

Transmit (receive) (MHz)	Receive (transmit) (MHz)
<b>1560 MHz Separation</b>	
17720.0 .....	19280.0
17760.0 .....	19320.0
17800.0 .....	19360.0
17840.0 .....	19400.0
17880.0 .....	19440.0
17920.0 .....	19480.0
17960.0 .....	19520.0
18000.0 .....	19560.0
18040.0 .....	19600.0
18080.0 .....	19640.0
18120.0 .....	19680.0

(7) 80 MHz maximum authorized bandwidth channels:

Transmit (receive) (MHz)	Receive (transmit) (MHz)
<b>1560 MHz Separation</b>	
17740.0 .....	19300.0
17820.0 .....	19380.0
17900.0 .....	19460.0
17980.0 .....	19540.0
18060.0 .....	19620.0

(8) 220 MHz maximum authorized bandwidth channels:

Transmit (receive) (MHz)	Receive (transmit) (MHz)
17810.0 .....	18470.0
18030.0 .....	19370.0
18250.0 .....	19590.0

(9) The following frequencies are available for point-to-multipoint DEMS Systems, except that channels 35–39 were available only to existing 18 GHz DEMS licensee as of March 14, 1997 and are now available by geographic area licensing in the 24 GHz Service to be used as the licensee desires. The 24 GHz spectrum can be aggregated or disaggregated and does not have to be used in the transmit/receive manner shown except to comply with international agreements along the U.S. borders. Systems operating on Channels 25–34 must cease operations as of January 1, 2001, except that those stations on these channels within 150 km of the coordinates 38° 48' N/76° 52' W (Washington, DC, area) and 39° 43' N/101° 46' W (Denver, Colorado area) must cease operations of June 5, 1997:

Channel No.	Nodal station frequency band (MHz) limits	User station frequency band (MHz) limits
25 .....	18,820–18,830	19,160–19,170
26 .....	18,830–18,840	19,170–19,180
27 .....	18,840–18,850	19,180–19,190
28 .....	18,850–18,860	19,190–19,200

Channel No.	Nodal station frequency band (MHz) limits	User station frequency band (MHz) limits
29 .....	18,860–18,870	19,200–19,210
30 .....	18,870–18,880	19,210–19,220
31 .....	18,880–18,890	19,220–19,230
32 .....	18,890–18,900	19,230–19,240
33 .....	18,900–18,910	19,240–19,250
34 .....	18,910–18,920	19,250–19,260
35 .....	24,250–24,290	25,050–25,090
36 .....	24,290–24,330	25,090–25,130
37 .....	24,330–24,370	25,130–25,170
38 .....	24,370–24,410	25,170–25,210
39 .....	24,410–24,450	25,210–25,250

(i) Each station on channels 25 through 34 will be limited to one frequency pair per SMSA. Additional channel pairs may be assigned upon a showing that the service to be provided will fully utilize the spectrum requested. A channel pair may be subdivided as desired by the licensee.  
 (ii) A frequency pair on channels 25 through 34 may be assigned to more than one licensee in the same SMSA or service area so long as the interference protection criteria of § 101.105 are met.  
 (iii) Channels 35 through 39 are licensed in the 24 GHz Service by Economic Areas for any digital fixed service. Channels may be used at either nodal or subscriber station locations for transmit or receive but must be coordinated with adjacent channel and adjacent area users in accordance with the provisions of § 101.509. Stations must also comply with international coordination agreements.

(10) Special provision for low power systems in the 17700–19700 MHz band: Notwithstanding other provisions in this rule part, and except for specified areas around Washington, DC, and Denver, Colorado, licensees of point-to-multipoint channel pairs 25–29 identified in paragraph (r)(9) of this section may operate multiple low power transmitting devices within a defined service area. New operations are prohibited within 55 km when used outdoor and within 20 km when used indoor of the coordinates 38° 48' N/76° 52' W and 39° 43' N/104° 46' W. The service area will be a 28 kilometer omnidirectional radius originating from specified center reference coordinates. The specified center coordinates must be no closer than 56 kilometers from any co-channel nodal station or the specified center coordinates of another co-channel system. Applicants/licensees do not need to specify the location of each individual transmitting device operating within their defined service areas. Such operations are available to private and common carriers and are subject to the following requirements for the low power transmitting devices:

