

Sector Vessel Operating Guide

Fishing Year 2011



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





NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Northeast Division

Sustainable Fisheries Division – General Information: 978-281-9315

- **Mark Grant**, Northeast Fisheries Sectors: 978-281-9145
- **Allison Murphy**, Port Clyde, Northeast Coastal Communities, and Tri State Sectors: 978-281-9122
- **Melissa Vasquez**, Cape Cod Fixed Gear and Sustainable Harvest Sector: 978-281-9166
- **Willie Whitmore**, Sector back-up and Maine Permit Bank Sector: 978-281-9182

Director's Office – General Information: 978-281-9200

- **Olivia Rugo**, Fisheries Outreach Coordinator: 978-675-2167

New England Fisheries Science Center

- **Amy Van Atten**, At-Sea Monitoring: 508-495-2266
- **Sarah Cierpich**, Pre-Trip Notification System: 508-495-2309

Fisheries Data Services Division

- Docksider Monitoring, 978-281-9232
- 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

- Vessel, dealer or operator permits; 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 - General Information 978-281-9213

- To report fishery law violations, call the OLE hotline at 1-800-853-1964.
- **District 1** (Boston, MA to Maine): 617-892-0265
- **District 2** (New Bedford, MA 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**
 - **Bill Semrau**, VMS Program Manager, 978-281-9151
 - **Linda Galvin**, Multispecies (US/CA and B-DAS); VMS Training; Activations/Registrations; Letters of Exemption/Power-Downs, 978-281-9230
- **Outreach**
 - **Don Frei**, Compliance Assistance Liaison, 978-675-2198
 - **Sheila Jarnes**, Fisheries Outreach Specialist, 978-281-9321

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





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.

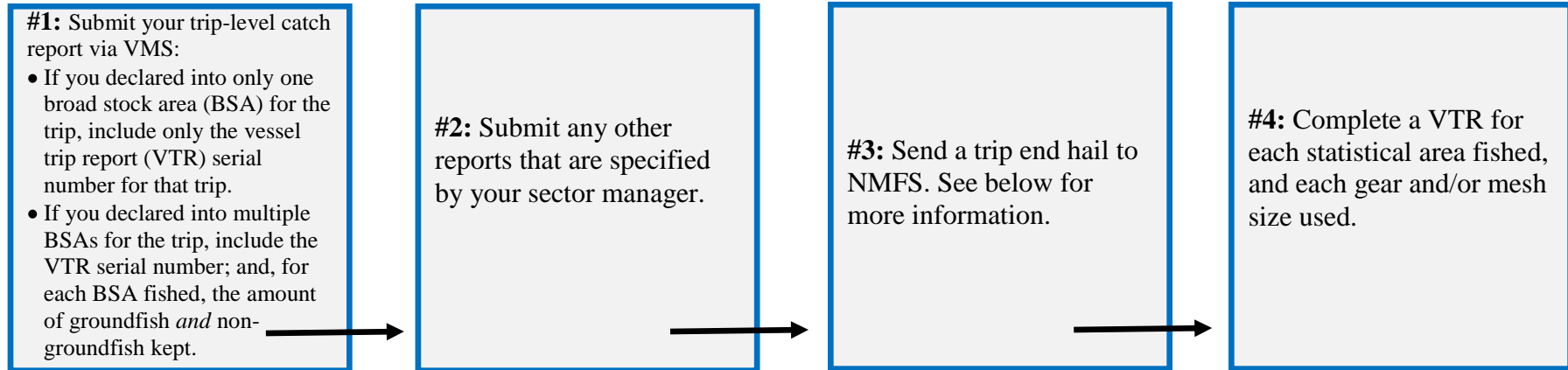
Updates:

Effective September 19, 2011, dockside monitoring will no longer be mandatory for fishing years 2011 and 2012. Trip-start hails will also no longer be required after September 19, 2011. During this time, in the Northeast multispecies fishery, sectors may voluntarily elect to continue dockside monitoring programs if they so 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.

To end your fishing trip...



Trip End Hail

- All users:
 - For all trips longer than 6 hours and occurring more than 6 hours from port, vessels must send trip end hail to NMFS at least 6 hours in advance of landing.
 - For trips shorter than 6 hours or for trips occurring within 6 hours of port, refer to your sector's operating plan to determine when you must send your trip end hail notification.
- SkyMate VMS Users:
 - On the Trip Start/End form, you must submit the trip end hail, which is at the bottom of the screen. The trip start hail at the top of the screen is no longer required. 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." The first section that includes trip start hail is no longer required.
- Thrane VMS Users:
 - Under the reports section, you must submit the trip end hail form. The trip start hail form is no longer required.

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.



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

Pre-Trip Notification System
Vessel Instructions for Multispecies Trips
NOTIFICATIONS FOR MULTISPECIES TRIPS
MUST BE MADE A FULL 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE

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

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

November 21, 2011

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 2011

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. 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 may not be possessed once the one-fish per trip limit is reached.

2. Current federal minimum fish sizes for commercial vessels:

[648.83 (a)(1)]

<i>Species</i>	<i>Minimum Size</i>
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 disposition (reason for retention or discarding) of the fish as determined by the captain.

For questions about these requirements, contact your sector manager or NOAA Fisheries Service staff at (978) 281-9315.





Northeast Sector Skate Fishery Prohibitions and Possession Limits

Last update: July 2011

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 barter 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	<i>Leucoraja ocellata</i>
Barndoor skate	<i>Dipturus laevis</i>
Thorny skate	<i>Amblyraja radiata</i>
Smooth skate	<i>Malacoraja senta</i>
Little skate	<i>Leucoraja erinacea</i>
Clearnose skate	<i>Raja eglanteria</i>
Rosette skate	<i>Leucoraja garmani</i>

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	20,000*
	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

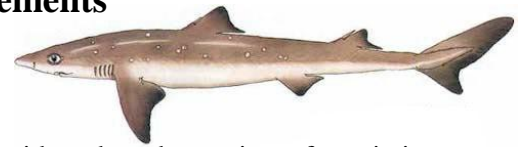
A vessel issued a Federal skate permit may transfer at sea skates taken in or from the Skate Management Unit, provided:

- 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 July 2011



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.

**Spiny Dogfish
Quota and Possession Limits**
2011 Commercial Quota = 20 million lbs

Quota Period	Allocation (lb)	Possession Limit (lb)
1. May 1–Oct 31	11,580,000 lb	3,000
2. Nov 1–Apr 30	8,420,000 lb	3,000

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 above, and may land only one trip of spiny dogfish per calendar day.

