

CORRESPONDENCE

Sector 13
John Haran
205 Rockland St.
Dartmouth, MA 02748
508 993 8225
Sector13@comcast.net

8/28/2018



Thomas Nies
NEFMC
Executive Director
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Tom:

I attended the August 15th meeting in Boston and spoke on behalf of Sector 13. The yellowtail issue is very important to us. In the beginning of sectors, we used the yellowtail as a bycatch species and soon realized we will be punished if we do not land them. So, Sector 13 asked fishermen to land them, not avoid them. The FV Illusion and FV Heritage volunteered to land yellowtails. Initially we landed them at the end of the fishing year, now we land them whenever we can throughout the FY.

The yellowtail issue is our "catch 22"; you didn't land them, therefore they are not there! We didn't land them because most boats in the sector no longer have enough quotas to continue fishing for groundfish.

Sector 13 is wondering if the stations checked by the survey included the areas where we harvested our yellowtails and if the dealer data that showed size of yellowtails would be helpful to the council.

Sincerely,

John Haran
Sector13, Manager

CBK, jc 9/6



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

AUG 15 2018



Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Tom:

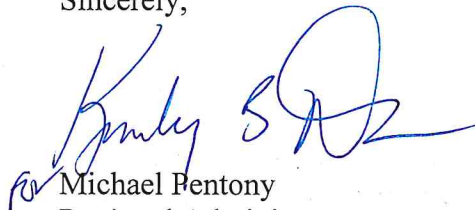
On July 20, 2018, we sent you a letter notifying you of changes to the groundfish discard mortality estimates we are using for commercial and recreational catch monitoring. The changes are based on the stock assessments completed in 2017. The tables enclosed in that letter accurately listed the discard mortality estimates we are using, beginning in fishing year 2018. However, our letter incorrectly described the previous discard mortality estimates used through 2017. Below, we correct our explanation of the commercial discard mortality estimates for Atlantic halibut. Enclosed for your reference is the table of all the Northeast multispecies discard mortality estimates we will use for catch accounting for fishing year 2018.

Atlantic Halibut

The previous Atlantic halibut assessment used a commercial discard mortality estimate of 100 percent for all gears. Accordingly, we estimated 100-percent mortality for commercial halibut discards in our catch monitoring through fishing year 2017. In December 2017, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee approved the 2017 Atlantic halibut assessment report as a basis for catch advice. The Atlantic halibut assessment report adopted gear-specific discard mortality estimates based on discard mortality estimates used by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The IPHC uses a range of discard mortality estimates that vary by region, target species, tow depth, and gear type (trawl, pot, and longline). Based on the IPHC information, the 2017 assessment adopted a 76-percent discard mortality estimate for trawl gear, a 30-percent discard mortality estimate for gillnets, and a 10-percent discard mortality estimate for hook gear. Therefore, we are using these gear-specific discard mortality estimates for catch monitoring, beginning in fishing year 2018.

If you have any questions on the discard mortality estimates, please contact Sarah Heil, Groundfish Team Supervisor, at (978) 281-9257.

Sincerely,


Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. Jonathan Hare, Science and Research Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Enclosure



Northeast Multispecies Discard Mortality Estimates for Fishing Year 2018 (percent)					
Stock	Commercial Fishery			Recreational Fishery	
	Handline	Longline	Otter Trawl	Sink Gillnet	Hook and Line
GB Cod ¹	20	33	75	80	30
GOM Cod ¹					15
GB Haddock			100		
GOM Haddock			100		**
GB Yellowtail Flounder			100		
SNE Yellowtail Flounder			90		
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder			100		
American Plaice			100		
Witch Flounder			100		
GB Winter Flounder			100		
GOM Winter Flounder			50		15
SNE Winter Flounder			50		15
Redfish			100		
White Hake			100		
Pollock			100		100
Northern Windowpane			100		
Southern Windowpane			100		
Ocean Pout			100		
Halibut*		10	76	30	
Wolffish			8		

¹ Otter trawl includes all trawl gear. Cod bycatch in pot gear is not included in the most recent assessment (SARC 55), and was not assigned a gear-specific discard mortality rate. For monitoring purposes, 100-percent discard mortality will be assumed for pot gear.

* Atlantic Halibut updated in 2017 Assessment

** GOM Haddock recreational discards updated in 2017 Assessment. Rates vary by season and size class, see GOM Haddock Recreational discard Mortality Table on reverse.

GOM Haddock Recreational Discard Mortality Rates			
Season	Waves	Size Class (cm)	Estimated Mortality (percent)
Spring	1,2,3	<50	32.1
Spring	1,2,3	>/=50	11.3
Fall	4,5,6	<50	74.2
Fall	4,5,6	>/=50	45.9



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

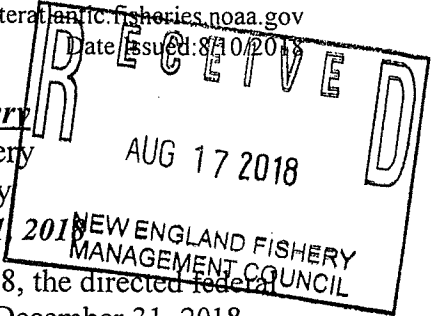
NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov

Date Issued: 8/10/2018

Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery
Closure of the Directed Federal *Illex* Squid Fishery
Illex squid landings limited to 10,000 lb per day
Effective Date: August 15, 2018, through December 31, 2018



