

# Redfish Exemption Area

**New England Fishery Management Council**

**October 27, 2020**



New England  
Fishery Management Council

# Council Motion

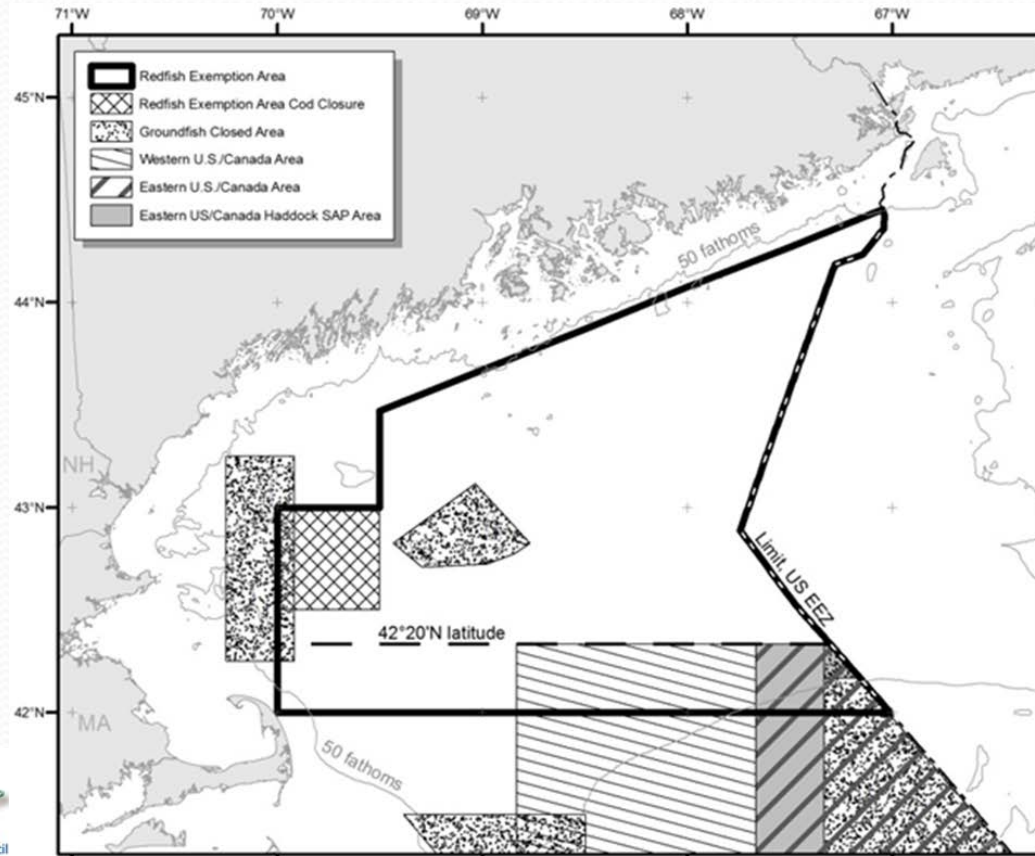
## Meeting on June 25:

“To write a letter to GARFO requesting that the Agency immediately issue a rule reverting the Redfish Exemption Area back to its FY 2019 state and urge the agency to work collaboratively with Sectors and their members to understand the nature of the fishery, the exemption as refined in FY 2015 and if necessary develop modifications for future rulemaking.”