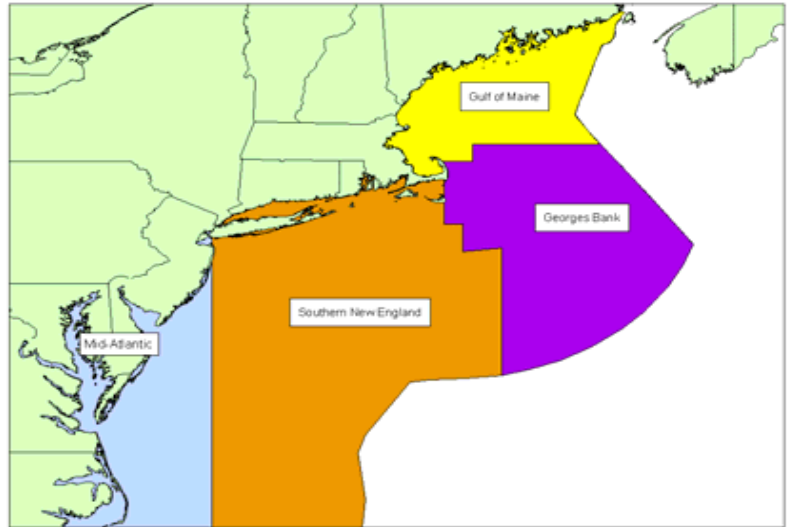
MINIMUM FISH SIZE

There is no minimum fish size for spiny dogfish.

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/carts/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.

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>

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	

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:

Exempted Areas within the GOM/GB RMAs

Trawl

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

Gillnet

Nantucket Shoals Dogfish EA*
 GOM/GB Dogfish Gillnet EA

* 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.

Exempted Areas within the SNE RMA

Trawl

SNE Exemption Area (includes part of GB RMA)

Gillnet

SNE Dogfish Gillnet EA

Exempted Areas within the MA RMA

Trawl

Mid-Atlantic EA (includes part of SNE RMA)
 RMA)

Gillnet

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.

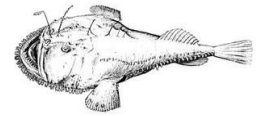
More information regarding multispecies regulations is available on the NMFS Northeast Region website at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmulti.html>

November 21, 2011



Last Updated: July 2011

Sector Vessel Monkfish Fishery Summary of Regulations



INTRODUCTION

This summary 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 this fishery is managed.

Individual states may set different regulations for the commercial monkfish fishery. In cases where state measures conflict with Federal regulations, fishery participants must adhere to the more restrictive state or Federal measure.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As of May 25, 2011, the tail-to-whole-weight conversion factor of 3.32 is changed to 2.91. This change more accurately accounts for monkfish being landed that still have their head attached, but guts removed.

MANAGEMENT AREAS (50 CFR 648.91)

The monkfish fishery in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) north of the latitude of the North/South Carolina border is managed as two stocks with corresponding management areas. The boundary between the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) and the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) follows the 70° W longitude line from the south-facing shoreline of Cape Cod, MA, to 41° N latitude, then eastward to the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary (see map at right).

MINIMUM FISH SIZE (§ 648.93)

The minimum size for monkfish harvested in either the SFMA or the NFMA is 17 inches total length or 11 inches tail length.

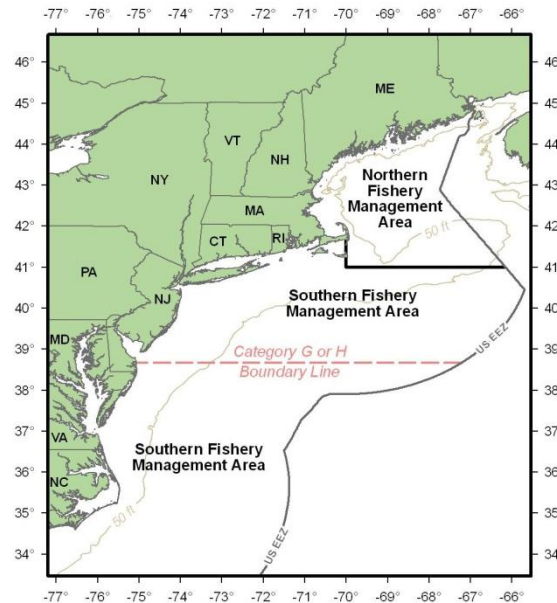
POSSESSION LIMITS (§ 648.94)

In order to possess more than the incidental possession limit, a vessel holding a limited access monkfish permit must be on a monkfish Day-at-Sea (DAS). For specifics of the catch limits for limited access permit holders and incidental catch limits, see tables starting on page 4.

Beginning in FY 2011, Amendment 5 authorized the landing of monkfish heads separately from tails, provided the total head weight does not exceed 1.91 times the total weight of tails onboard. For example, a monkfish Category E permit, not on a DAS, with a possession limit of monkfish of 5% of the total weight of fish onboard, has a total of 500 pounds of fish onboard. The vessel is allowed to retain 25 pounds of monkfish tails (5% of 500) and 48 pounds

of monkfish heads (25 x 1.91) or 73 pounds of whole monkfish (25 x 2.91).

MANAGEMENT AREAS (§ 648.91)



DAYS-AT-SEA (DAS) (§ 648.92)

For FY 2011, each vessel with a limited access monkfish permit has been allocated 30.3 monkfish DAS. However, a vessel is restricted to using only 28 DAS in the SFMA. In addition, a vessel may carry-over up to four unused monkfish DAS from the previous fishing year (FY). These carryover DAS may be used in either management area. Vessels may declare DAS usage through an approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) or the NMFS interactive voice response (IVR) phone system.

Each Category C, D, F, G, or H permit holder that also possesses a NE multispecies or scallop limited access permit must use either a NE multispecies DAS or scallop DAS whenever a monkfish DAS is used, regardless of where the vessel is fishing. There is one exception to this, as follows:

Each Category C, D, F, G, or H permitted vessel that has a NE multispecies Category A DAS allocation that is less than its monkfish DAS allocation is given “monkfish-only” DAS equal to the vessel’s annual monkfish allocation minus its annual allocation of NE multispecies Category A DAS (for example, 31 monkfish DAS - 20 “A” DAS = 11 “monkfish-only” DAS). Monkfish-only DAS are treated separately

from DAS tied to the allocation of NE multispecies Category A DAS and can only be used after the vessel's allocation of NE multispecies Category A DAS has been fully exhausted.