(i) Power must not exceed one watt EIRP and 100 milliwatts transmitter output power,

(ii) A frequency tolerance of 0.001% must be maintained; and

(iii) The mean power of emissions shall be attenuated in accordance with the following schedule:

(A) In any 4 kHz band, the center frequency of which is removed from the center frequency of the assigned channel by more than 50 percent of the channel bandwidth and is within the bands 18,820–18,870 MHz or 19,160–19,210 MHz:

$$A=35+.003(F-0.5B) \text{ dB}$$

or,  
 80 dB (whichever is the lesser attenuation).

Where:

A=Attenuation (in decibels) below output power level contained within the channel for a given polarization.

B=Bandwidth of channel in kHz.

F=Absolute value of the difference between the center frequency of the 4 kHz band measured at the center frequency of the channel in kHz.

(B) In any 4 kHz band the center frequency of which is outside the bands 18,820–18,870 GHz: At least  $43+10\log_{10}$  (mean output power in watts) decibels.

(iv) Low power stations authorized in the band 18.8–19.3 GHz after June 8, 2000 are restricted to indoor use only. No new licenses will be authorized for applications received after April 1, 2002.

\* \* \* \* \*

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene H. Dortch,**

Secretary.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 229**

[Docket No. 030221039–4133–10; I.D. 042604C]

**Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Temporary rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (AA), NOAA, announces temporary restrictions consistent with the requirements of the ALWTRP's implementing regulations. These regulations apply to lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet fishermen in an area totaling approximately 1,084 square nautical miles (nm<sup>2</sup>) (3,718 km<sup>2</sup>) east of Nantucket, MA for 15 days. The purpose of this action is to provide protection to an aggregation of North Atlantic right whales (right whales).

**DATES:** Effective beginning at 0001 hours May 2, 2004, through 2400 hours May 16, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the proposed and final Dynamic Area Management (DAM) rules, Environmental Assessments (EAs), Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) meeting summaries, and progress reports on implementation of the ALWTRP may also be obtained by writing Diane Borggaard, NMFS/Northeast Region, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Diane Borggaard, NMFS/Northeast Region, 978-281-9328 x6503; or Kristy Long, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, 301-713-1401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Electronic Access**

Several of the background documents for the ALWTRP and the take reduction planning process can be downloaded from the ALWTRP web site at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/>.

**Background**

The ALWTRP was developed pursuant to section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to reduce the incidental mortality and serious injury of three endangered species of whales (right, fin, and humpback) as well as to provide conservation benefits to a fourth non-endangered species (minke) due to incidental interaction with commercial fishing activities. The ALWTRP, implemented through regulations codified at 50 CFR 229.32, relies on a combination of fishing gear modifications and time/area closures to reduce the risk of whales becoming entangled in commercial fishing gear (and potentially suffering serious injury or mortality as a result).

On January 9, 2002, NMFS published the final rule to implement the ALWTRP's DAM program (67 FR 1133). On August 26, 2003, NMFS amended the regulations by publishing a final rule, which specifically identified gear modifications that may be allowed in a

DAM zone (68 FR 51195). The DAM program provides specific authority for NMFS to restrict temporarily on an expedited basis the use of lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet fishing gear in areas north of 40° N. lat. to protect right whales. Under the DAM program, NMFS may: (1) require the removal of all lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet fishing gear for a 15-day period; (2) allow lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet fishing within a DAM zone with gear modifications determined by NMFS to sufficiently reduce the risk of entanglement; and/or (3) issue an alert to fishermen requesting the voluntary removal of all lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet gear for a 15-day period and asking fishermen not to set any additional gear in the DAM zone during the 15-day period.

A DAM zone is triggered when NMFS receives a reliable report from a qualified individual of three or more right whales sighted within an area (75 nm<sup>2</sup> (139 km<sup>2</sup>)) such that right whale density is equal to or greater than 0.04 right whales per nm<sup>2</sup> (1.85 km<sup>2</sup>). A qualified individual is an individual ascertained by NMFS to be reasonably able, through training or experience, to identify a right whale. Such individuals include, but are not limited to, NMFS staff, U.S. Coast Guard and Navy personnel trained in whale identification, scientific research survey personnel, whale watch operators and naturalists, and mariners trained in whale species identification through disentanglement training or some other training program deemed adequate by NMFS. A reliable report would be a credible right whale sighting.

