels fishing for scallops in the CA I Access Area. CA I is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA I		
Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CI1	41° 30'	69° 23'
CI2	40° 45'	68° 45'
CI3	40° 45'	68° 30'
CI4	41° 30'	68° 30'
CI1	41° 30'	69° 23'

CA II – In addition to the exemptions summarized in the first paragraph of this section the following vessels are also exempt from CA II: Vessels fishing in a groundfish special access program (SAP) or scallop access program in compliance with the regulations. CA II is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CII1	41° 00'	67° 20'
CII2	41° 00'	66° 35.8' *
G5	41° 18.6'	66° 24.8' *
CII3	42° 22'	67° 20'
CII1	41° 00'	67° 20'

*The U.S.-Canada maritime boundary

NLCA – In addition to the exemptions summarized in the first paragraph of this section the following vessels are also exempt from the NLCA: Scallop vessels fishing in the Nantucket Lightship Access Area, vessels fishing with surfclam or ocean quahog dredge gear, and charter/party or recreational vessels. Charter and party vessels may fish in the NLCA provided they have an LOA from the Regional Administrator to enter or fish in the area (additional requirements also apply). An LOA may be obtained by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9370.

Nantucket Lightship Closed Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
G10	40° 50'	69° 00'
CN1	40° 20'	69° 00'
CN2	40° 20'	70° 20'
CN3	40° 50'	70° 20'
G10	40° 50'	69° 00'

Year-Round Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Closures Areas

EFH Closure Areas (see chart below) are closed year-round to all bottom-tending mobile gears. Bottom-tending mobile gear is defined as the following: Gear in contact with the ocean bottom, and towed from a vessel, which is moved through the water during fishing in order to capture fish, and includes otter trawls, beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, and seines (with the exception of a purse seine).

The Western GOM Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Western GOM Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
WGM4	43° 15'	70° 15'
WGM1	42° 15'	70° 15'
WGM5	42° 15'	70° 00'
WGM6	43° 15'	70° 00'
WGM4	43° 15'	70° 15'

The Cashes Ledge Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Cashes Ledge Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CLH1	43° 01'	69° 03'
CLH2	43° 01'	68° 52'
CLH3	42° 45'	68° 52'
CLH4	42° 45'	69° 03'
CLH1	43° 01'	69° 03'

The Jeffrey's Bank Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Jeffrey's Bank Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
JB1	43° 40'	68° 50'
JB2	43° 40'	68° 40'
JB3	43° 20'	68° 40'
JB4	43° 20'	68° 50'
JB1	43° 40'	68° 50'

The CA I North Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA I North Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CI1	41° 30'	69° 23'
CI4	41° 30'	68° 30'
CIH1	41° 26'	68° 30'
CIH2	41° 04'	69° 01'
CI1	41° 30'	69° 23'

The CA I South Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA I South Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CIH3	40° 55'	68° 53'
CIH4	40° 58'	68° 30'
CI3	40° 45'	68° 30'
CI2	40° 45'	68° 45'
CIH3	40° 55'	68° 53'

The CA II Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA II Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CIH1	42° 10'	67° 20'
CIH2	42° 10'	67° 9.3'
CIH3	42° 00'	67° 0.5'
CIH4	42° 00'	67° 10'
CIH5	41° 50'	67° 10'
CIH6	41° 50'	67° 20'
CIH1	42° 10'	67° 20'

The Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
NLH1	41° 10'	70° 00'
NLH2	41° 10'	69° 50'
NLH3	40° 50'	69° 30'
NLH4	40° 20'	69° 30'
NLH5	40° 20'	70° 00'
NLH1	41° 10'	70° 00'

RESTRICTED GEAR AREAS (RGAs)

