



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

April 25, 2002

Dear Commercial Lobster Trap/Pot and Gillnet Fishermen:

This letter is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has temporarily restricted lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet gear for a 15-day period in an area off Cape Ann, Massachusetts, totaling 1,100 square nautical miles (nm<sup>2</sup>) (2,038.5 km<sup>2</sup>) in April and 1,700 nm<sup>2</sup> (3,150 km<sup>2</sup>) in May to provide immediate protection to an aggregation of North Atlantic right whales (right whales).

The regulations implementing the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) provide NMFS the authority to temporarily restrict the use of lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet fishing gear on an expedited basis to protect right whales through its Dynamic Area Management (DAM) program.

A DAM zone is triggered by a single reliable report from a qualified individual of 3 or more right whales within an area (75 nm<sup>2</sup>) such that right whale density is equal to or greater than 0.04 right whales per nm<sup>2</sup>. On April 14, 2002, 8 right whales in the proximity of 42E 31' N latitude and 70E 00.6' W longitude were sighted. NMFS determined that this sighting was a reliable report submitted by a qualified individual.

Therefore, NMFS is implementing a DAM zone in the waters bounded by the coordinates found on the two-sided enclosure to this letter. All anchored gillnet and lobster trap gear must be removed from these waters **effective 0001 hours April 28, 2002, through May 13, 2002**, and no new gear may be set in this area during the restricted period. NMFS may extend the restricted period, through notification in the *Federal Register*, for an additional period if the trigger continues to be met.

To obtain these regulations in their entirety, please call 978-281-9328. In addition, these regulations are available by accessing the ALWTRP web page ([www.nero.nmfs.gov/whaletrp/](http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/whaletrp/)). If you have any questions regarding these regulations, please call 978-281-9328.

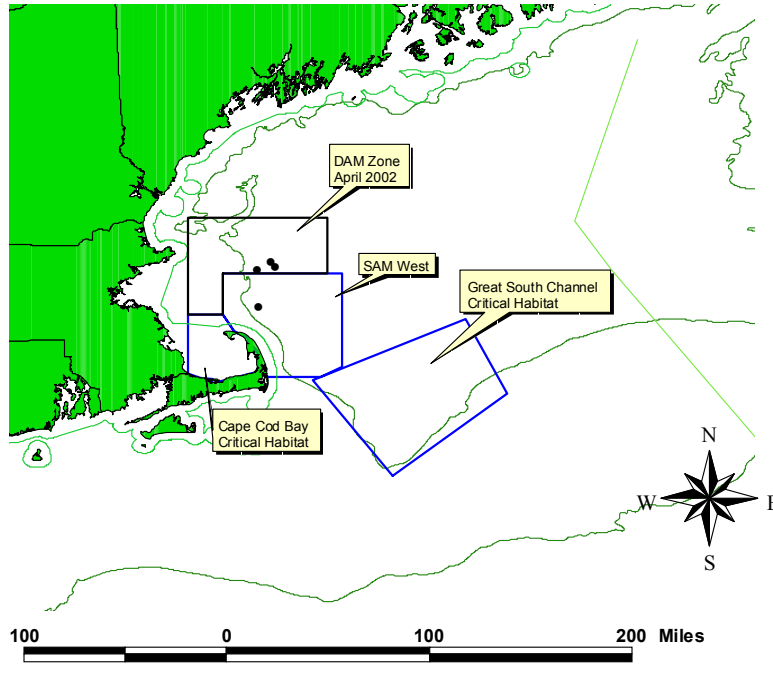
Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure



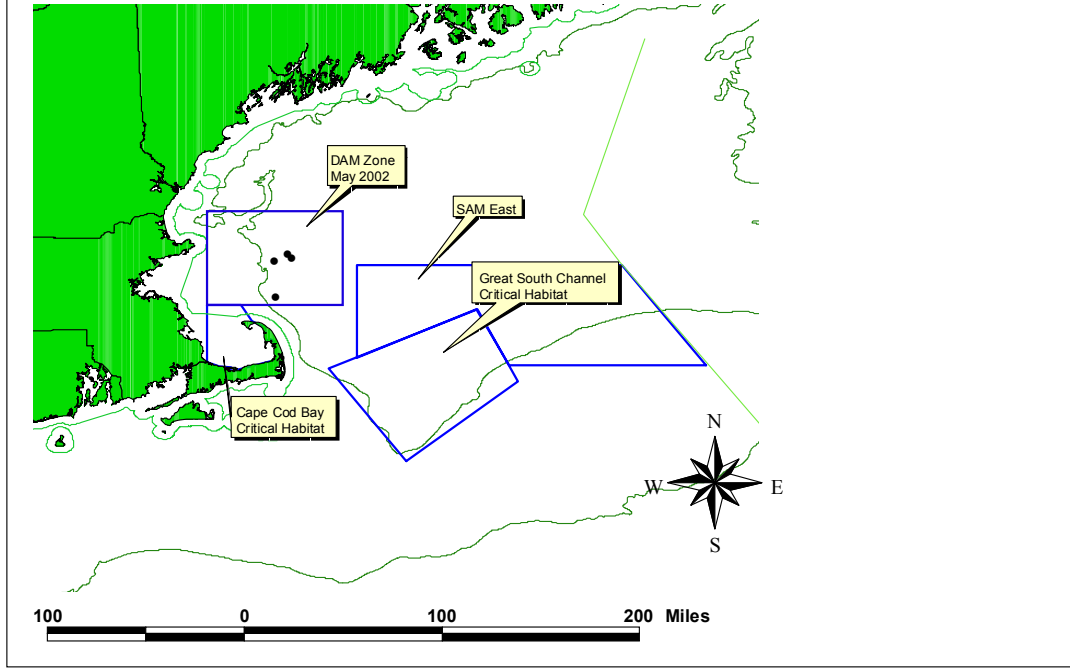
## DAM Zone from April 14, 2002 Sighting of Eight (8) North Atlantic Right Whales - April Zones



Coordinates for the DAM Zone area from April 28, 2002, to April 30, 2002, beginning with the NW corner are as follows:

42E 54'N, 70E 30'W (NW Corner)  
42E 54'N, 69E 30'W  
42E 30'N, 69E 30'W  
42E 30'N, 70E 15'W  
42E 12'N, 70E 15'W  
42E 12'N, 70E 30'W (SW Corner)

## DAM Zone from April 14, 2002 Sighting of Eight (8) North Atlantic Right Whales - May Zones



Coordinates for the DAM Zone area from May 1, 2002, through May 13, 2002, beginning with the NW corner are as follows:

42E 54'N, 70E 30'W (NW corner)  
42E 54'N, 69E 30'W  
42E 12'N, 69E 30'W  
42E 12'N, 70E 30'W (SW corner)