On April 21, 2004, NMFS Aerial Survey Team reported a sighting of four right whales in the proximity of 41° 13' N lat. and 69° 24' W long. This position lies east of Nantucket, MA. Thus, NMFS has received a reliable report from a qualified individual of the requisite right whale density to trigger the DAM provisions of the ALWTRP.

Once a DAM zone is triggered, NMFS determines whether to impose restrictions on fishing and/or fishing gear in the zone. This determination is based on the following factors, including but not limited to: the location of the DAM zone with respect to other fishery closure areas, weather conditions as they relate to the safety of human life at sea, the type and amount of gear already present in the area, and a review of recent right whale entanglement and mortality data.

NMFS has reviewed the factors and management options noted above relative to the DAM under consideration. As a result of this review,

NMFS prohibits lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet gear in this area during the 15-day restricted period unless it is modified in the manner described in this temporary rule. The DAM zone is bounded by the following coordinates:

41°3'N, 69°52'W (NW Corner)  
41°33'N, 69°38'W  
41°00'N, 69°05'W  
41°07'N, 68°55'W  
40°53'N, 68°55'W  
40°53'N, 69°52'W  
41°33'N, 69°52'W (NW Corner)

In addition to those gear modifications currently implemented under the ALWTRP at 50 CFR 229.32, the following gear modifications are required in the DAM zone. If the requirements and exceptions for gear modification in the DAM zone, as described below, differ from other ALWTRP requirements for any overlapping areas and times, then the more restrictive requirements will apply in the DAM zone. Special note for gillnet fisherman: In April and May, this DAM zone overlaps the year round Northeast multispecies' Closed Area I. In May, this DAM zone overlaps the Northeast multispecies' Georges Bank Seasonal Closure Area. This DAM action does not supersede Northeast multispecies closures found at 50 CFR 648.81.

**Lobster Trap/Pot Gear**

Fishermen utilizing lobster trap/pot gear within the portion of the Northern Nearshore Lobster Waters that overlap with the DAM zone are required to utilize all of the following gear modifications while the DAM zone is in effect:

1. Groundlines must be made of either sinking or neutrally buoyant line. Floating groundlines are prohibited;
2. All buoy lines must be made of either sinking or neutrally buoyant line, except the bottom portion of the line, which may be a section of floating line not to exceed one-third the overall length of the buoy line;
3. Fishermen are allowed to use two buoy lines per trawl; and
4. A weak link with a maximum breaking strength of 600 lb (272.4 kg) must be placed at all buoys.

Fishermen utilizing lobster trap/pot gear within the portion of the Offshore Lobster Waters Area that overlap with the DAM zone are required to utilize all of the following gear modifications while the DAM zone is in effect:

1. Groundlines must be made of either sinking or neutrally buoyant line. Floating groundlines are prohibited;
2. All buoy lines must be made of either sinking or neutrally buoyant line, except the bottom portion of the line,

which may be a section of floating line not to exceed one-third the overall length of the buoy line;

3. Fishermen are allowed to use two buoy lines per trawl; and

4. A weak link with a maximum breaking strength of 1,500 lb (680.4 kg) must be placed at all buoys.

#### **Anchored Gillnet Gear**

Fishermen utilizing anchored gillnet gear within the portion of the Other Northeast Gillnet Waters that overlap with the DAM zone are required to utilize all the following gear modifications while the DAM zone is in effect:

1. Groundlines must be made of either sinking or neutrally buoyant line. Floating groundlines are prohibited;

2. All buoy lines must be made of either sinking or neutrally buoyant line, except the bottom portion of the line, which may be a section of floating line not to exceed one-third the overall length of the buoy line;

3. Fishermen are allowed to use two buoy lines per string;

4. Each net panel must have a total of five weak links with a maximum breaking strength of 1,100 lb (498.8 kg). Net panels are typically 50 fathoms (91.4 m) in length, but the weak link requirements would apply to all variations in panel size. These weak links must include three floatline weak links. The placement of the weak links on the floatline must be: one at the center of the net panel and one each as close as possible to each of the bridle ends of the net panel. The remaining two weak links must be placed in the center of each of the up and down lines at the panel ends; and

5. All anchored gillnets, regardless of the number of net panels, must be securely anchored with the holding power of at least a 22 lb (10.0 kg) Danforth-style anchor at each end of the net string.