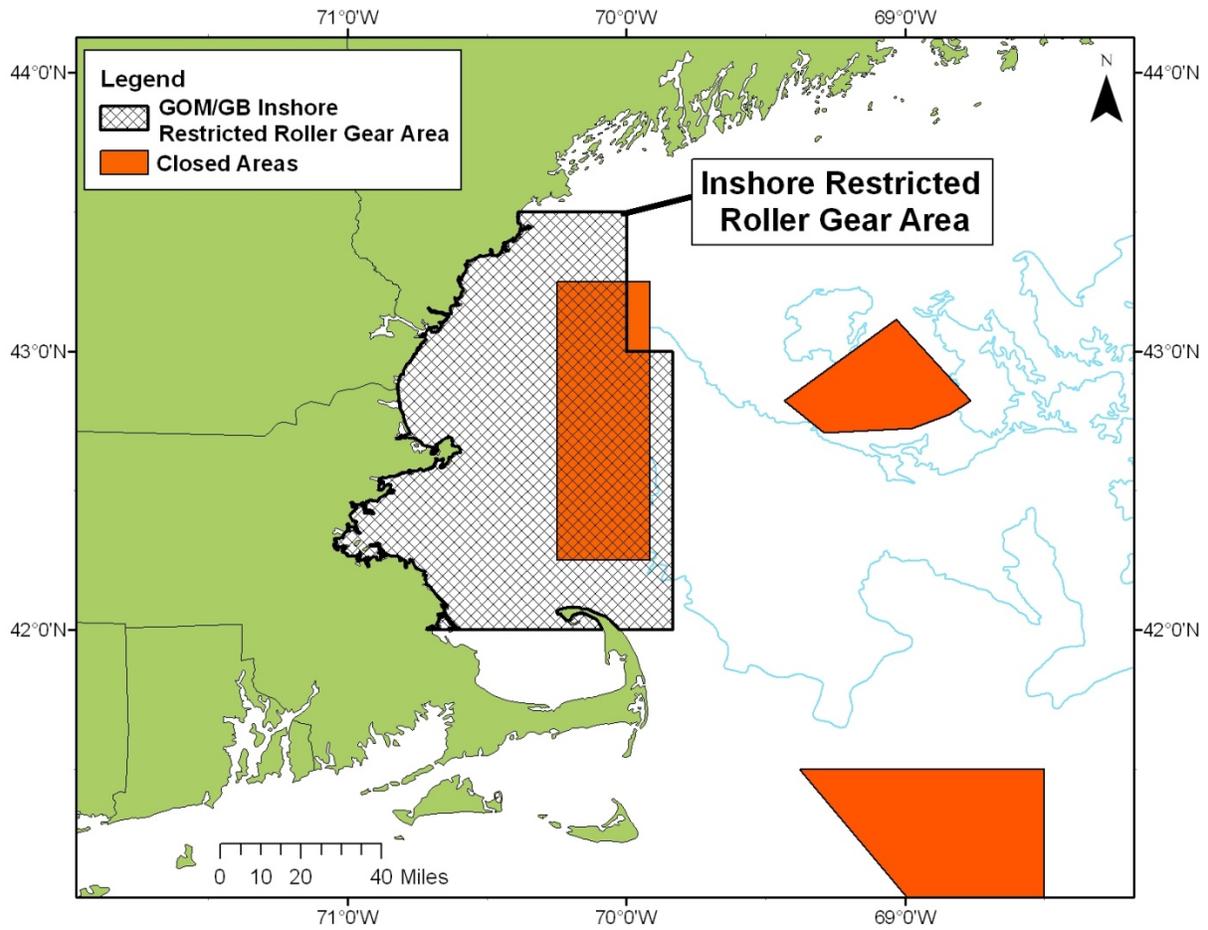
INSHORE RESTRICTED ROLLER GEAR AREA

For all trawl vessels fishing in the GOM/GB Inshore Restricted Roller Gear Area, the maximum diameter of any part of the trawl footrope, including discs, rollers or rockhoppers, may not exceed 12 inches. The area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Inshore Restricted Roller Gear Area

