

Atlantic Mixed Species Trap/Pot Fishery

Fishing gear type: Trap/pot

Current category: Category II*

Basis for current classification on the LOF: Based on analogy with the Category I “Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot fishery” and the Category II “Atlantic blue crab trap/pot fishery.” The gear used in these lobster and crab pot fisheries, which have been involved in entanglement events, is similar to the gear used in this fishery.

Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed: Fin whale, Western North Atlantic (WNA); Humpback whale, Gulf of Maine.

Estimated number of current participants: 3,526

Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery: Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP), 50 CFR 229.32.

Year added to the LOF: Current fishery added in 2003 though fishery was incorporated into other fishery names prior to this (see Past Names).

Category when originally listed under current fishery name: Category II

Basis for original classification on the LOF: Listed as Category II based on analogy with the Category I “Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot fishery” and the Category II “Atlantic blue crab trap/pot fishery.” This fishery was created by pairing the "Mid-Atlantic Mixed Species Trap/Pot" (Category III), the "U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Southeast U.S. Atlantic Black Seabass Trap/Pot" (Category III), and the "Northeast Trap/Pot" (Category II), and any other trap/pot gear not identified on the LOF at that time. The gear used in other trap/pot fisheries is similar to that used in lobster pot fisheries, and while entanglement events cannot be attributed to a specific trap/pot fishery, it is likely that entanglements occur in fisheries other than lobster and crab trap/pots. NMFS did not believe that incidental serious injury and mortality in non-lobster trap/pot fisheries warrants Category I classification because there are far fewer participants in these fixed gear fisheries.

Estimated number of participants when originally listed: unknown

Past names, if any: Effort in this fishery was included in the “Gulf of Maine, U.S. Mid-Atlantic mixed species trap/pot" (Category III) until 2001. In 2001, the fishery was split into the "Northeast Trap/Pot fishery" (Category II based on analogy) and the "Mid-Atlantic trap/pot fishery" (Category III). In 2003, these two fisheries were combined with the “U.S. Mid-Atlantic & Southeast U.S. Atlantic black sea bass trap/pot fishery" and other trap/pot gear not included in other fisheries listed on the LOF to form this fishery, the "Atlantic Mixed Species Trap/Pot" (Category II).

Gear description/method for fishing: This fishery uses trap/pot gear.

Target species: Targets species include, but are not limited to, hagfish, shrimp, conch/whelk, red crab, Jonah crab, rock crab, black sea bass, scup, tautog, cod, haddock, Pollock, redfish (ocean perch) white hake, spot, skate, catfish, stone crab, and cunner.

* The fishery is classified by analogy to other gear types or fisheries that are known to cause mortality or serious injury of marine mammals.

Spatial/temporal distribution of effort: The fishery includes all trap/pot operations from the U.S.-Canada border south through the waters east of the fishery management demarcation line between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico (50 CFR 600.105), but does not include the following Category I, II, and III trap/pot fisheries: Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot; Atlantic blue crab trap/pot; FL spiny lobster trap/ pot; Southeastern U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico stone crab trap/pot; U.S. Mid-Atlantic eel trap/pot; and the Southeastern U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico golden crab fisheries.

Levels of observer coverage each year[†]: There has not been observer coverage in this fishery.

Management and regulations: The fishery is managed under various Interstate Fishery Management Plans and is subject to ALWTRP implementing regulations.

History of Changes to Current Fishery on the LOF

2012 LOF: Estimated number of participants updated from 1,912 to 3,526.

2011 LOF:

- Updated the fishery’s description to remove American eel from the list of target species.
- Estimated number of participants updated from unknown to 1,912. This estimation may be an inflation of actual effort; however, it represents the potential effort for the fishery, given the multiple gear types several state permits may allow for.

2008 LOF:

- Added the following text to the fishery description for this fishery to describe the areas fished and excluded fisheries: "The Atlantic mixed species trap/pot fishery (Category II) includes all trap/pot operations for species from the Maine/Canada border down through the waters east of the fishery management demarcation line between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico (50 CFR 600.105) -- but not including waters where trap/pot fisheries are currently listed as Category I, II and III. This currently refers to the following fisheries: Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot; Atlantic blue crab trap/pot; Florida spiny lobster trap/pot; Southeastern U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico stone crab trap/pot; U.S. Mid-Atlantic eel trap/pot fisheries; and the Southeastern U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico golden crab fishery."
- Cunner added to the list of target species.
- Updated the fishery description of this fishery to reflect that it is now subject to ALWTRP implementing regulations under an October 5, 2007, rulemaking (72 FR 57104, October 5, 2007).

2007 LOF: Expanded the list of target species to include hagfish, shrimp, conch/whelk, red crab, Jonah crab, rock crab, black sea bass, scup, tautog, cod, haddock, Pollock, redfish (ocean perch) white hake, spot, skate, catfish, American eel, and stone crab.

2006 LOF: Added a superscript “2” after this fishery in Table 2, indicating that the fishery is categorized by analogy.

2005 LOF: Minke whale (Canadian east coast) and Harbor porpoise (Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy) deleted from the list of species/stocks killed/injured in this fishery because interactions had not been documented in recent years.

[†] Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Report (SAR).