Monkfish-only DAS must be fished in an exempted fishery. Additionally, the vessel is subject to the same restrictions applicable to limited access monkfish Category A and B vessels when under a monkfish-only DAS.

A vessel that has monkfish-only DAS may choose to lease in NE multispecies Category "A" DAS from another vessel; however, these leased NE multispecies DAS must then be tied to monkfish DAS, which can then no longer be used as monkfish-only DAS. At any time prior to fishing any or all of its allocation of NE multispecies Category A DAS, a Category C, D, F, G, or H permitted vessel may choose to lease out NE multispecies DAS. If a vessel leases out its NE multispecies DAS, the vessel must forfeit a monkfish DAS for each NE multispecies DAS that the vessel leases, equal in number to the difference between the number of remaining NE multispecies DAS and the number of unused monkfish DAS at the time of the lease. For example, if a lessor vessel with 31 unused monkfish DAS and 35 allocated NE multispecies DAS leased 10 of its NE multispecies DAS to another vessel, the lessor would forfeit 6 of its monkfish DAS (10 - (35 NE multispecies DAS - 31 monkfish DAS) = 6).

Monkfish DAS are charged on a real-time basis for a vessel fishing with trawl gear. However, a vessel fishing with gillnet gear under a monkfish DAS will be charged 15 hours of monkfish DAS for all trips less than or equal to 15 hours in duration. Such vessels will be charged monkfish DAS on a real-time basis for any gillnet trip that is longer than 15 hours in duration.

Effect of Different DAS Charging Rates

Because monkfish DAS and NE multispecies DAS are now charged at a different rate in the common pool under Amendment 16 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, a vessel may end up with a balance of "tied" monkfish DAS but no more allocated NE multispecies DAS. These monkfish DAS DO NOT become "monkfish-only" and are unusable; rather, a vessel must lease in additional NE multispecies DAS to utilize the leftover "tied" monkfish DAS. For example, a vessel that fishes 25 hours under both a monkfish and NE multispecies

DAS would be charged 25 monkfish hours but 48 groundfish hours. The vessel would then have to lease in additional NE multispecies DAS to utilize the remaining 23 hours of "tied" monkfish DAS.

Automatic DAS Adjustment for trip limit overage

New regulations implementing Amendment 5 allow a limited access monkfish vessel to land up to the equivalent of one additional day's worth of its trip limit more than would otherwise be authorized based on the vessel's actual monkfish DAS usage for that trip. A VMS declaration prior to crossing the demarcation line upon returning to port or a call to the IVR line 1 hour prior to landing must be made to land the additional day's worth of monkfish. To account for the trip limit overage, a vessel will be charged monkfish DAS equivalent to the next 24-hr period plus 1 minute. For example, a trip with two monkfish trip limits worth of fish on board and that has been declared into the DAS program for 15 hours would be permitted to land the two monkfish trip limits. The DAS charge for the trip would be adjusted from 15 hours to 24 hours and 1 minute.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NFMA (§ 648.91)

Vessels with valid limited access NE multispecies and valid limited access Monkfish permits, both with DAS allocation, intending to fish exclusively in the NFMA and fishing under a NE Multispecies declaration (either sector or A DAS declaration) utilizing the Monkfish Option in the VMS fishing activity code declaration, may change the vessel's Multispecies declaration to a Monkfish A DAS declaration while at sea if more Monkfish is retained and landed than allowed under a Multispecies-coded trip.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SFMA (§ 648.91)

Vessels coded into a Multispecies fishing activity code with a Monkfish option may transit the SFMA provided the vessel does not harvest or possess monkfish, or any other fish from the SFMA, and the vessel's fishing gear is properly stowed and not available for immediate use, in accordance with the regulations.

Vessels coded under a Multispecies code and intending to fish in the SFMA should not utilize the Monkfish option in their VMS fishing activity code. For further information or assistance with your VMS coding, you may contact NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) VMS team at 978-281-9213.

GEAR RESTRICTIONS (§ 648.91)

Dredge gear

- A vessel may not fish with dredges or have dredges on board while fishing under a monkfish DAS.

Trawl gear

- The minimum mesh size for any trawl net used under a monkfish DAS, unless subject to the following exception, is 10-inch square or 12-inch diamond mesh throughout the codend for at least 45 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net. The minimum mesh size for the remainder of the trawl net is the regulated mesh size specified by the regulated mesh area being fished. This applies to any vessel on a monkfish DAS, regardless of multispecies DAS usage or balance.
- Exception: A vessel issued a Category C, D, or H permit and fishing with trawl gear under both a

monkfish and NE multispecies DAS are subject to the minimum mesh size determined by the NE multispecies fishery.

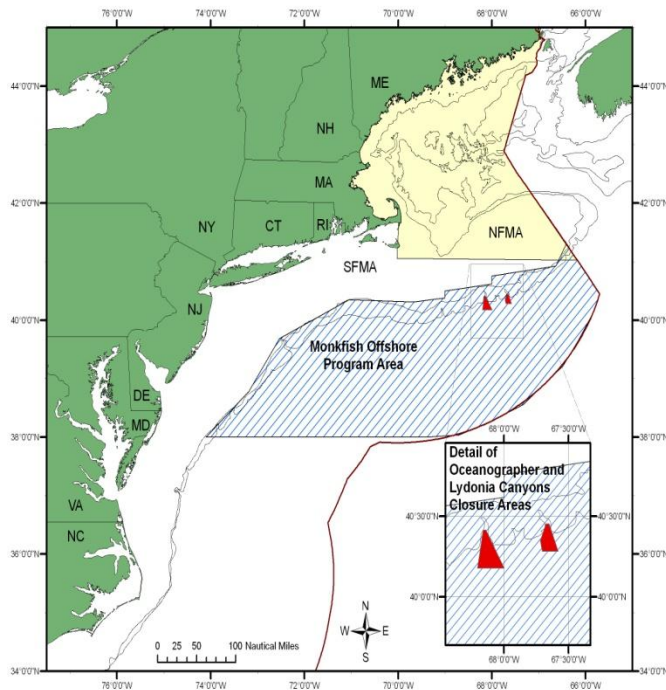
- The roller gear on any vessel on a monkfish DAS in the SFMA may not exceed 6 inches in diameter.