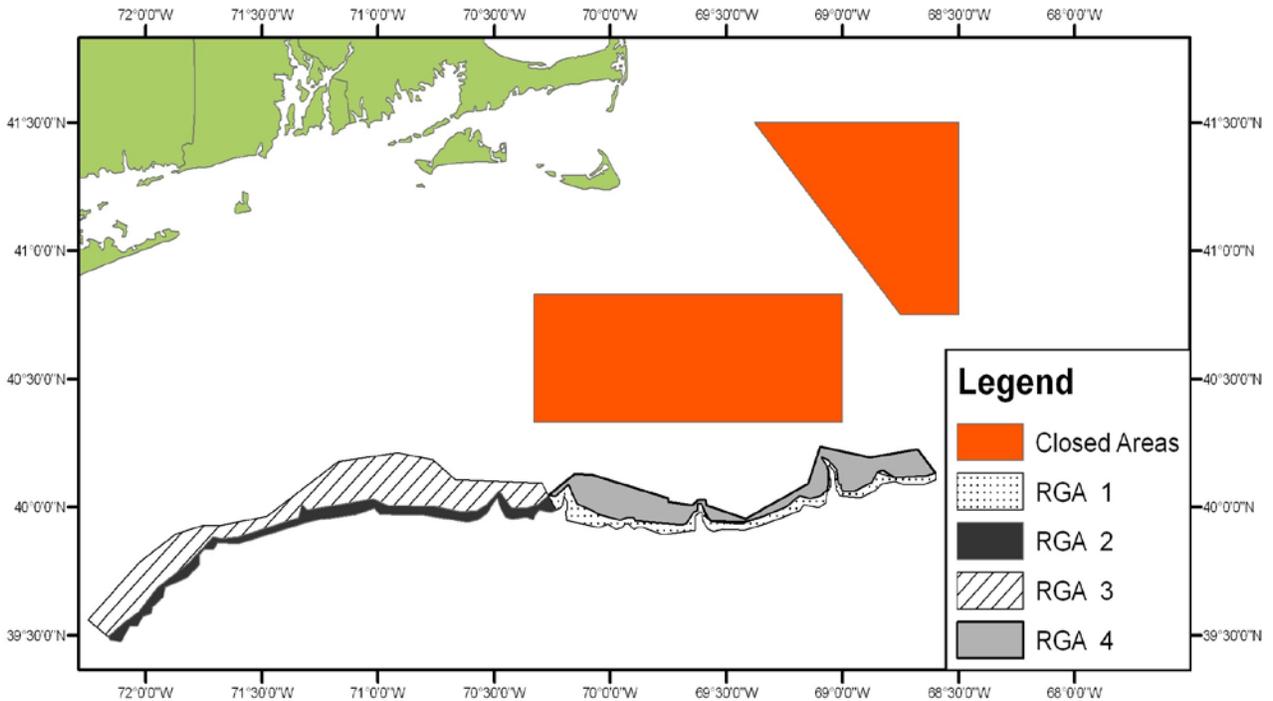
Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GM1	42° 00'	(1)
GM2	42° 00'	(2)
GM3	42° 00'	(3)
GM23	42° 00'	69° 50'
GM24	43° 00'	69° 50'
GM11	43° 00'	70° 00'
GM17	43° 30'	70° 00'
GM18	43° 30'	(4)

- (1) Massachusetts shoreline
- (2) Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay
- (3) Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean
- (4) Maine shoreline



MOBILE GEAR AND LOBSTER TRAP/POT RGAs

The following summarizes measures to separate mobile gear and lobster trap/pot gear in time and area according to the schedule below. Mobile gear vessels may transit the areas when closed, provided that all mobile gear is on board the vessel while inside the area.



Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGAs		
RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
I	October 1 - June 15	June 16 – September 30
II	November 27 - June 15	June 16 – November 26
III	June 16 - November 26	January 1 – April 30
IV	June 16 - September 30	No closure

Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGA		
RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
I	October 1 - June 15	June 16 – September 30

