Sector Vessel Regulations Overview Fishing Year 2012

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.

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.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.html

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NMFS Northeast Regional Office: Contacts by Fishery

Fishery	Point of Contact	Phone Number
Northeast Multispecies (Sectors)	Mark Grant	978-281-9145
	Alli Murphy	978-281-9122
	Willie Whitmore	978-281-9182
	Melissa Vasquez	978-281-9166
Northeast Multispecies (Common Pool)	Sarah Heil	978-281-9257
	Mike Ruccio	978-281-9104
	Brett Alger	978-675-2153
Monkfish	Doug Christel	978-281-9141
	Jason Berthiaume	978-281-9177
Atlantic Sea Scallops	Emily Gilbert	978-281-9244
	Travis Ford	978-281-9233
	Chris Biegel	978-281-9112
Spiny Dogfish	Tobey Curtis	978-281-9273
	Carly Bari	978-281-9224
Skates	Tobey Curtis	978-281-9273
	Carly Bari	978-281-9224
Recreational Fisheries	Paul Perra	978-281-9153
Tuna: Rec & Commercial	Brad McHale, Supervisor	978-281-9260
	Dianne Stephan	978-281-9260
Shark: Rec & Commercial	Jackie Wilson	240-338-3936
Swordfish: Recreational	Randy Blankinship	727-824-5399
	Rick Pearson	727-824-5399
Swordfish: Commercial	Karyl Brewster-Geisz	301-713-2347
	Guy DuBeck	301-713-2347
Surfclam/Ocean Quahog	Doug Potts	978-281-9341
	Jason Berthiaume	978-281-9177
Summer Flounder (Fluke), Black Sea Bass, and Scup (Porgies)	Moira Kelly	978-281-9218
	Carly Bari	978-281-9224
Atlantic Herring	Carrie Nordeen	978-281-9272
	Lindsey Feldman	978-675-2179
Small Mesh Multispecies	Moira Kelly	978-281-9218
	Jason Berthiaume	978-281-9177
American Lobster	Bob Ross, Supervisor	978-281-9234
	Pete Burns	978-281-9144
	Carol Shé	978-281-9464
Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab	Moira Kelly	978-281-9218
	Carly Bari	978-281-9224
Golden Tilefish	Doug Potts	978-281-9341
	Jason Berthiaume	978-281-9177
Bluefish	Tobey Curtis	978-281-9273
	Carly Bari	978-281-9224
Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish	Aja Szumylo	978-281-9195
	Lindsey Feldman	978-675-2179
Hagfish	Carly Bari	978-281-9224
Research Set-Aside Programs, Exempted Fishing Permits, and Experimental Fishing	Ryan Silva	978-281-9326
NAFO	Doug Christel	978-281-9141

April 30, 2012

Protected Resources Division Contacts

Protected Resources Division	Point of Contact	Phone Number
General questions	Main line	978-281-9328
To report strandings and entanglements for whales, dolphins, seals, and sea turtles	Marine Animal Stranding and Entanglement Hotline	866-755-6622[NOAA]
Fishery Liaison and Gear Research Team		
New England (includes Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan Pinger Training Certification)	John Higgins	207-677-2316
Mid-Atlantic (includes Sea Turtle Virginia Pound Net Modified Leader Inspection)	Glenn Salvador	757-414-0128
Gear Research and Analysis	John F. Kennedy	401-294-0443

Fisheries Data Services Division Contacts

Fisheries Data Services Division	Phone Number
Dealer Electronic Reporting	978-281-9212
IVR reporting	978-281-9209
Vessel Trip Reporting	978-281-9246
Historic dealer data corrections	978-675-2160
Questions about vessel data	978-281-9246
Request for vessel logbooks	978-281-9157

Analysis and Program Support Division Contacts

Analysis and Program Support Division	Phone Number
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

Office of Law Enforcement Contacts

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

Office of Law Enforcement	Point of Contact	Phone Number
General Information, including VMS questions	978-281-9213	
District 1 (Boston to Maine)	617-892-0265	
District 2 (New Bedford to Rhode Island)	508-989-4975	
District 3 (New York and New Jersey)	908-339-1148	
District 4 (Delaware to Virginia/North Carolina border)	908-339-1148	
VMS Support		
General questions	OLE Regional Office main line	978-281-9213
Multispecies (US/CA and B-DAS); VMS Training; Activations/Registrations; Letters of Exemption/Power-Downs	Linda Galvin	978-281-9230
VMS Program Manager	Bill Semrau	978-281-9151
Outreach		
Compliance Liaison	Don Frei	978-675-2198
Outreach Specialist	Sheila Jarnes	978-281-9321

Science Center Contacts

New England Fisheries Science Center	Point of Contact	Phone Number
At-Sea Monitoring	Amy Van Atten	508-495-2266
Pre-Trip Notification System	Sarah Cierpich	508-495-2309

Director's Office Contacts

Northeast Regional Office	Point of Contact	Phone Number
Director's Office	Main line	978-281-9200
Fisheries Outreach Coordinator	Olivia Rugo	978-675-2167

Sector Manager Contact Information: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sectordocs/SectorContacts.pdf

April 30, 2012

Port Agent Contacts

New England Area	Point of Contact	Phone Number	Office Location
Portland, ME	Scott McNamara (Team Leader and State Partner Coordinator)	207-780-3322/ cell 978-609-7747	Marine Trade Ctr Suite 212 2 Portland Fish Pier Portland, ME 04101
	Merrie Cartwright, Ph.D.	207-780-3322/ cell 978-875-0378	
	Jodie York	207-780-3322	
Gloucester, MA	Greg Power (Fishery Information Section)	978-281-9304/ cell 978-609-4154	55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
	Caleb Gilbert	978-281-9338/ cell 978-609-4143	
	Don Mason	978-281-9363	
	Aaron Dieckerhoff	978-675-2177	
Chatham, MA	Lorraine Spenle	508-945-5961	P.O. Box 1197 1619 Main Street West Chatham, MA 02669
New Bedford, MA	John Mahoney	508-984-0063/ cell 978-609-8205	37 N. Second St New Bedford, MA 02740
	Caela Schmidt	508-999-2452	
	Katie Almeida	508-999-2452/ cell 757-775-6866	
Point Judith, RI	Walter Anoushian (Team Leader and State Partner Coordinator)	401-783-7797/ cell 978-609-4145	P.O. Box 3356 83 State St 2nd Flr Narragansett, RI 02882
	Elizabeth Marchetti	401-783-7797	
Mid-Atlantic Area			
East Hampton, NY	Victor Vecchio (Team Leader and State Partner Coordinator)	631-324-3569/ cell 978-609-4155	62 Newtown Ln, # 203 East Hampton, NY 11937
	Mark Renaghan	631-324-3569	
Toms River, NJ	Joanne Pellegrino (Team Leader and State Partner Coordinator)	732-818-1311/ cell 978-609-7980	P.O. Box 143 26 Main St, Suite O Toms River, NJ 08753
	Casey Macisso	732-349-3533	
	Josh O'Connor	732-349-3533	
Cape May, NJ	Ingo Fleming	609-884-2113/ cell 978-609-8084	1382 Lafayette St Cape May, NJ 08204
	Alissa Wilson	609-884-2113	
Hampton, VA	Steve Ellis	757-723-3369/ cell 978-609-4147	P.O. Box 69172 1006N Settlers Landing Rd Hampton, VA 23669
	George Mattingly	757-723-3369/ cell 978-609-4149	

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.

Dockside monitoring is not mandatory for fishing year 2012. Trip-start hails are optional. Trip end hails are still required. Sectors may voluntarily elect to continue dockside monitoring programs in fishing year 2012 if they choose.

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

Industry-funded dockside monitoring will be required starting fishing year 2013 (i.e., May 1, 2013, through April 30, 2014) for both sector and common pool vessels.