Gillnet gear

- The minimum mesh size for any gillnets used under a monkfish DAS is 10–inch diamond mesh.
- Category A or B vessels may not fish with, haul, possess, or deploy more than 160 gillnets at any time.
- Category C, D, F, and H vessels that possess a limited access NE multispecies permit and fish under a monkfish DAS may not fish with, haul, possess, or deploy more than 150 gillnets.
- Gillnets may not be longer than 300 ft.
- Gillnets must be tagged.

CLOSURE AREAS (§ 648.97)

A vessel on a monkfish DAS is prohibited from fishing in the Oceanographer and Lydonia Canyon closure areas, regardless of the type of gear used (see map and coordinates below).



Oceanographer Canyon Closed Area

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

Lydonia Canyon Closed Area

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

DAS POSSESSION LIMITS (§ 648.94)

FY 2011 Monkfish Trip Limits while on a Monkfish DAS

Permit Category	Area	Landing Limit¹ (tail weight per DAS²)
A or C	NFMA	1,250 lb (3,638 lb whole weight)
B or D	NFMA	470 lb (1,368 lb whole weight)
A, C, or G	SFMA	550 lb (1,601 lb whole weight)
B, D, or H	SFMA	450 lb (1,310 lb whole weight)
F	Offshore Fishery Program Area	1,600 lb (4,656 lb whole weight) ³

FY 2011 Incidental Monkfish Trip Limits while on a NE Multispecies DAS but not a Monkfish DAS

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

Note: A vessel fishing under a NE multispecies DAS may have additional possession restrictions based on the fishery in which they 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 refer to the regulations for these or other programs you may be participating in for possible restrictions.

FY 2011 Incidental Monkfish Trip Limits while on a Scallop DAS or in the Sea Scallop Access Area Program

Permit Category	DAS Program	Area	Gear	Landing Limit¹ (tail weight per DAS²)
C, D, E, F, or H	Sea Scallop Access Area	NFMA & SFMA	All gear	300 lb (873 lb whole weight) ⁴
C, D, E, F, or H	Scallop	NFMA & SFMA	All gear	300 lb (873 lb whole weight)

¹Vessels 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)].

³For 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.

FY 2011 Incidental Monkfish Trip Limits for Vessels not under a DAS Program

Permit Category	DAS Program	Area(s) and Gear	Landing Limit¹ (per trip unless stated otherwise)
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> The Gulf of Maine (GOM) or Georges Bank (GB) Regulated Mesh Areas (RMAs) <u>Gear:</u> Minimum mesh size or larger— See clarification on next page.	Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight ²) of the total weight of fish on board.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> Southern New England (SNE) RMA east of the Mid-Atlantic (MA) Exemption Area Boundary at 72° 30' W longitude <u>Gear:</u> Minimum mesh size or larger— See clarification on next page.	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, up to 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS and fishing under a skate bait Letter of Authorization	<u>Area:</u> SNE RMA <u>Gear:</u> Minimum mesh size or larger— See clarification on next page.	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, up to 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> SNE RMA west of the MA Exemption Area boundary or MA RMA. <u>Gear:</u> Minimum mesh size or larger— See clarification on next page.	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 (1310 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Areas:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> Mesh smaller than minimum—See clarification on next page.	50 lb (146 lb whole weight) per day ⁵ , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H and NE Multispecies Small Vessel permit ⁷	No DAS ⁶	<u>Area:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> 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.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> Rod and reel or handlines only	50 lb (146 lb whole weight) per day ⁵ , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H and a surf clam or ocean quahog permit	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> Hydraulic clam dredge or mahogany quahog dredge	50 lb (146 lb whole weight) per day ⁵ , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (437 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H and a sea scallop permit	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> Scallop dredge only (including 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.

⁵A 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).

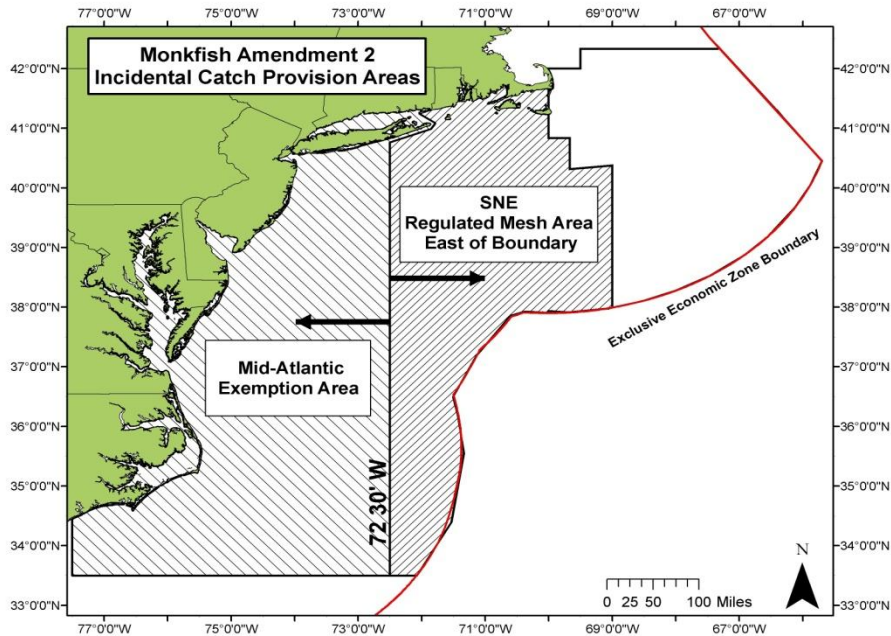
⁷ In order to possess monkfish in the scallop dredge exemption areas, small dredges must be used (combined width not to exceed 10.5 ft).

Clarification of Possession Limit and Mesh Size in the SNE & Mid-Atlantic (MA) Exemption Areas

The table below indicates the incidental catch of monkfish for trawl vessels fishing on the east-side or west-side of the NE Multispecies MA Exemption Area boundary.

The monkfish incidental catch limit is based upon the mesh size of the smallest mesh fished during a trip. For example, if a vessel is 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 boundary line, the vessel is subject to the more restrictive possession limit of 50 lb tail weight per day, up to 150 lb tail weight per trip.

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



Side of MA Exemption Area boundary	Smallest Mesh Fished During the Trip	Landing Limit (per trip unless stated otherwise ⁸)
WEST	5.5-inch diamond / 6-inch square, or larger, in body, extensions, and cod end	5% of total weight of fish aboard, up to 450 lb per trip
WEST	Smaller than 5.5-inch diamond / 6-inch square in body, extensions, and cod end	50 lb per day, up to 150 lb per trip
EAST	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	In SNE RMA: 5% of total weight of fish aboard, not to exceed 50 lb per day, up to 150 lb per trip In GOM/GB RMAs: 5% of total weight of fish aboard
EAST	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	50 lb per day, up to 150 lb per trip

⁸Tail weight is converted to whole weight by multiplying by 2.91.