The restrictions will be in effect beginning at 0001 hours May 2, 2004, through 2400 hours May 16, 2004, unless terminated sooner or extended by NMFS through another notification in the **Federal Register**.

The restrictions will be announced to state officials, fishermen, ALWTRT members, and other interested parties through e-mail, phone contact, NOAA website, and other appropriate media immediately upon filing with the **Federal Register**.

#### **Classification**

In accordance with section 118(f)(9) of the MMPA, the Assistant Administrator (AA) for Fisheries has determined that this action is necessary to implement a

take reduction plan to protect North Atlantic right whales.

This action falls within the scope of alternatives and impacts analyzed in the Final EAs prepared for the ALWTRP's DAM program. Further analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act is not required.

NMFS provided prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on the regulations establishing the criteria and procedures for implementing a DAM zone. Providing prior notice and opportunity for comment on this action, pursuant to those regulations, would be impracticable because it would prevent NMFS from executing its functions to protect and reduce serious injury and mortality of endangered right whales. The regulations establishing the DAM program are designed to enable the agency to help protect unexpected concentrations of right whales. In order to meet the goals of the DAM program, the agency needs to be able to create a DAM zone and implement restrictions on fishing gear as soon as possible once the criteria are triggered and NMFS determines that a DAM restricted zone is appropriate. If NMFS were to provide prior notice and an opportunity for public comment upon the creation of a DAM restricted zone, the aggregated right whales would be vulnerable to entanglement which could result in serious injury and mortality. Additionally, the right whales would most likely move on to another location before NMFS could implement the restrictions designed to protect them, thereby rendering the action obsolete. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the AA finds that good cause exists to waive prior notice and an opportunity to comment on this action to implement a DAM restricted zone to reduce the risk of entanglement of endangered right whales in commercial lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet gear as such procedures would be impracticable.

For the same reasons, the AA finds that, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), good cause exists to waive the 30-day delay in effective date. If NMFS were to delay for 30 days the effective date of this action, the aggregated right whales would be vulnerable to entanglement, which could cause serious injury and mortality. Additionally, right whales would likely move to another location between the time NMFS approved the action creating the DAM restricted zone and the time it went into effect, thereby rendering the action obsolete and ineffective. Nevertheless, NMFS recognizes the need for fishermen to have time to either modify or remove (if not in compliance with the required

restrictions) their gear from a DAM zone once one is approved. Thus, NMFS makes this action effective 2 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. NMFS will also endeavor to provide notice of this action to fishermen through other means as soon as the AA approves it, thereby providing approximately 3 additional days of notice while the Office of the **Federal Register** processes the document for publication.

NMFS determined that the regulations establishing the DAM program and actions such as this one taken pursuant to those regulations are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the approved coastal management program of the U.S. Atlantic coastal states. This determination was submitted for review by the responsible state agencies under section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Following state review of the regulations creating the DAM program, no state disagreed with NMFS' conclusion that the DAM program is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the approved coastal management program for that state.

The DAM program under which NMFS is taking this action contains policies with federalism implications warranting preparation of a federalism assessment under Executive Order 13132. Accordingly, in October 2001 and March 2003, the Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs, DOC, provided notice of the DAM program and its amendments to the appropriate elected officials in states to be affected by actions taken pursuant to the DAM program. Federalism issues raised by state officials were addressed in the final rules implementing the DAM program. A copy of the federalism Summary Impact Statement for the final rules is available upon request (ADDRESSES).

The rule implementing the DAM program has been determined to be not significant under Executive Order 12866.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.* and 50 CFR 229.32(g)(3)

Dated: April 27, 2004.

**Rebecca Lent,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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