

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan 2015 Proposed Changes Summary

What Changes Are Being Proposed?

We are proposing to making the following changes to the current Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan:

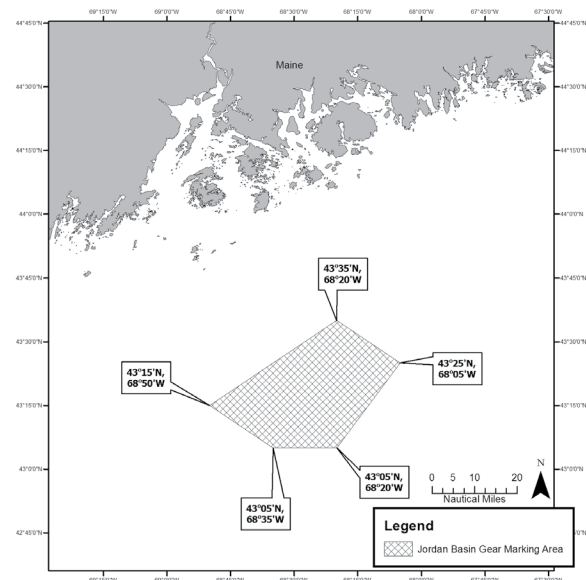
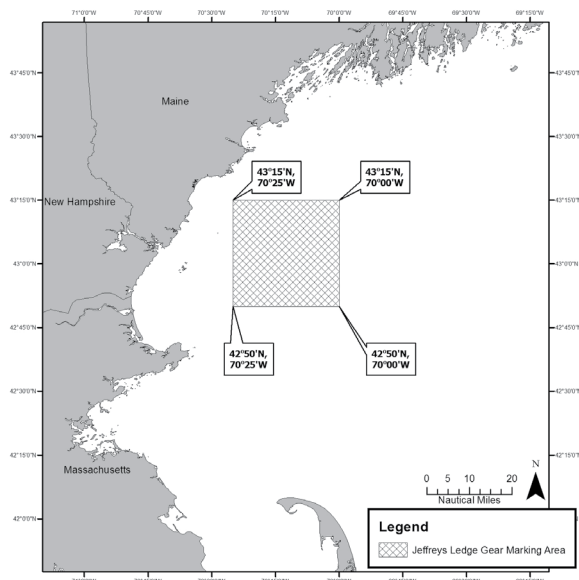
New Minimum Number of Traps Per Trawl Requirement Exemptions

Rhode Island state waters and portions of Massachusetts state waters will be exempt from the new minimum trap per trawl requirements.

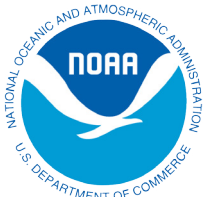
Waters within 1/4 mile of Matinicus Island group, Maine; and Isle of Shoals, Maine will be exempt from the new minimum trap per trawl requirements.

New Gear Marking Areas

Two new gear marking areas will be added for both gillnets and trap/pots:
Jeffreys Ledge and Jordan Basin.



For more information on these and other ALWTRP requirements, visit our website: www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/whaletrp



NEW Gear Marking Color Schemes

The following gear marking requirements will be added to the current gear marking areas. Gear marking areas not listed below area will remain in effect with their current gear marking schemes.

Area	Current Gear Marking Color	Proposed Gear Marking Color
Exempt RI state waters	RED	RED & BLUE
Exempt MA state waters in LMA 1	RED	RED & WHITE
Exempt MA state waters in LMA 2	RED	RED & BLACK
Exempt MA state waters in Outer Cape	RED	RED & YELLOW
Isle of Shoals Maine	RED	RED & ORANGE
Jordan Basin (trap/pot)	RED (Or BLACK)	RED (Or BLACK) & PURPLE
Jordan Basin (gillnet)	GREEN	GREEN & YELLOW
Jeffreys Ledge (trap/pot)	RED	RED & GREEN
Jeffreys Ledge (gillnet)	GREEN	GREEN & BLACK

How Do I Submit Comments?

**Public comments can be submitted to NOAA Fisheries online or in writing.
All comments must be received by April 20, 2015.**

Submitting Comments Online

Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0012 click the “Comment Now” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Submitting Comments In Writing

Mail comments to: Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