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

July 2011

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 number that was used previously (6-digit permit number + eight 9s) is no longer required and should not be included. 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.

November 21, 2011



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
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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 net 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.

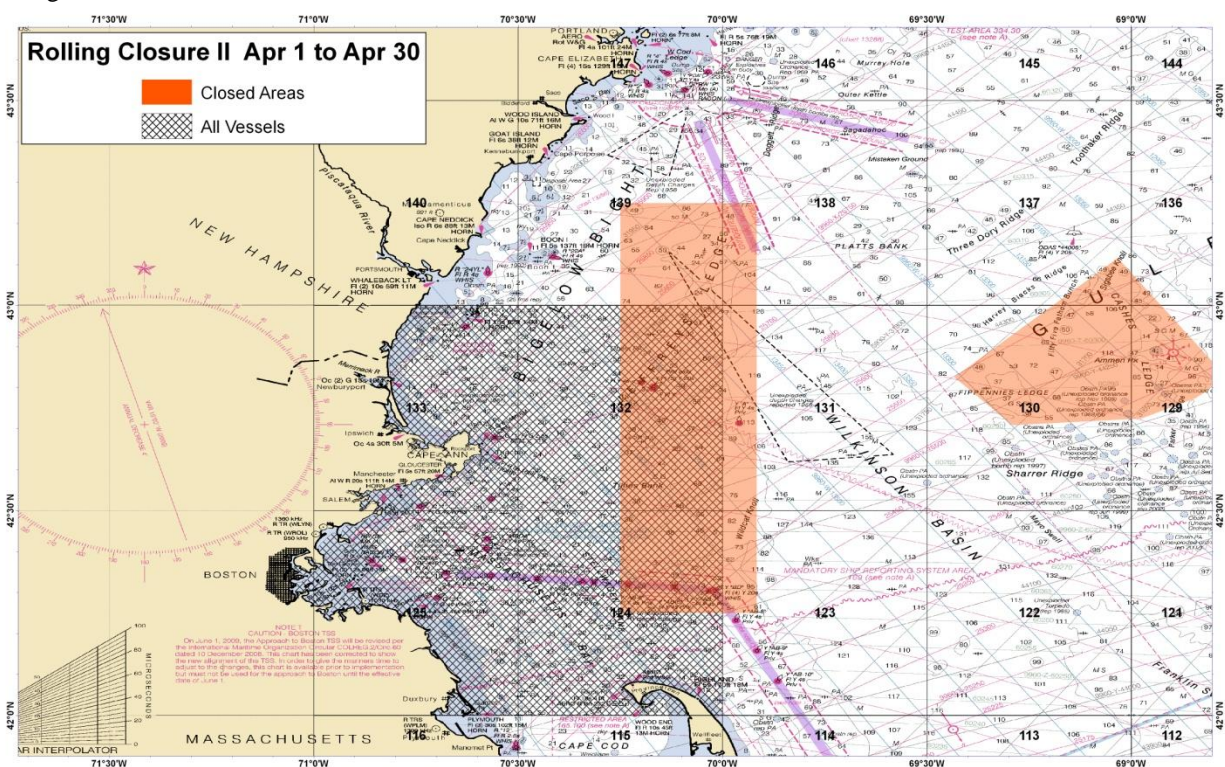
SINK GILLNET GEAR

- 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.