April 30, 2012

To end your fishing trip…

#1: Submit your trip-level catch report via VMS:
- If you declared into only one broad stock area (BSA) for the trip, include only the vessel trip report (VTR) serial number for that trip.
- If you declared into multiple BSAs for the trip, include the VTR serial number; and, for each BSA fished, the amount of groundfish *and* non-groundfish kept.

→

#2: Submit any other reports that are specified by your sector manager.

→

#3: Send a trip end hail to NMFS. See below for more information.

→

#4: Complete a VTR for each statistical area fished, and each gear and/or mesh size used.

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:
  - On the Trip Start/End form, you must submit the trip end hail, which is at the bottom of the screen. Please remember also to complete the "Additional Required Information" at the bottom of the macro.
- Boatracs VMS Users:
  - On Macro 36, you must submit a trip end hail beginning with the section "_Trip End Hail."
- Thrane VMS Users:
  - 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.

Pre-Trip Notification System
Vessel Instructions for Multispecies Trips

Phone: 1-855-FISHES1,
Operators available 24/7.
nefsc.ptns@noaa.gov

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.

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***

   a. Navigate your browser to **http://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS**
   b. Enter the same username (Permit Number) and password (PIN) as used for Fish-On-Line
   c. Click the "Login" button
   d. After logging into your PTNS account, verify vessel name
   e. 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. Enter estimated trip duration in whole days
   e. Select port of departure
   f. Select gear intending to fish
   g. Select area intending to fish
   h. Select Special Management Program, if applicable (i.e. **US/Canada Area**, Closed Area I Hook Haddock SAP)
   i. If making a set-only gillnet trip, check the box next to "Set-Only Trip"
   j. 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:

   a. Vessel permit number
   b. Planned sail date and time
   c. Fishery: multispecies
   d. Estimated trip duration in whole days
   e. Port of sail
   f. Gear (trawl, longline, handline, gillnet >8", gillnet 8" and larger)
   g. Area fishing (Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic)
   h. Special Management Program if applicable (i.e. US/Canada Area, Closed Area I Hook Haddock SAP)
   i. Phone number, if new to using PTNS

3. **Telephone** – This is the backup means of notification. The phone number is **1-855-FISHES1**, effective March 11, 2011. 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:

   a. Caller's name and phone number
   b. Vessel permit number
   c. Planned sail date and time
   d. Fishery: multispecies
   e. Estimated trip duration in whole days
   f. Port of sail,
   g. Gear (trawl, longline, handline, gillnet >8", gillnet 8" and larger)
   h. Area fishing (Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic)
   i. 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.

Sector Vessel Groundfish Requirements: Discards, Minimum Sizes, and Observer Responsibilities

April 2012

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, they are prohibited from retaining any ocean pout, windowpane flounder, Atlantic wolffish, and Southern New England/ Mid-Atlantic winter flounder. Atlantic halibut has a one-fish per trip limit.

2. **Current federal minimum fish sizes for commercial vessels:**

   [648.83 (a)(1)]

Species	***Minimum Size***
Cod	22" *(55.9 cm)*
Haddock	18" *(45.7 cm)*
Pollock	19" *(48.3 cm)*
Redfish	9" *(22.9 cm)*
Atlantic halibut	41" *(104.1 cm)*
Yellowtail flounder	13" *(33.0 cm)*
American plaice (dabs)	14" *(35.6 cm)*
Winter flounder (blackback)	12" *(30.5 cm)*
Witch flounder (gray sole)	14" *(35.6 cm)*
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.

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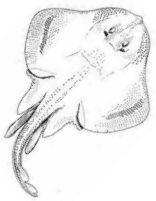
Northeast Sector Skate Fishery
Prohibitions and Possession Limits

Last update: April 2012



General Information

This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that apply to the skate fishery; it is not a substitute for the regulations. You are strongly encouraged to read the regulations in conjunction with this information sheet to fully understand how the commercial skate fishery is managed. Skate fishery regulations may be found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 50 CFR part 648, subpart O.

Skate Management Unit

The management unit of the Northeast (NE) skate fishery encompasses the area of the Atlantic Ocean from 35°15.3' N. lat., the approximate latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, North Carolina, northward to the U.S.-Canada border, extending eastward from shore to the outer boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and northward to the U.S.-Canada border (Hague Line).

Commercial Fishing Permits

Any vessel that fishes for, catches, possesses, transports, lands, sells, trades, or barters skates in or from the EEZ portion of the Skate Management Unit must have a valid Federal skate permit. Any vessel owner that obtains a Federal skate permit is subject to Federal skate regulations throughout the Skate Management Unit. The operator of a permitted skate vessel must have a valid operator's permit. To obtain an application for the permits, contact the NE Region Permit Operations Office at (978) 281-9370 or online at www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/.

Northeast Skate Complex

Seven species comprise the NE skate complex:

Winter skate	*Leucoraja ocellata*
Barndoor skate	*Dipturus laevis*
Thorny skate	*Amblyraja radiata*
Smooth skate	*Malacoraja senta*
Little skate	*Leucoraja erinacea*
Clearnose skate	*Raja eglanteria*
Rosette skate	*Leucoraja garmani*

Information on how to distinguish among the seven skate species in the NE skate complex can be found at http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdskate.html.

Prohibitions

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

Skate Total Allowable Landings (TAL)

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

Skate Wing Fishery Possession Limits

DAS Vessels

A vessel fishing on a NE multispecies, scallop, or monkfish Day-At-Sea (DAS) may possess and land up to 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, except that a vessel fishing on a NE multispecies category B DAS (regardless of gear type) may only possess 220 lb of skate wings (500 lb whole weight) (Table 1).

Non-DAS Vessels and Sector Vessels

A vessel not fishing in any DAS program, including a NE multispecies sector vessel may possess and land an incidental limit of 500 lb of skate wings (1,135 lb of 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.

Multispecies DAS Exemption Programs

Unless fishing in the Mid-Atlantic Exemption Area, a vessel fishing in a multispecies DAS exemption program that permits skate retention 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 multispecies DAS exemption programs can be found at http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmulti.html.

Inseason Adjustment of Wing Possession Limit

When 85 percent of the Skate Wing TAL is landed, the Regional Administrator 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, if doing so would not prevent the Skate Wing TAL from being attained.

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.

Skate Wing Fishery Allowable Forms

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 in Table 1..

Skate Bait Fishery

Skate Bait Fishery Letter of Authorization

A holder of a Federal skate permit may request and receive from the Regional Administrator an exemption from the skate wing possession limits described above to land whole skates for use as bait. A vessel with a valid Skate Bait Letter of Authorization (LOA) may possess and land up to 20,000 lb of skates (Table 1). The exemption is granted in an LOA and can be obtained from the Permit Operations Office at (978) 281-9370.

The exemption program requires the following of participants:

- Possession/landing of only whole skates less than 23 inches total length;
- compliance with the at-sea transfer provisions, if applicable (see following explanation); 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. Therefore, unless a skate bait vessel is fishing in a skate exemption area or is fishing with exempted gear (as defined in the NE multispecies regulations); it must still fish on a NE multispecies, monkfish, or scallop DAS. The LOA only exempts the vessel from the skate wing possession limits described above.

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

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 skate bait possession limit will be reduced 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).

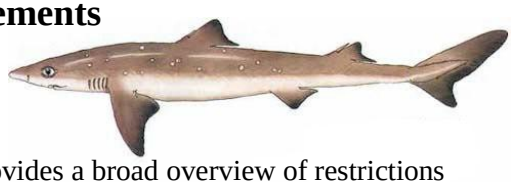
Skate Bait Transfers At Sea

A vessel issued a Federal skate permit may transfer at sea skates taken in or from the Skate Management Unit, provided:

- The transferring vessel has an LOA onboard (see above);
- the owner/operator complies with the requirements of the skate bait exemption program;
- the transferring vessel maintains a record of the quantity of skates transferred according to the current logbook 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.