Inshore Boundary		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
To 120		
69	40° 07.9'	68° 36.0'
70	40° 07.2'	68° 38.4'
71	40° 06.9'	68° 46.5'
72	40° 08.7'	68° 49.6'
73	40° 08.1'	68° 51.0'
74	40° 05.7'	68° 52.4'
75	40° 03.6'	68° 57.2'
76	40° 03.65'	69° 00.0'
77	40° 04.35'	69° 00.5'
78	40° 05.2'	69° 00.5'
79	40° 05.3'	69° 01.1'
80	40° 08.9'	69° 01.75'
81	40° 11.0'	69° 03.8'
82	40° 11.6'	69° 05.4'
83	40° 10.25'	69° 04.4'
84	40° 09.75'	69° 04.15'
85	40° 08.45'	69° 03.6'
86	40° 05.65'	69° 03.55'
87	40° 04.1'	69° 03.9'
88	40° 02.65'	69° 05.6'
89	40° 02.00'	69° 08.35'
90	40° 02.65'	69° 11.15'
91	40° 00.05'	69° 14.6'
92	39° 57.8'	69° 20.35'
93	39° 56.65'	69° 24.4'
94	39° 56.1'	69° 26.35'
95	39° 56.55'	69° 34.1'
96	39° 57.85'	69° 35.5'
97	40° 00.65'	69° 36.5'
98	40° 00.9'	69° 37.3'
99	39° 59.15'	69° 37.3'
100	39° 58.8'	69° 38.45'
102	39° 56.2'	69° 40.2'
103	39° 55.75'	69° 41.4'
104	39° 56.7'	69° 53.6'
105	39° 57.55'	69° 54.05'
106	39° 57.4'	69° 55.9'
107	39° 56.9'	69° 57.45'
108	39° 58.25'	70° 03.0'
110	39° 59.2'	70° 04.9'
111	40° 00.7'	70° 08.7'
112	40° 03.75'	70° 10.15'
115	40° 05.2'	70° 10.9'
116	40° 02.45'	70° 14.1'
119	40° 02.75'	70° 16.1'
To 181		

Offshore Boundary		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
To 69		
120	40° 06.4'	68° 35.8'
121	40° 05.25'	68° 39.3'
122	40° 05.4'	68° 44.5'
123	40° 06.0'	68° 46.5'
124	40° 07.4'	68° 49.6'
125	40° 05.55'	68° 49.8'
126	40° 03.9'	68° 51.7'
127	40° 02.25'	68° 55.4'
128	40° 02.6'	69° 00.0'
129	40° 02.75'	69° 00.75'
130	40° 04.2'	69° 01.75'
131	40° 06.15'	69° 01.95'
132	40° 07.25'	69° 02.0'
133	40° 08.5'	69° 02.25'
134	40° 09.2'	69° 03.3'
135	40° 09.75'	69° 03.3'
136	40° 09.55'	69° 03.85'
137	40° 08.4'	69° 03.4'
138	40° 07.2'	69° 03.3'
139	40° 06.0'	69° 03.1'
140	40° 05.4'	69° 03.5'
141	40° 04.8'	69° 03.05'
142	40° 03.55'	69° 03.55'
143	40° 01.9'	69° 03.95'
144	40° 01.0'	69° 04.4'
146	39° 59.9'	69° 06.25'
147	40° 00.6'	69° 10.5'
148	39° 59.25'	69° 11.15'
149	39° 57.45'	69° 16.05'
150	39° 56.1'	69° 20.1'
151	39° 54.6'	69° 25.65'
152	39° 54.65'	69° 26.9'
153	39° 54.8'	69° 30.95'
154	39° 54.35'	69° 33.4'
155	39° 55.0'	69° 34.9'
156	39° 56.55'	69° 36.0'
157	39° 57.95'	69° 36.45'
158	39° 58.75'	69° 36.3'
159	39° 58.8'	69° 36.95'
160	39° 57.95'	69° 38.1'
161	39° 54.5'	69° 38.25'
162	39° 53.6'	69° 46.5'
163	39° 54.7'	69° 50.0'
164	39° 55.25'	69° 51.4'
165	39° 55.2'	69° 53.1'
166	39° 54.85'	69° 53.9'
167	39° 55.7'	69° 54.35'
168	39° 56.15'	69° 55.35'
169	39° 56.05'	69° 56.25'
170	39° 55.3'	69° 57.1'
171	39° 54.8'	69° 58.6'
172	39° 56.05'	70° 00.65'
173	39° 55.3'	70° 02.95'
174	39° 56.9'	70° 11.3'
175	39° 58.9'	70° 11.5'
176	39° 59.6'	70° 11.1'
177	40° 01.35'	70° 11.2'
178	40° 02.6'	70° 12.0'
179	40° 00.4'	70° 12.3'
180	39° 59.75'	70° 13.05'
181	39° 59.3'	70° 14.0'
To 119		

Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGA		
RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
II	November 27 - June 15	June 16 – November 26