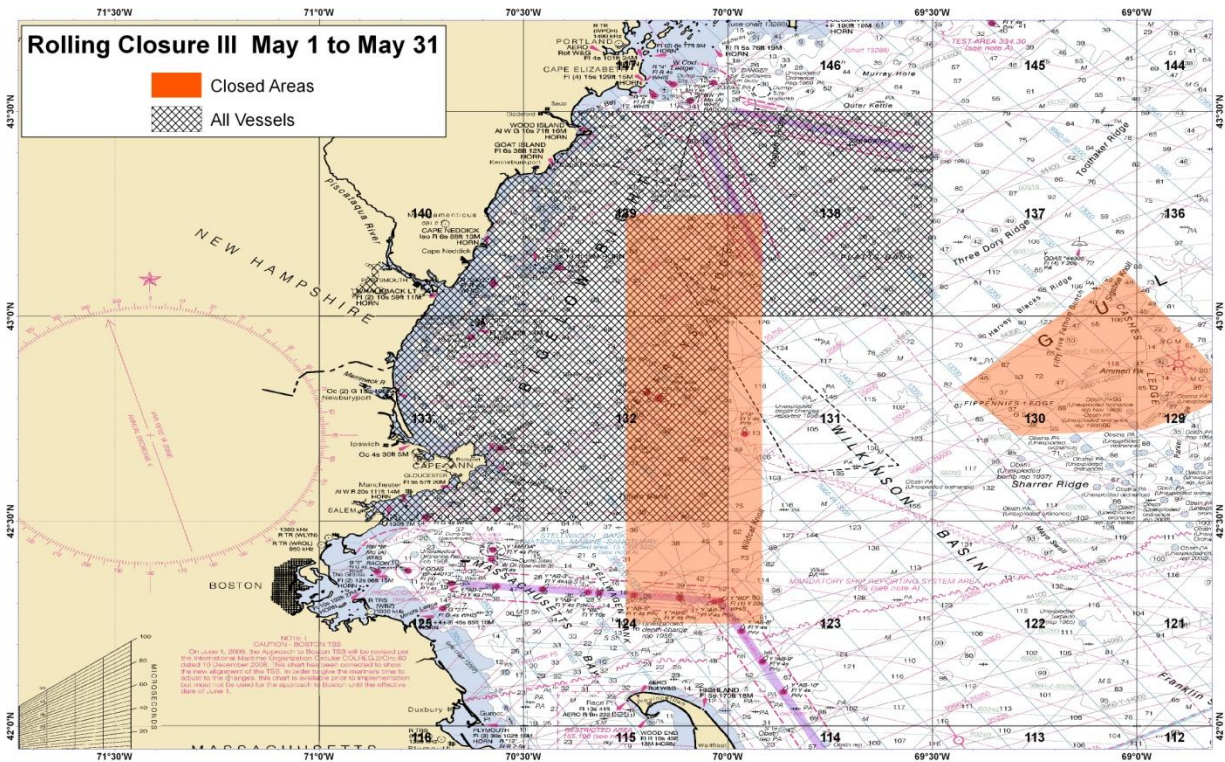


Rolling Closure Area II is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

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

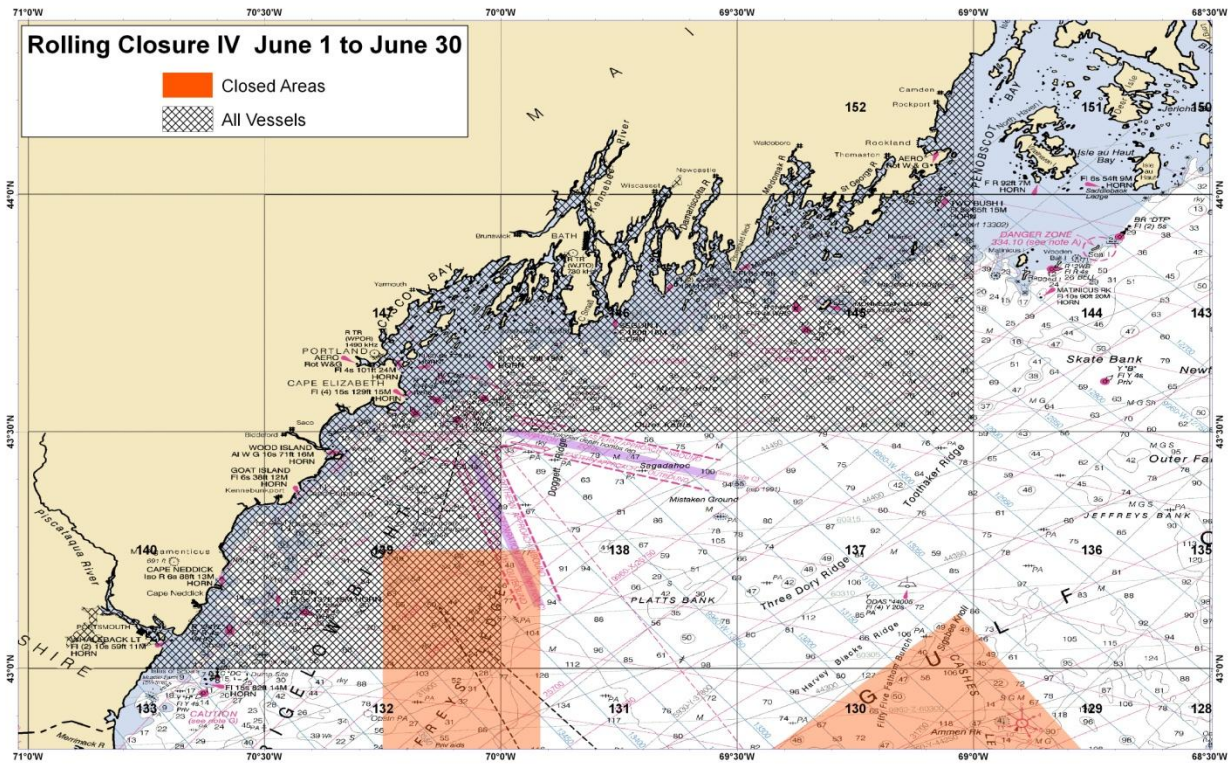


Rolling Closure Area III is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

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



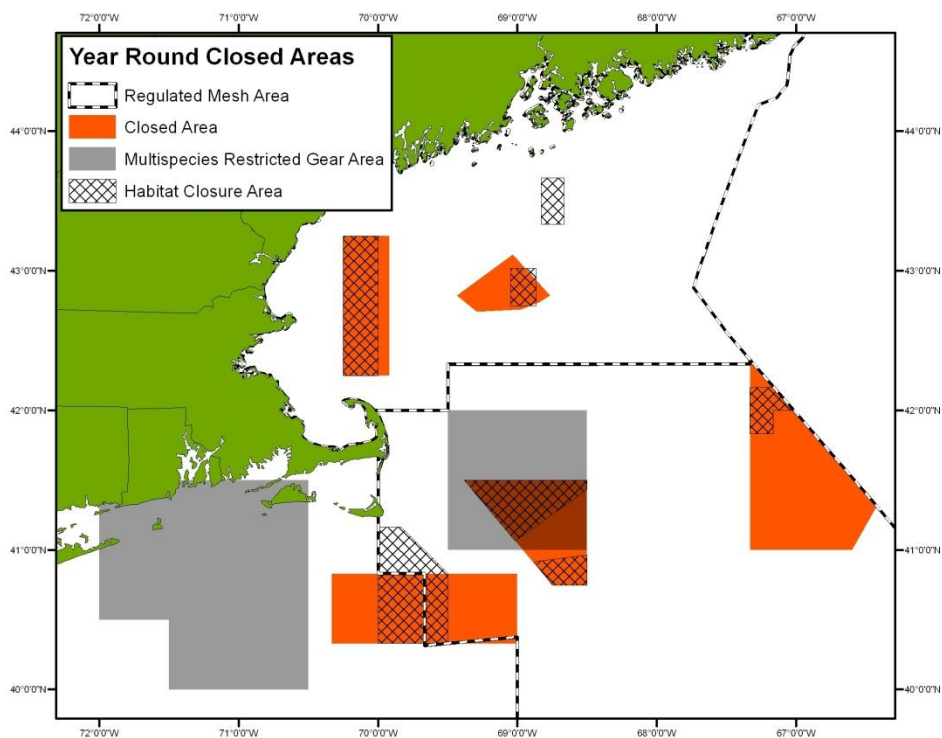
Rolling Closure Area IV is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

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 haggfish, 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.
CIH1	42° 10'	67° 20'
CIH2	42° 10'	67° 9.3'
CIH3	42° 00'	67° 0.5'
CIH4	42° 00'	67° 10'
CIH5	41° 50'	67° 10'
CIH6	41° 50'	67° 20'
CIH1	42° 10'	67° 20'