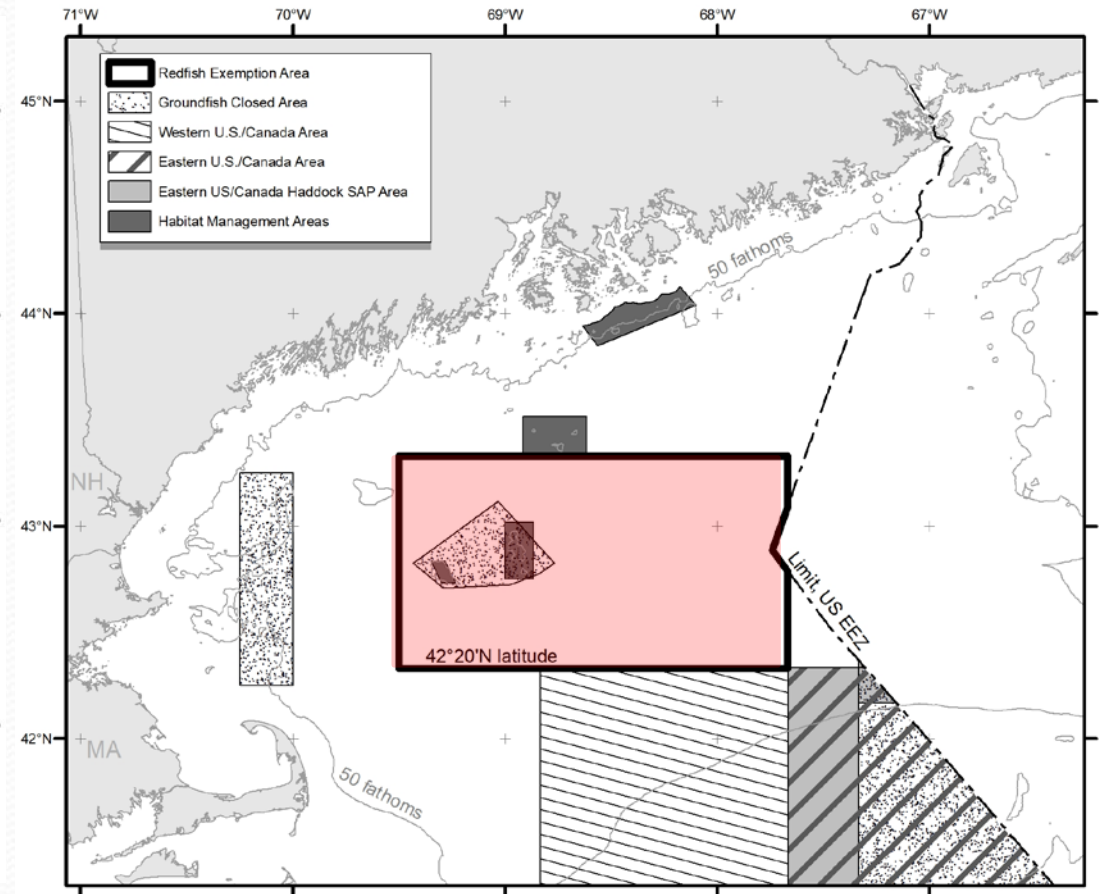
*Carried 13/1/2.*

# FY2020 Changes

- Modifies the 2015 boundaries of the sector exemption area
- Changes gear stowage requirements



## FY2020



# Requirements

- Vessels
  - May fish with a 5.5-inch (14.0-cm) codend
  - Subject to standard at-sea monitoring coverage, and
  - Required to fish in the Redfish Exemption Area
- Sectors
  - Required to meet a 50% redfish catch threshold, and
  - Discards on observed trips may not exceed 5% of the groundfish catch

# Additional Slides

# Background

- REDNET project (2010)
- Sector Exemption first implemented in 2012
- Modifications have been made several times to observer coverage, mesh size, catch monitoring levels

Exemption	Rulemaking	Date	Citation
6.0 inch (15.2 cm) with 100% NMFS-funded coverage	Fishing Year 2012 Sector Operations Final Rule	May 2, 2012	77 FR 26129
4.5 inch (11.4 cm) with 100% NMFS-funded coverage	Fishing Year 2012 Redfish Exemption Final Rule	March 5, 2013	78 FR 14226
4.5 inch (11.4 cm) with 100% Industry-funded coverage	Fishing Year 2013 Sector Operations Interim Final Rule	May 2, 2013	78 FR 25591
6.0 inch (15.2 cm) with standard observer coverage	Fishing Year 2014 Sector Operations Final Rule	April 28, 2014	79 FR 23278
5.5 inch (14.0 cm) with standard observer coverage	Fishing Year 2015-2016 Sector Operations Final Rule	May 1, 2015	80 FR 25143

# Groundfish AP Recommendations

## Meeting on June 9:

The Groundfish Advisory Panel recommends the Committee request to the Council to request that GARFO initiate an Emergency Action for the groundfish fishery in light of COVID-19 measures to immediately reinstate the Redfish Exemption Area back to the FY2019 geographic range.

*(Carried 7/2/0)*

# Groundfish Committee Tasking

## Meeting on June 10:

“The Groundfish Committee tasks the Groundfish Plan Development Team to look at the data used by GARFO to modify the redfish exemption area and report back to the Council at the June Council meeting.”

*Carried* by unanimous consent, without objection.



# PDT Discussion

- On June 17, the Groundfish PDT received a presentation by GARFO staff on the redfish area exemption analysis in order to better understand the approach and data used.
- PDT Feedback:
  - Comparison of only redfish-declared trips to the completed analysis would be helpful.
  - Additional maps adjusted for confidentiality showing where redfish targeted (observed) hauls have occurred and additional statistics may be informative (but may not show a different conclusion).
  - The PDT did not draw conclusions of the analysis. A written, methodological summary document prepared by GARFO would facilitate deeper review, if a more detailed evaluation of the analysis is requested by the Council for the PDT to review.

# From PDT memo to SSC re OFLs/ABCs

Year	Catch	Historical OFLs	Historical ABCs
2010	1,850	9,899	7,586
2011	2,227	10,903	8,356
2012	4,196	12,036	9,224
2013	3,964	15,468	10,995
2014	5,097	16,130	11,465
2015	5,044	16,845	11,974
2016	3,926	13,723	10,338
2017	5,266	14,665	11,050
2018	4,568	15,451	11,552
2019	5,380	15,640	11,785
2020		15,852	11,942

# From PDT memo to SSC re OFLs/ABCs