Northeast Sector Spiny Dogfish Fishery
Possession and Gear Requirements

Updated April 2012



Introduction

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 at 50 CFR part 648, subpart L to fully understand how this fishery is managed.

Federal measures apply to a vessel issued a Federal spiny dogfish permit, no matter where it fishes; however, individual states may set different regulations for the commercial spiny dogfish fishery. In cases where state measures differ from Federal regulations, fishery participants holding Federal spiny dogfish permits must adhere to the more restrictive state or Federal measure.

For information regarding gillnet requirements for protected species; VMS declarations; reporting requirements; and requirements for sale/purchase, and exemption areas, please refer to the complete dogfish fishery information sheet at: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/SectorsDogfishInfoSheet.pdf

Permits

Any vessel used to fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ, waters 3 – 200 nm from shore) from Maine to Florida must have a valid Federal spiny dogfish permit. The permit is an open access permit that any vessel owner can obtain. You may obtain an application for a permit by contacting the Northeast (NE) Region's Permit Office at (978) 281-9370 or online at: www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/

Quota

The quota for the fishing year (May 1 - Apr 30) is established by NMFS based on the recommendations of the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils. The commercial quota is allocated seasonally between two quota periods as follows: May 1 through October 31 (Period 1; 57.9%) and November 1 through April 30 (Period 2; 42.1%). All spiny dogfish landings, whether from Federal or state waters, are counted toward the quota. If NMFS determines that a period's quota will be caught, NMFS will notify Federal spiny dogfish permit holders that vessels may not possess, fish for, or land spiny dogfish for the remainder of the quota period. See table for current quota and allocations.

NMFS monitors the harvest of the commercial spiny dogfish quota and closes the EEZ to fishing when data indicate the quota is projected to be harvested. Weekly landing reports tracking the quota are posted at: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports_frame.htm

Possession Limit

A vessel with a Federal spiny dogfish permit may not possess or land more than the possession limit, as detailed to the right, and may land only one trip of spiny dogfish per calendar day.

Minimum Fish Size

There is no minimum fish size for spiny dogfish.

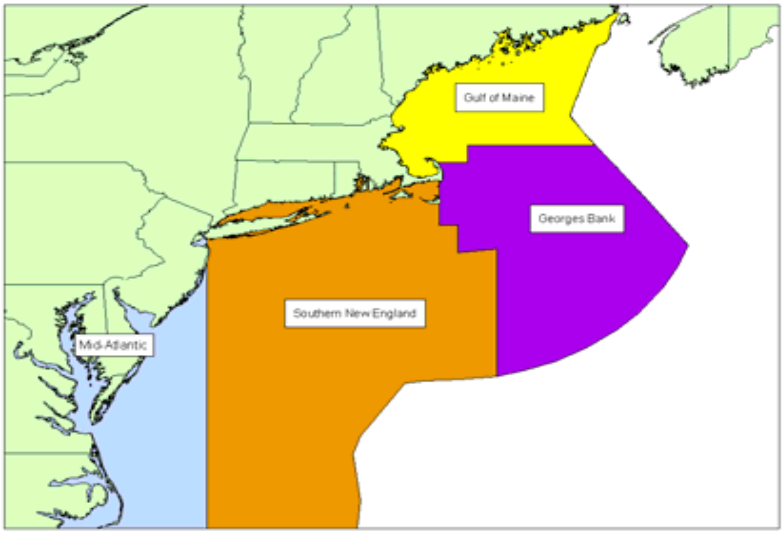
Spiny Dogfish Possession Limits

Quota Period	Possession Limit (lb)
1. May 1–Oct 31	3,000
2. Nov 1–Apr 30	3,000

Gear & Area Restrictions

A vessel fishing for, possessing, or landing spiny dogfish in Federal waters must have a Federal spiny dogfish permit and must comply with all applicable Federal gear and area requirements, including gear/area restrictions to protect right whales and other federally protected species.

North of approximately North Carolina, many NE multispecies groundfish regulations apply to all vessels fishing in Federal waters, regardless of whether or not they have a NE multispecies permit. For example, NE multispecies regulations include four regulated mesh areas (RMAs) that regulate which gear can be used in each of the following areas (see map): 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 the following site: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/fishermen/charts/mul3.html

Within these RMAs, a vessel fishing with gillnet and trawl gear must abide by the minimum mesh sizes required by the NE multispecies regulations, as follows in the table below.

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)	6.5-inch square or diamond	6.5 inches throughout the entire net	
Mid-Atlantic (MA)	6.5-inch square or diamond	6.5-inch square or diamond	

Vessels holding a limited access NE multispecies permit, and not 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.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/MultsClosedAreas.pdf

A vessel fishing for, possessing, or landing spiny dogfish must fish under a scallop or multispecies day-at-sea (DAS), including the multispecies B DAS Program, or on a NE multispecies non-DAS sector trip, or under the rules of an exempted fishery (see table on page 3). A vessel may also fish under a monkfish-only DAS and retain spiny dogfish if it is 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

If a vessel is not fishing on a NE multispecies non-DAS sector trip or under a multispecies DAS, scallop DAS, or monkfish-only DAS within a monkfish large-mesh exemption area, and wants to possess or land spiny dogfish, the vessel must be fishing in an exemption area (meaning areas where the bycatch of regulated NE multispecies is minimized) that allows for the take of spiny dogfish or fishing with exempted gear.

The table below lists the exempted fisheries and areas in and from which spiny dogfish may be possessed or landed based on gear type (i.e., trawls, gillnets). For more information on these exempted fisheries and

areas and how they pertain to spiny dogfish, see the general spiny dogfish information sheet found at: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/SpinyDogFactSheet.pdf.

Any catch of allocated groundfish stocks by a NE multispecies sector vessel while targeting spiny dogfish will count against its sector's ACE, unless the vessel is fishing in an exempted fishery or with exempted gear outside of the DAS program. This means that the vessel's sector must have ACE for all stocks in the area the sector vessel fishes for spiny dogfish and that the sector vessel must participate in its sector's Dockside Monitoring Program and the NMFS At-Sea Monitoring Program on trips targeting dogfish, (again unless the vessel is fishing in an exempted fishery or with exempted gear).

Exemption Areas (EAs) and Fisheries Where Spiny Dogfish Can Be Retained:

EAs within Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Areas

Trawl	***Gillnet***
Nantucket Shoals Dogfish EA*	Nantucket Shoals Dogfish EA*
Cultivator Shoal Whiting Fishery EA*†	GOM/GB Dogfish Gillnet EA
Small Mesh Areas 1 & 2†	
Raised Footrope Trawl Exempted Whiting Fishing Area*†	

* Requires a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to participate. LOAs can be obtained from the Northeast Regional Permit Office at (978) 281-9370.
† Dogfish is considered an incidentally caught species in these EAs. These EAs require the use of small mesh to target whiting.