Inshore Boundary		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
To 1		
49	40° 02.75'	70° 16.1'
50	40° 00.7'	70° 18.6'
51	39° 59.8'	70° 21.75'
52	39° 59.75'	70° 25.5'
53	40° 03.85'	70° 28.75'
54	40° 00.55'	70° 32.1'
55	39° 59.15'	70° 34.45'
56	39° 58.9'	70° 38.65'
57	40° 00.1'	70° 45.1'
58	40° 00.5'	70° 57.6'
59	40° 02.0'	71° 01.3'
60	39° 59.3'	71° 18.4'
61	40° 00.7'	71° 19.8'
62	39° 57.5'	71° 20.6'
63	39° 53.1'	71° 36.1'
64	39° 52.6'	71° 40.35'
65	39° 53.1'	71° 42.7'
66	39° 46.95'	71° 49.0'
67	39° 41.15'	71° 57.1'
68	39° 35.45'	72° 02.0'
69	39° 32.65'	72° 06.1'
70	39° 29.75'	72° 09.8'
To 48		

Offshore Boundary		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
To 49		
1	39° 59.3'	70° 14.0'
2	39° 58.85'	70° 15.2'
3	39° 59.3'	70° 18.4'
4	39° 58.1'	70° 19.4'
5	39° 57.0'	70° 19.85'
6	39° 57.0'	70° 21.25'
7	39° 57.5'	70° 22.8'
8	39° 57.1'	70° 25.4'
9	39° 57.65'	70° 27.05'
10	39° 58.58'	70° 27.7'
11	40° 00.65'	70° 28.8'
12	40° 02.2'	70° 29.15'
13	40° 01.0'	70° 30.2'
14	39° 58.58'	70° 31.85'
15	39° 57.05'	70° 34.35'
16	39° 56.42'	70° 36.8'
21	39° 58.15'	70° 48.0'
24	39° 58.3'	70° 51.1'
25	39° 58.1'	70° 52.25'
26	39° 58.05'	70° 53.55'
27	39° 58.4'	70° 59.6'
28	39° 59.8'	71° 01.05'
29	39° 58.2'	71° 05.85'
30	39° 57.45'	71° 12.15'
31	39° 57.2'	71° 15.0'
32	39° 56.3'	71° 18.95'
33	39° 51.4'	71° 36.1'
34	39° 51.75'	71° 41.5'
35	39° 50.05'	71° 42.5'
36	39° 50.0'	71° 45.0'
37	39° 48.95'	71° 46.05'
38	39° 46.6'	71° 46.1'
39	39° 43.5'	71° 49.4'
40°	39° 41.3'	71° 55.0'
41	39° 39.0'	71° 55.6'
42	39° 36.72'	71° 58.25'
43	39° 35.15'	71° 58.55'
44	39° 34.5'	72° 00.75'
45	39° 32.2'	72° 02.25'
46	39° 32.15'	72° 04.1'
47	39° 28.5'	72° 06.5'
48	39° 29.0'	72° 09.25'
To 70		

Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGA		
RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
III	June 16 - November 26	January 1 – April 30

Inshore Boundary		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
To 49		
182	40° 05.6'	70° 17.7'
183	40° 06.5'	70° 40 .05'
184	40° 11.05'	70° 45.8'
185	40° 12.75'	70° 55.05'
186	40° 10.7'	71° 10.25'
187	39° 57.9'	71° 28.7'
188	39° 55.6'	71° 41.2'
189	39° 55.85'	71° 45.0'
190	39° 53.75'	71° 52.25'
191	39° 47.2'	72° 01.6'
192	39° 33.65'	72° 15.0'
To 70		

