



# Northeast Multispecies Definition of a Sector Trip Information Sheet



Effective May 1, 2010

*This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements, and 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 these fisheries are managed. This information sheet will be updated when regulations are revised.*

## **Introduction:**

Amendment 16 to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) authorized 17 new sectors and revised regulations governing all 19 sectors in the NE multispecies fishery, beginning in fishing year (FY) 2010 (May 1, 2010). Vessels participating in a sector are provided an annual catch entitlement (ACE) of allocated NE multispecies stocks each FY and are exempt from certain NE multispecies regulations, including trip limits on allocated stocks and the requirement to use a NE multispecies day-at-sea (DAS) to land groundfish.

## **What is a sector trip?:**

A sector trip is a trip declared into the NE multispecies fishery (either under a groundfish DAS or as a sector vessel) via a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) or the Interactive Voice Response System (IVR), as applicable\*, by a vessel participating in an approved sector on which the groundfish catch counts against a sector's ACE for that stock. Vessels on such a trip are also required to comply with the sector's approved operations plan, including any requirements for at-sea monitoring (ASM) and dockside monitoring (DSM). Sector vessels are prohibited from fishing for groundfish unless declared into the NE multispecies fishery for that trip.

Trips taken by sector vessels are not sector trips if the vessel is declared out of the NE multispecies fishery and the vessel is fishing in an exempted fishery, using exempted gear, or fishing under the Atlantic sea scallop limited access DAS or general category permit regulations.

## **Exempted Fisheries:**

Exempted fisheries allow vessels to fish for specific species without being subject to certain NE multispecies regulations. To be approved and implemented, exemption programs must have demonstrated that incidental catch of regulated species is less than 5 percent of the total catch of all species, by weight, and that the exemption will not jeopardize fishing mortality objectives of the FMP. For more information, please see the NE Multispecies Small Mesh Fishery Exemptions and the NE Multispecies Large Mesh Fishery Information Sheets at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/info.html>.

### Large Mesh Exempted Fisheries:

Gulf of Maine (GOM)/Georges Bank (GB) Monkfish Gillnet Exemption Area  
GOM/GB Dogfish Gillnet Exemption Area  
Southern New England (SNE) Monkfish and Skate Trawl Exemption Area  
SNE Monkfish and Skate Gillnet Exemption Area  
SNE Dogfish Gillnet Exemption Area  
Mid-Atlantic (MA) Exemption Area

\*IVR must be used on trips where fishing occurs both outside and inside VMS Demarcation Line.

Small Mesh Exempted Fisheries:

GOM Grate Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery Exemption  
Cultivator Shoal Whiting Fishery Exemption Area  
Small Mesh Area 1 and 2 Exemption Areas  
Raised Footrope Trawl Exempted Whiting Fishery  
SNE Little Tunny Gillnet Exemption Area  
SNE Mussel and Sea Urchin Dredge Exemption Area  
SNE Scallop Dredge Exemption Area  
Nantucket Shoals Mussel and Sea Urchin Dredge Exemption Area  
Nantucket Shoals Dogfish Exemption Area  
Northern Shrimp Fishery  
GOM Scallop Dredge Exemption Areas  
Great South Channel Scallop Dredge Exemption Area  
Mid Water Trawl Gear Exempted Fishery  
Purse Seine Gear Exempted Fishery

**Exempted Gear:**

Exempted gear is gear that is deemed to be not capable of catching NE multispecies, and includes: Pelagic hook and line, pelagic longline, 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 as defined under this part), and surfclam and ocean quahog dredges.

**Exempted Species:**

When fishing in the SNE Exemption Area (see below) all vessels may fish for, harvest, possess, or land exempted species which include *butterfish\**, *dogfish (trawl only)*, *herring*, *Atlantic mackerel*, *scup*, shrimp, *squid*, *summer flounder*, silver hake (whiting), offshore hake, and weakfish with nets of a mesh size smaller than the minimum size specified in the GB and SNE Regulated Mesh Areas when fishing. Further, a vessel may fish for, possess and land the following species in the following SNE exempted fisheries in the area specified, provided they comply with requirements and conditions listed for each fishery.

**Additional Species That May be Possessed and Landed in SNE Exempted Fisheries:**

- Conger eels, searobins, *black sea bass*, red hake, tautog (blackfish), blowfish, cunner, John Dory, mullet, *bluefish*, *tilefish*, longhorn sculpin, fourspot flounder, alewife, hickory shad, American shad, blueback herring, sea ravens, Atlantic croaker, spot, *swordfish*
- *Monkfish* and monkfish parts up to 10 percent by weight of all other species on board, or 50 lb tail-weight (166 lb whole-weight), whichever is less
- *American lobster* up to 10 percent by weight of all other species on board, or 200 lobsters, whichever is less

*Skate* and skate parts up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board.

**Note:** Several species on this list are regulated by individual states and/or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and may be subject to additional state regulations. For information regarding the applicable rules, please contact ASMFC (202) 289-6400.

\* Some species permitted for possession and landing in the small-mesh exemption areas are governed by other separate Federal FMPs. To assist you in compliance, species that fall under a separate FMP are listed in *italics*. Unless fishing occurs exclusively in state waters, to possess and land such species, vessels must possess the appropriate Federal fishery permit for the FMP in question. In addition, separate regulations may apply.