EAs within the Southern New England Regulated Mesh Area

Trawl	***Gillnet***
SNE Exemption Area (includes part of GB RMA)	SNE Dogfish Gillnet EA

EAs within the Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Area

Trawl	***Gillnet***
Mid-Atlantic EA (includes part of SNE RMA)	Mid-Atlantic EA (includes part of SNE RMA)

A vessel fishing for spiny dogfish in Federal waters must also comply with closed areas for other fisheries, including NE multispecies, unless using gear defined as not capable of catching NE multispecies. Exempted gear includes the following: 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.nero.noaa.gov/nero/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 Northeast Region website at: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmulti.html

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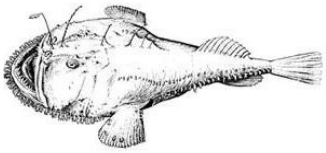

Sector Vessel Monkfish Fishery
Summary of Regulations

Last updated April 2012

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 possession limits while on a monkfish DAS?**

Permit Category →	A or C	B or D	A, C, or G	B, D, or H	F
Area	NFMA		SFMA		Offshore Fishery Program Area
Landing Limit[1] (tail weight per DAS[2])	1,250 lb (3,638 lb whole weight)	600 lb (1,746 lb whole weight)	550 lb (1,601 lb whole weight)	450 lb (1,310 lb whole weight)	1,600 lb (4,656 lb whole weight)

3. **What happens if I go over the possession limit?**
   A limited access monkfish vessel may land up to one additional day's worth of trip limit more than would otherwise be authorized based on the vessel's actual monkfish DAS usage for that trip. You must declare the extra fish via VMS prior to crossing the demarcation line upon returning to port, or via the IVR line 1 hour prior to landing to land the additional day's worth of monkfish. To account for the trip limit overage, your monkfish DAS charge will be rounded to the next 24-hr period plus 1 minute.

   Example: If you have two monkfish trip 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.

4. **What if I am also catching highly migratory species such as sharks and tuna?**
   If you also hold an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Permit, the regulations at 50 CFR Part 635 will apply to your activities. Please visit the website at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ or call (978) 281-9260 for more information.

NE Multispecies and Monkfish Interactions

5. **What if I fish on a NE multispecies DAS or a sector trip and I exceed the incidental monkfish possession limit?**
   First, you must have declared the "monkfish option" on your VMS unit before leaving port and can only have fished in the NFMA. If so, you can then change your NE multispecies A DAS declaration to a monkfish DAS declaration during the course of a trip, but before crossing the demarcation line on your return to port. If necessary, call our Office of Law Enforcement VMS team at (978) 281–9149 for assistance with your VMS codes.

6. **What is the charging rate for monkfish DAS?**
   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. Trips using trawl gear are charged actual-time.

7. **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 you also hold a NE multispecies or limited access scallop permit, you must use either a NE multispecies DAS or scallop DAS whenever you use a monkfish DAS. Your NE multispecies DAS will be charged actual time based on the time fishing, regardless of your monkfish DAS charge.
   - 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 only be used after your allocation of NE multispecies DAS has been used. Monkfish-only DAS can only be used in an exempted fishery. 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.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmulti.html.

Please see the last page of this info sheet for important footnotes.

- 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 DAS and will no longer be monkfish-only 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.
- Catch (landings and discards) of allocated NE multispecies stocks while on a DAS (i.e., but 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.

8. **What is the DAS allocation for 2012?**
   39.3 DAS for limited access vessels. Of these, only 28 can be used in the SFMA.

9. **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 unusable DAS that are tied to a NE multispecies DAS. Example: if you have 39.3 unused monkfish DAS and have a NE multispecies DAS allocation of 44.3 DAS and you leased out 10 of your NE multispecies DAS to another vessel, you would forfeit 5 of your monkfish DAS (10 - (44.3 NE multispecies DAS – 39.3 monkfish DAS) = 5). If you then fished the remainder of your NE multispecies DAS and used all of your monkfish DAS except 5, you could not carry over your 5 remaining monkfish DAS into the next fishing year.

Northern & Southern Area Requirements

10. **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. For commercial vessels, these management areas have different possession limits and regulatory requirements.

11. **What are the 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 through VMS.

    If you are fishing only in the NFMA, you can 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 your trip.

12. **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.

Reporting & Monitoring

13. **What are the commercial reporting requirements? (§ 648.93)**
    You must keep on board the vessel and submit to us vessel trip reports (VTRs) for all fishing trips, regardless of species retained. These reports may be submitted electronically. Instructions for completing the VTR can be found at: www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/vtr.htm. VTRs must be received or postmarked within 15 days after the end of the reporting month. For vessels that also hold a NE multispecies permit, VTRs must be submitted weekly by Tuesday of the week after the fishing trip ends.

14. **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.

Please see the last page of this info sheet for important footnotes.

Gear Information

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

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

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

Minimum mesh size: 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.

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

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

The minimum mesh size is 10–inch diamond mesh. *Exception:* If you have a Category C, D, or H permit and a NE multispecies permit, and you 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.

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 (§ 648.80).

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

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.

18. 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.

19. What are the different possession 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 trip limits depend upon whether you are fishing on either the east side or the west side of the NE multispecies MA exemption areas boundary.

Your monkfish incidental catch 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 possession limit of 50 lb tail weight per day, up to 150 lb tail weight per trip.

If you are fishing west of the MA Exemption Area boundary, minimum mesh size is defined by the summer flounder regulations. If you are fishing east of this boundary, in the SNE Regulated Mesh Area, minimum mesh size is defined by the NE multispecies regulations.

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 Limit[1] (per trip unless stated otherwise[7])	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.

Please see the last page of this info sheet for important footnotes.

Closed Areas

20. 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. Please see the DAS section below for more DAS information.

Oceanographer Canyon Closed Area			Lydonia Canyon Closed Area		
Point	**N. Lat.**	**W. Long.**	**Point**	**N. Lat.**	**W. Long.**
(1) OC1	40°10'	68°12'	(1) LC1	40°16'	67°34'
(2) OC2	40°24'	68°09'	(2) LC2	40°16'	67°42'
(3) OC3	40°24'	68°08'	(3) LC3	40°20'	67°43'
(4) OC4	40°10'	67°59'	(4) LC4	40°27'	67°40'
(5) OC1	40°10'	68°12'	(5) LC5	40° 27'	67°38'
			(6) LC1	40°16'	67°34'

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 www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/MultsClosedAreas.pdf.

Days at Sea

Incidental Trip Limits while on a NE Multispecies DAS, but not on a Monkfish DAS

Permit Category →	C, D, E, F, or, H	E or H	C, D, or F	C, D, or F
Area	NFMA	SFMA		
Gear	All gear		Non-trawl	Trawl
Landing Limit[1] (tail weight per DAS[2])	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 www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/USCABDASSAP.pdf for more information on these areas.

Incidental Trip 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 Limit[1] (tail weight per DAS[2])	300 lb (873 lb whole weight)	

Please see the last page of this info sheet for important footnotes.

Incidental Monkfish Trip 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.	50 lb (146 lb whole weight) per day[5], or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.
		Rod and reel or handlines only	
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.

Incidental Monkfish Trip 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.

Please see the last page of this info sheet for important footnotes.

Footnotes (from the monkfish tables)

[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) x [(tail weight x 2.91) + (whole fish x 1)].

[3] For category F vessels, DAS allocations will be prorated according to the method outlined on page 3.

[4] 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.

[5] 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.

[6] 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).

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

Fish-On-Line Login Instructions

Anyone holding a federal fishing permit is able to access vessel data via the NMFS Northeast Regional 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.nero.noaa.gov/NMFSlogin

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:

In order to access your reports, you will need to select a report type. Three different format options are currently available, including HTML (accessed via your internet browser); Excel (a Microsoft Excel file); and, CSV (a comma delimited file available to numerous software applications).

To open a report, click on the desired selection and the report will open in the selected format. HTML reports will open immediately while Excel and CSV reports will prompt you to select 'Open' or 'Save' from a popup box that will appear on your screen.

Saving a Report:

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 Updates

April 2012

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.

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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Northeast Multispecies Information Sheet: Sector Closed Area Regulations

This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements for Northeast Multispecies Sector Vessels; it is not a substitute for the regulations. You must read the regulations in conjunction with this information sheet to fully understand how this fishery is managed. This information sheet will be updated when regulations are revised. The regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR 648.81.

