

**AMENDMENT 1 TO THE NORTHEAST COASTAL COMMUNITIES SECTOR
OPERATIONS PLAN**

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OCTOBER 23, 2015

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 23, 2015, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2017

This amendment recognizes Fathom Research, LLC as the authorized at-sea monitoring service provider for the Northeast Coastal Communities Sector. Specific contact information for this provider is:

Fathom Research, LLC
1213 Purchase Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

This amendment also modifies the procedure for vessels fishing under the Small-Mesh Exemption. Upon completing the large-mesh portion of the trip, a vessel must submit a Multispecies Catch Report via VMS, with a good faith estimate of all catch on board, consistent with VMS instructions and Catch Reporting Guidance (see below). Vessels are no longer required to send a VMS message via email to NMFS Office of Law Enforcement, as described in "Prohibition on combining small-mesh exempted fishery and sector trips" section of the Operations Plan.

Catch Reporting Guidance

Trip-Level Reporting

Submit one Multispecies Catch Report before crossing the VMS demarcation line if:

1. You are declared into a single Broad Stock Area (BSA), and you have not declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area or the sector exemptions listed below. Complete Steps 1 and 2.
Example: Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) BSA only
2. You are declared into multiple BSAs outside of the Gulf of Maine (GOM) BSA, and you have not declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area or the exemptions listed below. Complete Steps 1, 2, and 4.
Example: SNE/MA BSA and Inshore Georges Bank (GB) BSA

Daily Reporting

Submit a Multispecies Catch report for each day of your entire trip by completing Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4. Each daily report must include a good faith estimate of all catch from 0000 to 2359 hours and must be submitted by 0900 (9:00 AM) the following day. A report is required even if you do not catch fish, and regardless of the area actually fished. Daily catch reports are required if:

1. You are declared into the GOM BSA and any another BSA.
Example: GOM BSA and Inshore GB BSA
2. You are declared into any part of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.
Example: Offshore GB BSA and Eastern Area U.S./Canada Haddock Special Access Program
3. You are declared into the Redfish Exemption Area (See more information below).

Sector Exemption Reporting

Before fishing under any exemption, ensure that your sector has been granted the exemption. All of the requirements of using the exemptions listed below are provided in a sector's operation plan. Only the reporting requirements for the Multispecies Catch Report are repeated here.

Redfish Exemption

1. You must submit a Multispecies Catch Report for each day of your entire trip by completing Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4. Each report must include a good faith estimate of all catch from 0000 to 2359 hours and must be submitted by 0900 (9:00 a.m.) the following day. A report is required even if you declare the exemption, but do not target redfish.
2. You must also submit a report before switching codends by completing Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. This report is in addition to the daily reports that are required when using this exemption. The report sent before switching codends must provide a good faith estimate of all catch that day between 0000 hours (12:00 AM) and the time of the report. The daily report the following day at 0900 hours must include any catch from the time you switched codends, until 2359 hours.
3. You must submit a final report once you have stopped fishing and begin your return to port by completing Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Small-Mesh Exemption in Southern New England

1. You must submit a Multispecies Catch Report by completing Steps 1, 2, 4, and 5 with a good faith estimate of all catch on board, upon completing the large-mesh portion of the trip.
2. You must submit a final Multispecies Catch Report by completing Steps 1, 2, and 4 with a good faith estimate of all catch on board once you have stopped fishing and begin your return to port.