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

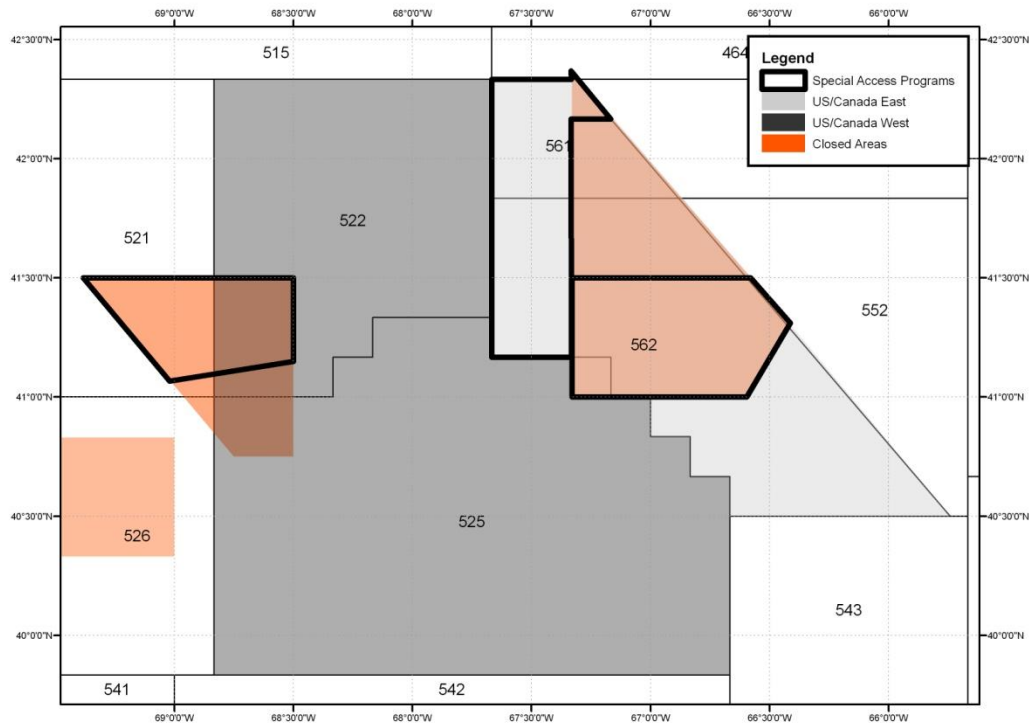
Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area

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

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'

RESTRICTED GEAR AREAS (RGAs)