This information sheet summarizes the NE multispecies regulations pertaining to:

Transiting Regulations and Gear Stowage Requirements……...…....……...…….....1
Gulf of Maine (GOM) Rolling Closure Areas…….....……....…...…….....….2-4
Year-round Groundfish Closed Areas.....…….…….....5-8
U.S./Canada (US/CA) Management Area and Special Access Programs (SAPs)…….....8-9
Restricted Gear Areas (RGA)……...……....…...……..….....10-15
GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area.....16

TRANSITING REGULATIONS

A vessel may transit Closed Area (CA) I, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (NLCA), the Cashes Ledge Closed Area, the Western Gulf of Maine (GOM) Closure Area, the GOM Rolling Closure Areas, and the EFH Closure Areas, provided that its gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations summarized below.

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 summarized below.

GEAR STOWAGE REQUIREMENTS

For gear to be considered legally stowed for the purpose of transiting a closed area, a vessel must meet one or more of the following requirements:

TRAWL GEAR

- A net stowed below deck: Provided it is located below the main working deck from which the net is deployed and retrieved; the towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net; and it is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference.
- A net stowed and lashed down on deck: Provided it is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference; it is 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 vessels transiting seasonal closure areas: A net that is on a reel and is covered and secured, provided: The entire surface of the next is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material that is securely bound; the towing wires are detached from the doors; and no containment rope, codend tripping device, or other mechanism to close off the codend is attached to the codend.
- On-reel stowage for vessels transiting the permanent closure areas: A net that is on a reel and is covered and secured, provided: The entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material that is securely bound; the towing wires are detached from the net; and the codend is removed and stored below deck.

SCALLOP DREDGES

- The towing wire is detached from the scallop dredge, the towing wire is reeled up onto the winch, and the dredge is secured and covered so that it is rendered unusable for fishing.

HOOK GEAR

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

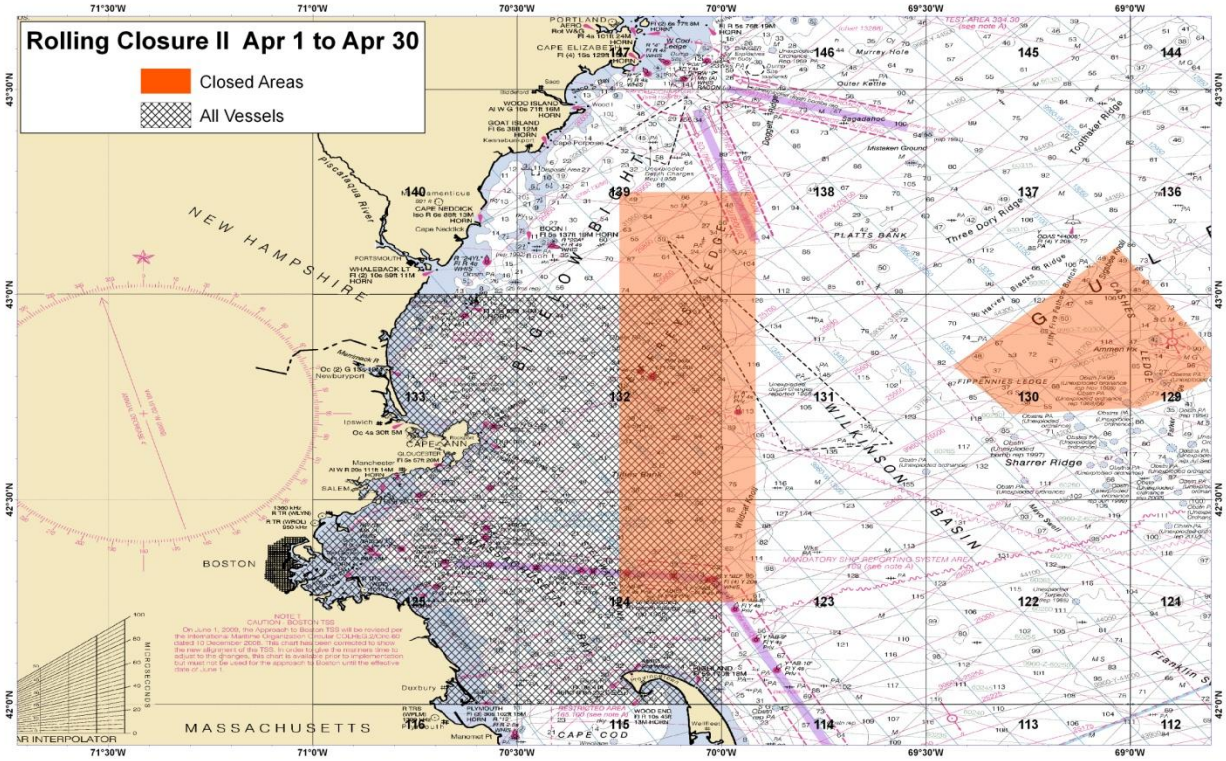
SINK GILLNET GEAR

- 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 ROLLING CLOSURE AREAS

The GOM Rolling Closure Areas 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 spears, rakes, diving gear, cast nets, tongs, harpoons, weirs, dip nets, stop nets, pound nets, pots and traps, purse seines, mid-water trawls, surf clam/quahog dredge gear, pelagic hook and line, pelagic longlines, single pelagic gillnets, shrimp trawls (with properly configured grates); and sea scallop dredge gear when under a scallop day-at-sea (DAS), or lawfully in a scallop dredge exemption area. In addition, sector vessels are exempt from portions of the rolling GOM Closure Areas (as depicted below).

*Charter and party vessels may fish in the GOM Rolling Closure Areas provided they have a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the Regional Administrator to enter or fish in these areas. A letter of authorization is valid from the date of enrollment through the duration of the closure or 3 months duration, whichever is greater, and is available by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9370.