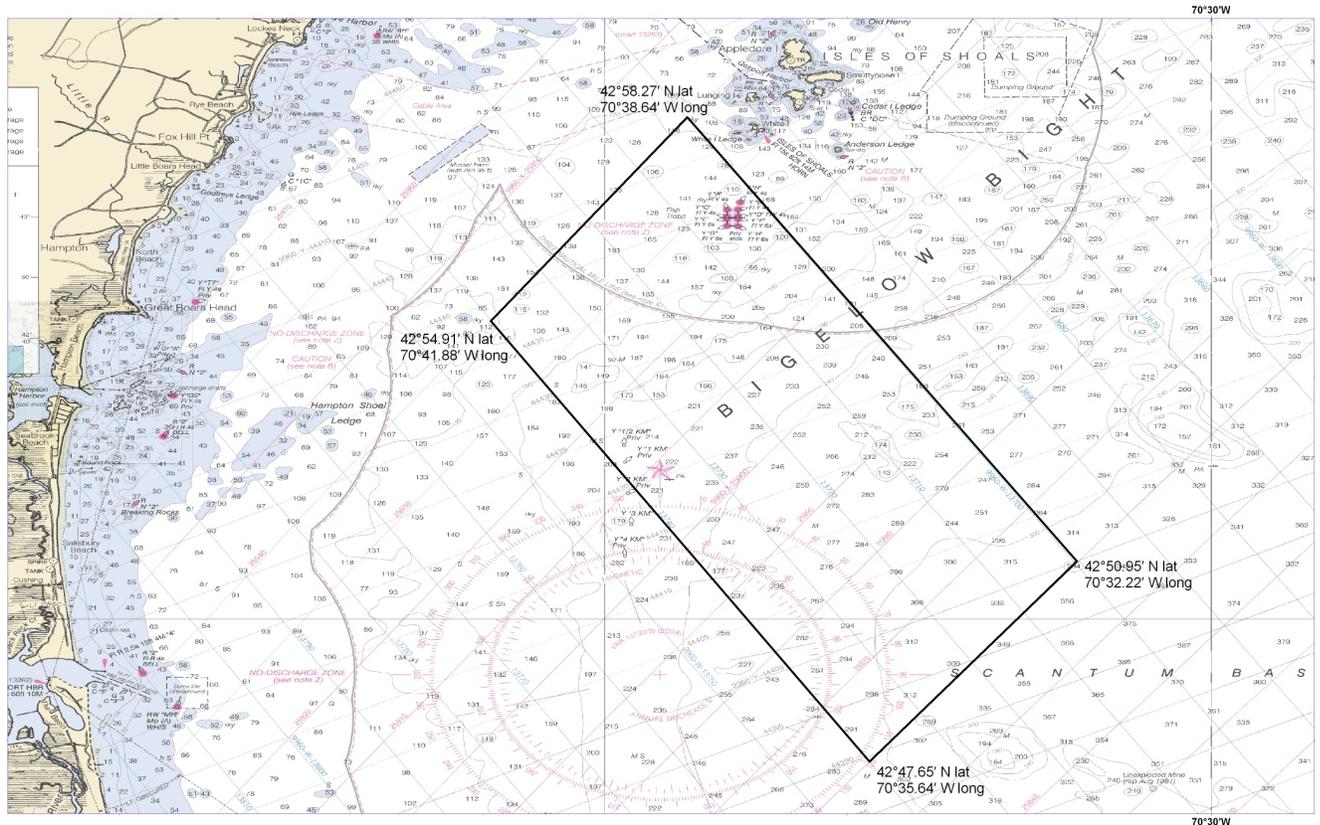
Offshore Boundary		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
To 182		
49	40° 02.75'	70° 16.1'
50	40° 00.7'	70° 18.6'
51	39° 59.8'	70° 21.75'
52	39° 59.75'	70° 25.5'
53	40° 03.85'	70° 28.75'
54	40° 00.55'	70° 32.1'
55	39° 59.15'	70° 34.45'
56	39° 58.9'	70° 38.65'
57	40° 00.1'	70° 45.1'
58	40° 00.5'	70° 57.6'
59	40° 02.0'	71° 01.3'
60	39° 59.3'	71° 18.4'
61	40° 00.7'	71° 19.8'
62	39° 57.5'	71° 20.6'
63	39° 53.1'	71° 40.35'
64	39° 52.6'	71° 40.35'
65	39° 53.1'	71° 42.7'
66	39° 46.95'	71° 49.0'
67	39° 41.15'	71° 57.1'
68	39° 35.45'	72° 02.0'
69	39° 32.65'	72° 06.1'
70	39° 29.75'	72° 09.8'
To 192		

Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGA		
RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
IV	June 16 - September 30	No closure

Inshore Boundary		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
193	40° 13.6'	68° 40.6'
194	40° 11.6'	68° 53.0'
195	40° 14.0'	69° 04.70'
196	40° 14.30'	69° 05.80'
197	40° 05.5'	69° 09.0'
198	39° 57.3'	69° 25.10'
199	40° 00.40'	69° 35.20'
200	40° 01.70'	69° 35.40'
201	40° 01.70'	69° 37.40'
202	40° 00.50'	69° 38.80'
203	40° 01.30'	69° 45.00'
204	40° 02.10'	69° 45.00'
205	40° 07.60'	70° 04.50'
206	40° 07.80'	70° 09.20'
To 119		