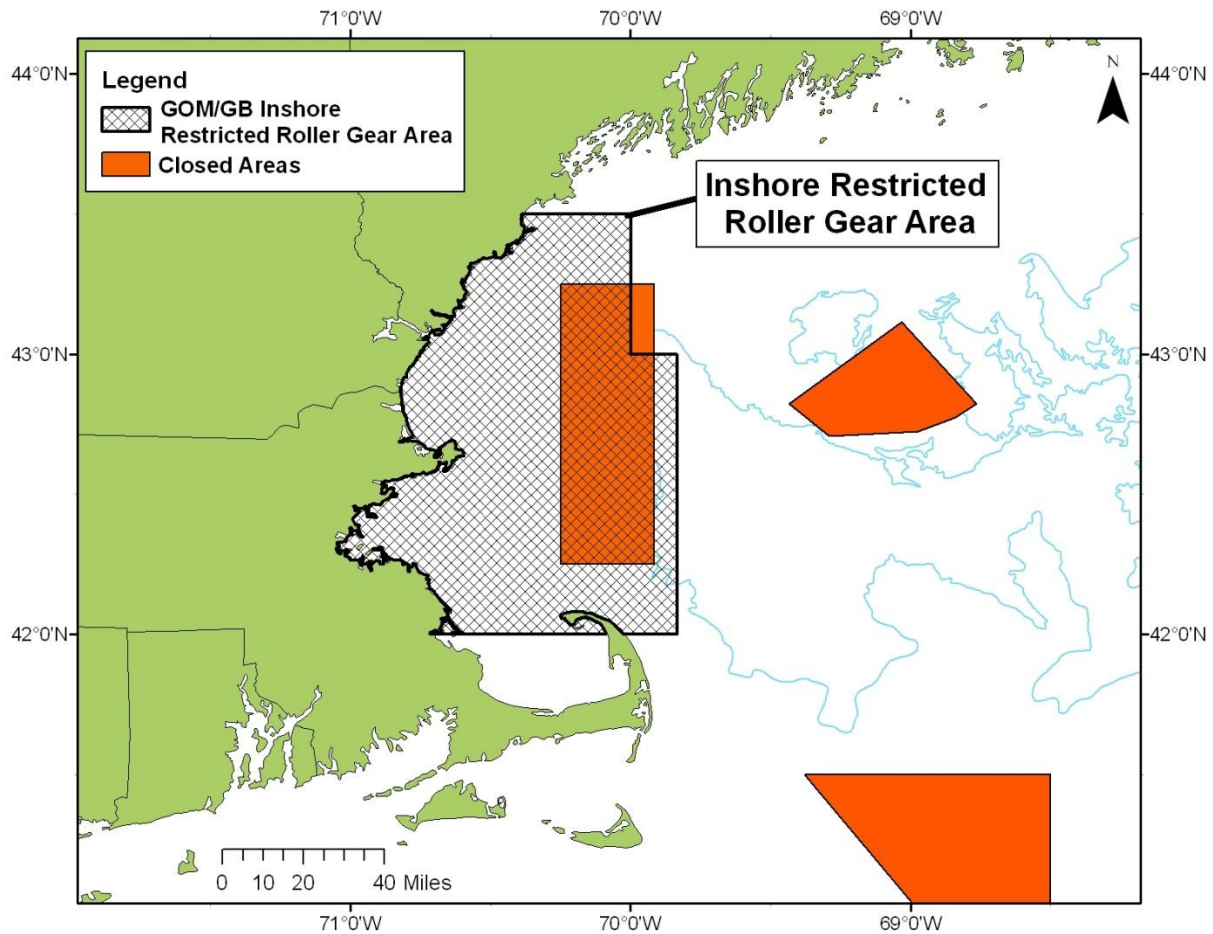
INSHORE RESTRICTED ROLLER GEAR AREA

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

Inshore Restricted Roller Gear Area

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

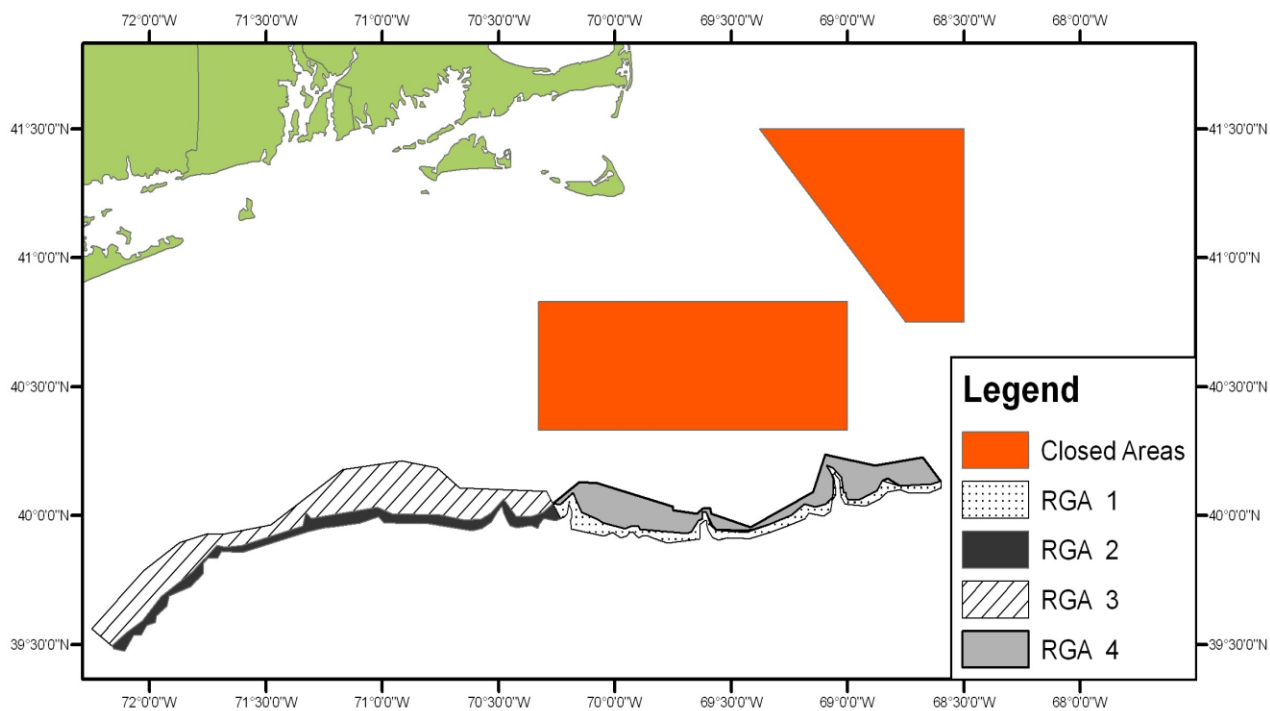
- (1) Massachusetts shoreline
- (2) Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay
- (3) Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean
- (4) Maine shoreline



MOBILE GEAR AND LOBSTER TRAP/POT RGAs

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

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



Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGA

RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
I	October 1 - June 15	June 16 – September 30

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

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

Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGA

RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
II	November 27 - June 15	June 16 – November 26

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

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

Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGA

RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
III	June 16 - November 26	January 1 – April 30

Inshore Boundary

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

Offshore Boundary

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

Mobile Gear and Lobster Trap/Pot RGA

RGA	Closed to mobile gear	Closed to trap/pot gear
IV	June 16 - September 30	No closure

Inshore Boundary

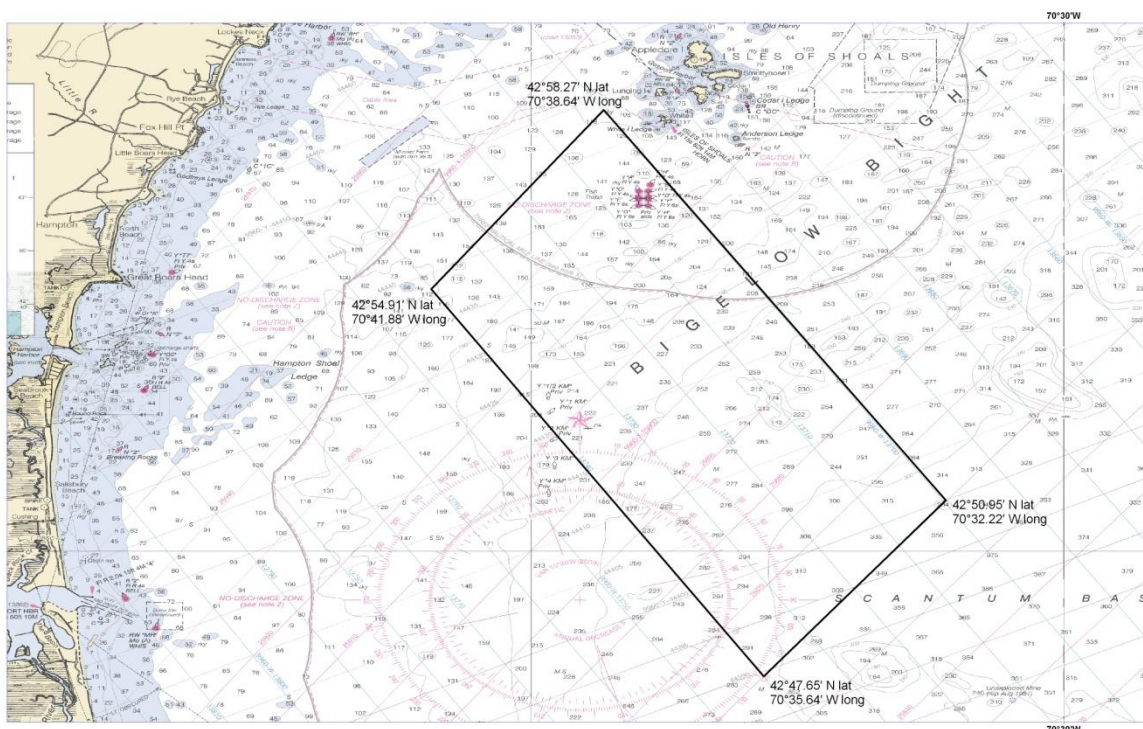
Point	Latitude	Longitude
193	40° 13.6'	68° 40.6'
194	40° 11.6'	68° 53.0'
195	40° 14.0'	69° 04.70'
196	40° 14.30'	69° 05.80'
197	40° 05.5'	69° 09.0'
198	39° 57.3'	69° 25.10'
199	40° 00.40'	69° 35.20'
200	40° 01.70'	69° 35.40'
201	40° 01.70'	69° 37.40'
202	40° 00.50'	69° 38.80'
203	40° 01.30'	69° 45.00'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

Offshore Boundary

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

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:

- **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.

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

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

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