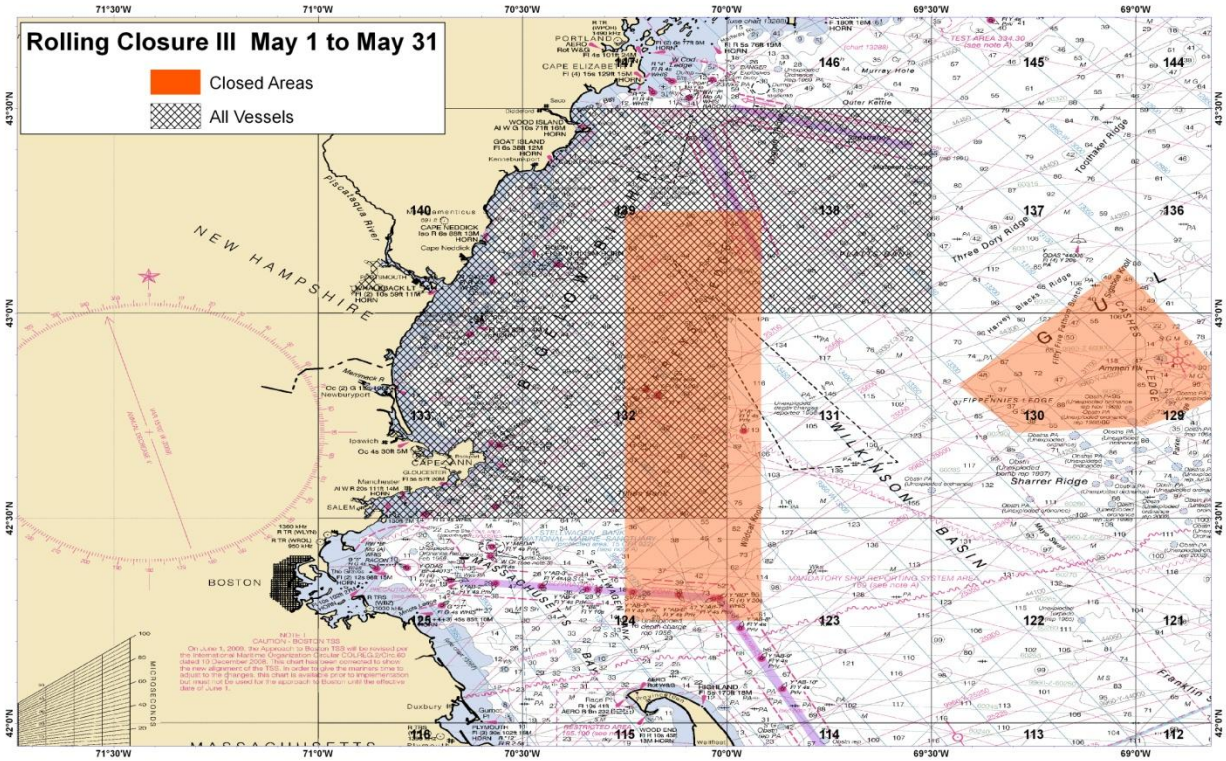


Rolling Closure Area II is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Rolling Closure Area II – Sectors

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
1	42˚ 00'	(1)
2	42˚ 00'	(2)
3	42˚ 00'	(3)
4	42˚ 00'	70˚ 00'
5	43˚ 00'	70˚ 00'
6	43˚ 00'	(4)

(1) Massachusetts shoreline
(2) Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay
(3) Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean
(4) New Hampshire shoreline

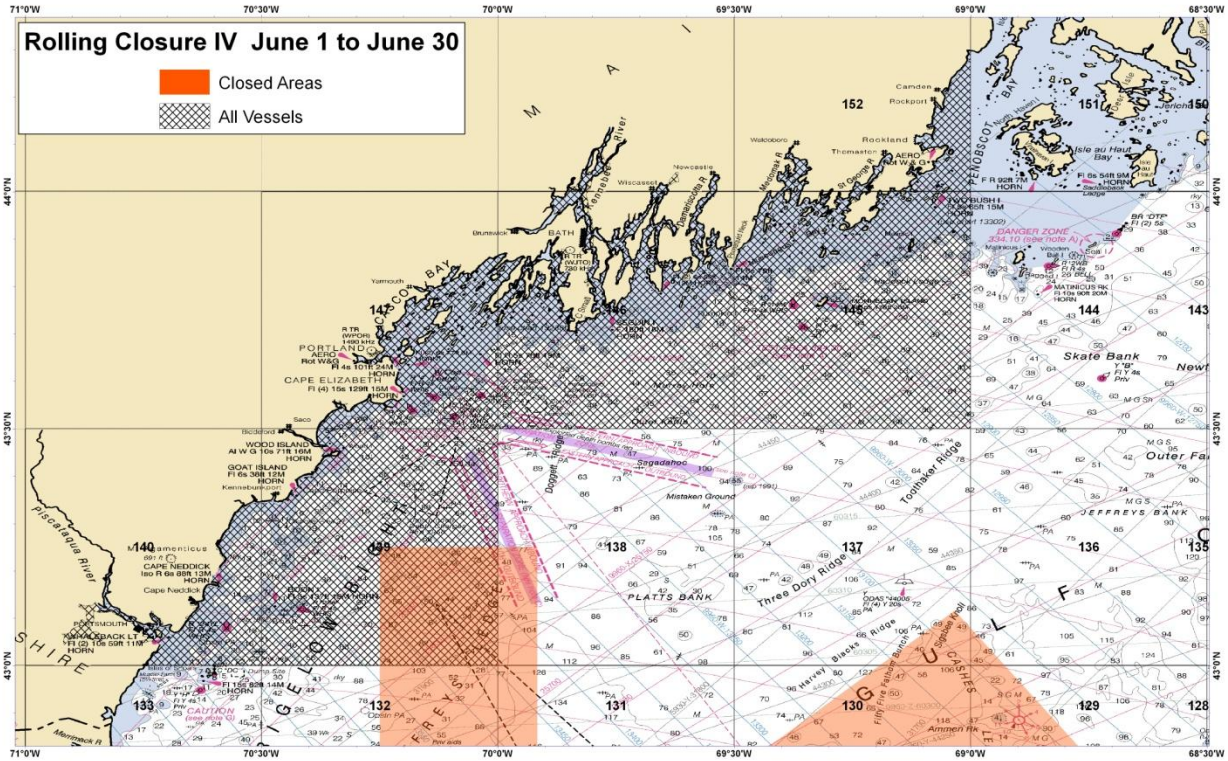


Rolling Closure Area III is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Rolling Closure Area III - Sectors

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
1	42° 30'	(1)
2	42° 30'	70° 00’
3	43° 00'	70° 00’
4	43° 00'	69° 30’
5	43° 30'	69° 30’
6	43° 30'	(2)

(1) Massachusetts shoreline
(2) Maine shoreline



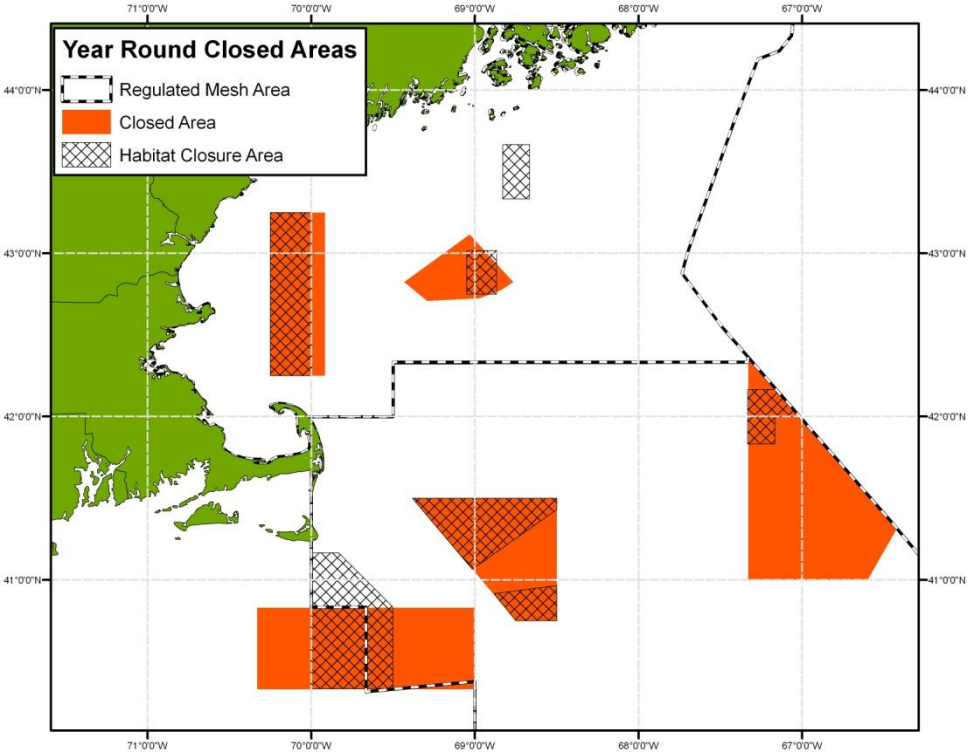
Rolling Closure Area IV is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Rolling Closure Area IV - Sectors

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
1	43˚ 00'	(1)
2	43˚ 00'	70˚ 00'
3	43˚ 30'	70˚ 00'
4	43˚ 30'	69˚ 00’
5	(2)	69˚ 00’

(1) New Hampshire shoreline
(2) Maine shoreline

YEAR-ROUND GROUNDFISH CLOSED AREAS



WESTERN GOM 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 spears, rakes, diving gear, cast nets, tongs, harpoons, weirs, dip nets, stop nets, pound nets, pots and traps, purse seines, mid-water trawls, surf clam/quahog dredge gear, pelagic hook and line, pelagic longlines, single pelagic gillnets, and shrimp trawls (with properly configured grates).