Offshore Boundary		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
69	40° 07.90'	68° 36.00'
70	40° 07.2'	68° 38.40'
71	40° 06.90'	68° 46.50'
72	40° 08.70'	68° 49.60'
73	40° 08.10'	68° 51.00'
74	40° 05.70'	68° 52.40'
75	40° 03.60'	68° 57.20'
76	40° 03.65'	69° 00.00'
77	40° 04.35'	69° 00.50'
78	40° 05.20'	69° 00.50'
79	40° 05.30'	69° 01.10'
80	40° 08.90'	69° 01.75'
81	40° 11.00'	69° 03.80'
82	40° 11.60'	69° 05.40'
83	40° 10.25'	69° 04.40'
84	40° 09.75'	69° 04.15'
85	40° 08.45'	69° 03.60'
86	40° 05.65'	69° 03.55'
87	40° 04.10'	69° 03.90'
88	40° 02.65'	69° 05.60'
89	40° 02.00'	69° 08.35'
90	40° 02.65'	69° 11.15'
91	40° 00.05'	69° 14.60'
92	39 57.8'	69° 20.35'
93	39 56.75'	69° 24.40'
94	39 56.50'	69° 26.35'
95	39 56.80'	69° 34.10'
96	39 57.85'	69° 35.05'
97	40° 00.65'	69° 37.30'
98	40° 00.90'	69° 37.30'
99	39 59.15'	69° 37.30'
100	39 58.80'	69° 38.45'
102	39 56.20'	69° 40.20'
103	39 55.75'	69° 41.40'
104	39 56.70'	69° 53.60'
105	39 57.55'	69° 54.05'
106	39 57.40'	69° 55.90'
107	39 56.90'	69° 57.45'
108	39 58.25'	70° 03.00'
110	39 59.20'	70° 04.90'
111	40° 00.70'	70° 08.70'
112	40° 03.75'	70° 10.15'
115	40° 05.20'	70° 10.90'
116	40° 02.45'	70° 14.1'
119	40° 02.75'	70° 16.1'
To 206		

WHALEBACK COD SPAWNING PROTECTION AREA



Gear Restrictions: The following gear restrictions apply to either a commercial or recreational fishing vessel fishing in the GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area:

- **Commercial vessels:** From April 1 through June 30 of each year, a commercial fishing vessel is prohibited from fishing within the GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area using gear capable of catching groundfish, including mid-water trawl and purse seine gear. Commercial fishing vessels may use only the following exempted gear in this area from April 1 through June 30:
 - Pelagic hook-and-line gear, pelagic longline gear, spears, rakes, diving gear, cast nets, tongs, harpoons, weirs, dipnets, stop nets, pound nets, pelagic gillnets, pots and traps, shrimp trawls with a properly configured grate, and surfclam and ocean quahog dredges.
 - Pelagic gillnet gear is defined as a single pelagic gillnet that is no longer than 300 ft and not greater than 6 ft deep, with a maximum mesh size of 3 inches (7.6 cm), that is attached to the boat and fished in the upper two-thirds of the water column.
- **Recreational vessels:** From April 1 through June 30 of each year, a recreational vessel, including a private recreational and a charter/party vessel, may only use pelagic hook-and-line gear, as defined below, when fishing in the GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area.
 - Pelagic hook-and-line gear is defined as handline or rod and reel gear that is designed to fish for, or that is being used to fish for, pelagic species. No portion of this gear may be operated in contact with the bottom at any time.

Point	N. Latitude	W. Longitude
CSPA1	42° 50.95'	70° 32.22'
CSPA2	42° 47.65'	70° 35.64'
CSPA3	42° 54.91'	70° 41.88'
CSPA4	42° 58.27'	70° 38.64'

Possession Restrictions: Any vessel fishing in the GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area and using the exempted gear described above, including pelagic hook-and-line gear by recreational vessels, is prohibited from possessing or retaining regulated species or ocean pout from April 1 through June 30 of each year.

Transiting: Both a recreational and a commercial vessel may transit the GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area, provided all gear is stowed according to existing regulations.