*Charter and party vessels may fish in the Western GOM and Cashes Ledge Closure Areas provided they have a Letter of Authorization from the Regional Administrator to enter or fish in these areas. A Charter/Party LOA is valid from the date of enrollment until the end of the fishing year and is available 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'

CA I, CA II, AND NLCA

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 mid-water trawl exempted fishery and the purse seine exempted fishery at the same time. A 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 SAP.

CA II is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA II

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 and charter/party or recreational vessels. Charter and party vessels must have a LOA from the Regional Administrator to enter or fish in this area. A LOA may be obtained by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9370.

NLCA is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

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 EFH CLOSURES

EFH Closure Areas depicted on page five, and whose coordinates are 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.
CIIH1	42˚ 10'	67˚ 20'
CIIH2	42˚ 10'	67˚ 9.3'
CIIH3	42˚ 00'	67˚ 0.5'
CIIH4	42˚ 00'	67˚ 10'
CIIH5	41˚ 50'	67˚ 10'
CIIH6	41˚ 50'	67˚ 20'
CIIH1	42˚ 10'	67˚ 20'

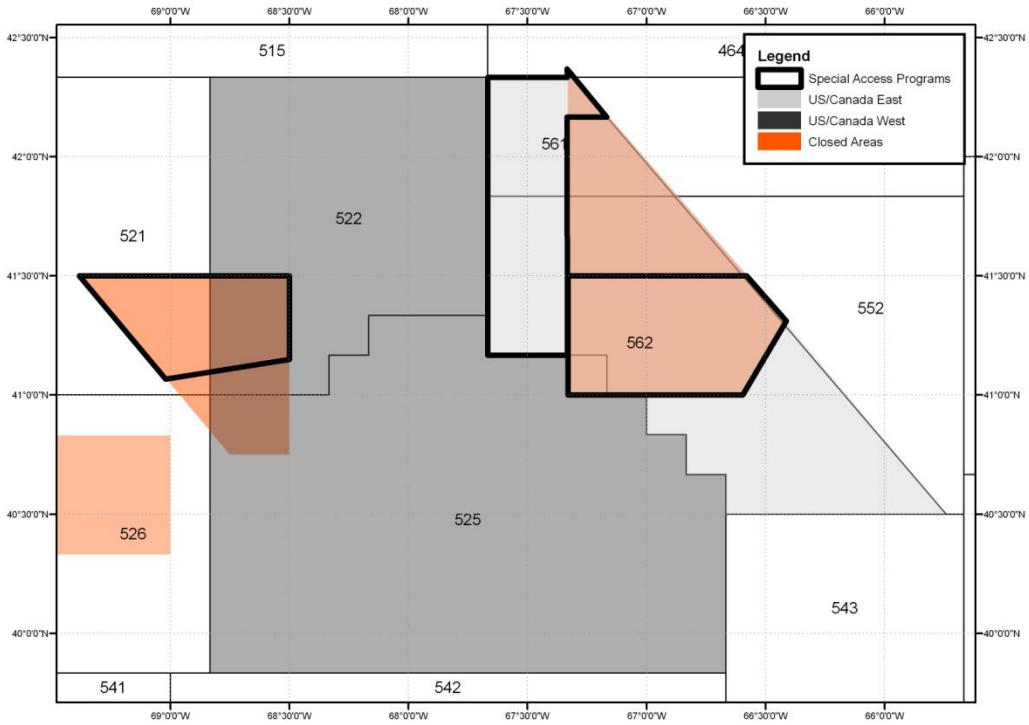
The Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

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'

US/CA MANAGEMENT AREAS AND SAPs

This is an overview of US/CA and SAP areas and coordinates (pages 8-9). The regulations may be found at 50 CFR 648.85. For the complete information sheet regarding these programs, please see: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/USCABDASSAP.pdf.



The Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas are defined by straight lines connecting the following points, in order:

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'

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

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CA II 3	42˚ 22’	67˚ 20’
SAP 1	42˚ 20’	67˚ 20’
SAP 2	42˚ 20’	67˚ 40’
SAP 3	41˚ 10’	67˚ 40’
SAP 4	41˚ 10’	67˚ 20’
SAP 5	42˚ 10’	67˚ 20’
SAP 6	42˚ 10’	67˚ 10’
CA II 3	42˚ 22’	67˚ 20’

The CA I HGH Access Area SAP is defined by straight lines connecting the following points:

Point	North Latitude	West Longitude
Hook 1	41˚ 09’	68˚ 30'
Hook 2	41˚ 30'	68˚ 30'
Hook 3	41˚ 30'	69˚ 23'
Hook 4	41˚ 04'	69˚ 01'

The CA II Yellowtail Flounder - Haddock Access Area SAP is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
Ytail 1	41˚ 30’	67˚ 20'
Ytail 2	41˚ 30'	66˚ 34.8'
G 5	41˚ 18.6'	66˚ 24.8'
CII 2	41˚ 00’	66˚ 35.8'
CII 1	41˚ 00’	67˚ 20'
Ytail 1	41˚ 30’	67˚ 20'

RESTRICED GEAR AREAS (RGAs)

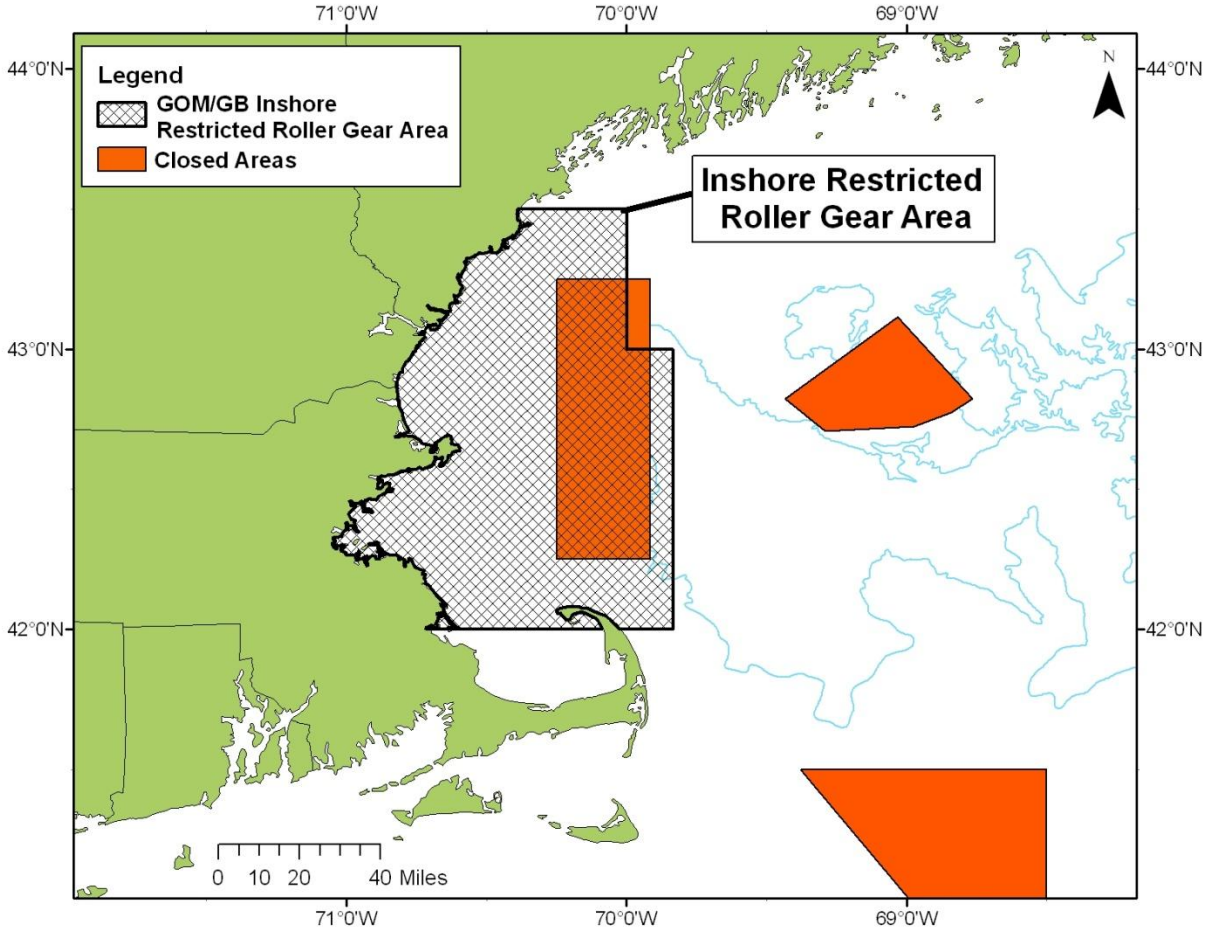
INSHORE RESTRICTED ROLLER GEAR AREA

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)

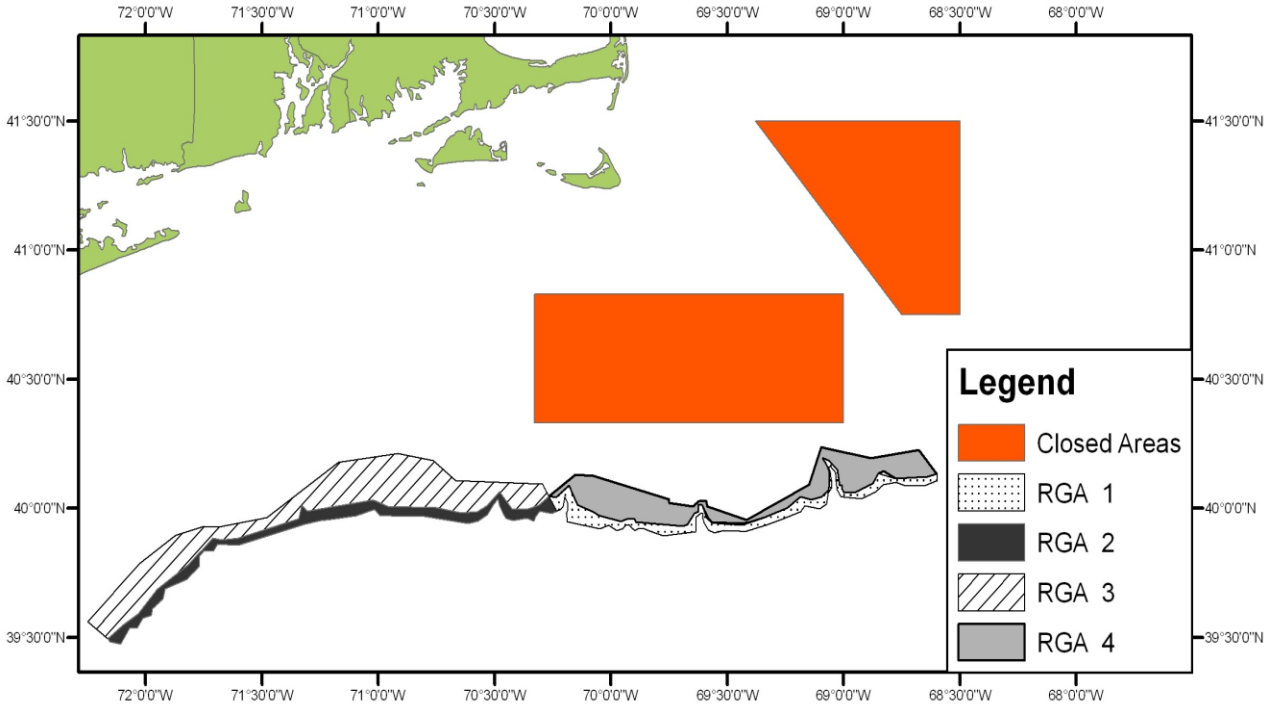
(1) Massachusetts shoreline
(2) Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay
(3) Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean
(4) Maine shoreline



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		

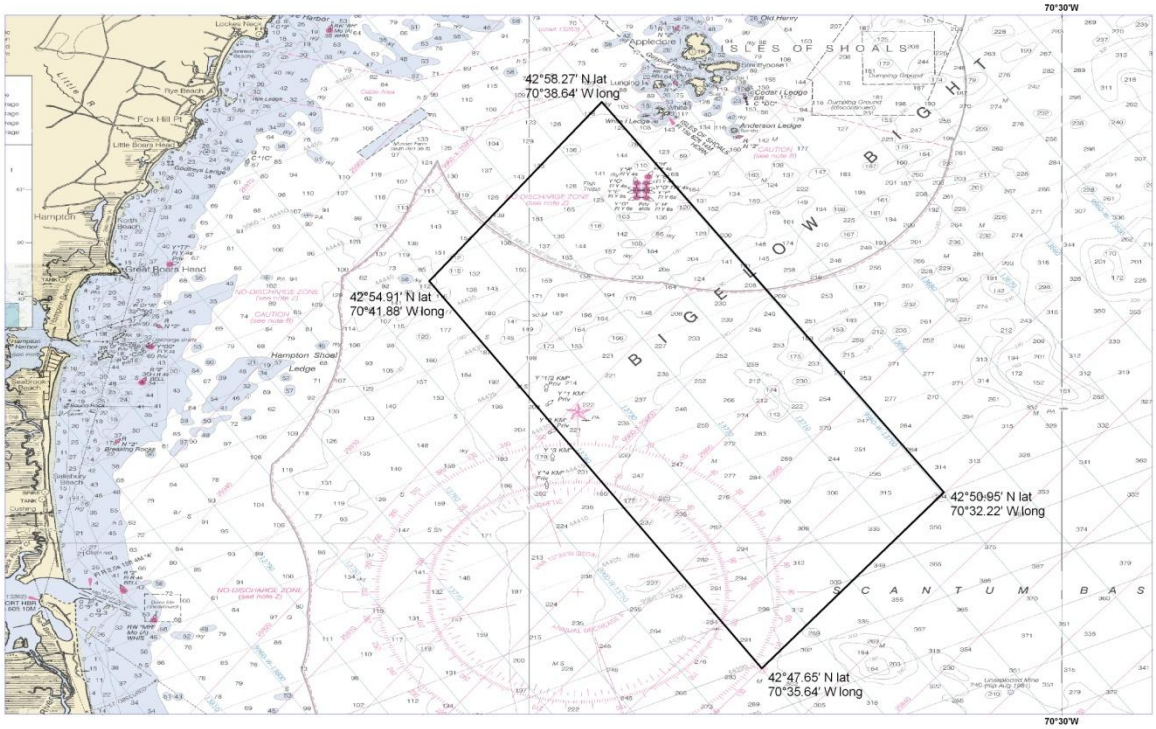
Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGA		
RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
IV	June 16 - September 30	No closure

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		

GOM COD SPAWNING PROTECTION AREA

To prevent fishing activities from interfering with known areas of spawning activity for GOM cod located just south of the Isle of Shoals off NH, the FW 45 final rule created the GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area (see Figure 2). The provisions for this protection area are described below.



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

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’

- Commercial vessels: From June 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. A commercial fishing vessel may use only the following exempted gear in this area during June:
    - 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.

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.