Based on recent landings data, effective at 12:00 hours on August 15, 2018, the directed federal *Illex* squid fishery is closed for the remainder of the fishing year through December 31, 2018. Permit holders are prohibited from fishing for, catching, possessing, transferring, or landing more than 10,000 lb of *Illex* squid per trip. No more than 10,000 lb may be landed per calendar day. This prohibition is required by regulation because NMFS projects that 95 percent of the 2018 annual catch limit (quota) will have been caught by the effective date. This fishery will reopen at the beginning of the 2019 fishing year, at 00:01 hours, January 1, 2019.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	To avoid quota overages we are required to close the <i>Illex</i> directed squid fishery when 95 percent of the quota is caught.
How much of the quota has been caught?	As of August 15, 2018, 95 percent of the quota for <i>Illex</i> squid has been caught. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at: http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ .
What if I was fishing for <i>Illex</i> squid on the closure date?	Vessels that have entered port before 12:00 hr on August 15, 2018, may offload and sell more than 10,000 lb of <i>Illex</i> squid from that trip.
I am a dealer, how does this closure affect me?	Federally permitted dealers may not purchase <i>Illex</i> squid from federally permitted <i>Illex</i> squid vessels that harvest more than 10,000 lb of <i>Illex</i> squid through 24:00 hr local time, December 31, 2018, unless it is from a trip on which the vessel entered port before 12:00 hr on August 15, 2018.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

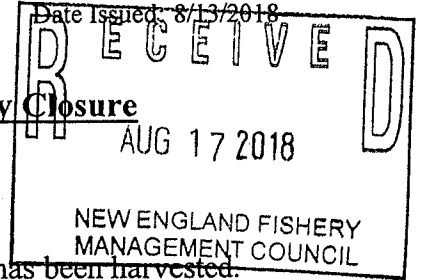
National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281-9315

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>

Massachusetts Commercial Summer Flounder Fishery Closure

Effective Date: 0001 hours on August 14, 2018



The 2018 commercial summer flounder quota allocated to Massachusetts has been harvested. Effective 0001 hours August 14, 2018, fishing vessels issued a Federal moratorium permit for the summer flounder fishery may no longer land summer flounder in Massachusetts for the remainder of the 2018 calendar year. This closure is concurrent with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' closure of its commercial summer flounder fishery to state permitted vessels and dealers, effective 0001 hours on August 14, 2018.

Vessel owners issued Federal permits must continue to complete and submit vessel logbooks for all other species landed. Additionally, dealers issued Federal permits for summer flounder may not purchase summer flounder from federally permitted vessels that land in Massachusetts for the remainder of the calendar year. Federally permitted dealers must also continue to report all fish purchases from any vessel.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., Chairman | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

July 27, 2018

Mr. Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

In an August 31, 2017 letter from GARFO to NEFMC, several stocks were identified as making inadequate progress toward rebuilding following the 2015/2016 stock assessments, including Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder. The letter explains that the Council must implement a new or revised rebuilding plan for these stocks within two years of the date of notice (i.e., by August 31, 2019). I ask that you revisit the GB winter flounder determination.

The rebuilding plan for GB winter flounder was adopted by Amendment 16 in 2010. The plan targeted rebuilding in seven years (by 2017) with a 75 percent probability of success – a shorter time period and higher probability of success than required. It was based on the results of the GARM III (2008) assessment for this stock. According to that assessment, the stock was at 31 percent of SSB_{MSY} and overfishing was occurring in 2007. The retrospective pattern was minor.

Over the next nine years this stock was assessed four times. In 2011 and again in 2014, the conclusion was that the stock was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring. In 2013 the stock was estimated to be at 86 percent of SSB_{MSY} , but the assessment report noted the retrospective pattern was increasing. According to the 2014 assessment, the stock was not overfished in 2007, contrary to the results of GARM III.

The stock was next assessed in 2015. The conclusions of the 2015 assessment were (emphasis added):

*Spawning stock biomass (SSB) in 2014 was estimated to be **2,883 (mt) which is 43% of the biomass target** for an overfished stock ($SSB_{MSY} = 6,700$ with a threshold of 50% of SSB_{MSY} ; Figure 41). The 2014 fully selected fishing mortality (**F**) was estimated to be **0.778 which is 145% of the overfishing threshold** ($F_{MSY} = 0.536$; Figure 42).*

The 2015 assessment of GB winter flounder was the first time a retrospective adjustment was made to the results. As a result of this assessment, GARFO sent the Council the 2017 letter indicating rebuilding progress for this stock was not adequate. GARFO's conclusion was based on the finding that rebuilding expectations of the stock or stock complex were significantly changed due to new and unexpected information about the status of the stock. The new information – that the

stock was overfished and overfishing was occurring - was attributed to the emergence of a retrospective pattern.

Then, after the 2017 updated assessment, a February 8, 2018 letter from GARFO to NEFMC states:

Based on the results of these assessments, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service updated the stock status for Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder to reflect that the stock is no longer overfished and no longer subject to overfishing. The stock status change for GB winter flounder is positive; however, the improvement in stock status does not change our determination in the attached August 31, 2017, letter that the stock is not making adequate rebuilding progress.

As acknowledged in your letter, the 2017 assessment results for GB winter flounder indicate progress is being made toward rebuilding. More importantly, this assessment indicates the 2015 assessment conclusions used to make the determination of inadequate progress were in error. We now have new information that revises our understanding of stock status in 2014. According to the 2017 assessment, **2014 SSB was 5,800 mt and F was 0.28**. These conclusions are markedly different than those used to base the inadequate progress determination, such that 5,800 mt was 76 percent of SSB_{MSY} and F was half F_{MSY} . Further, the 2017 assessment concluded that "Fishing mortality declined rapidly between 2013 and 2016 and is at the lowest level of the time series." This is another radically different conclusion than the 2015 assessment, which concluded that fishing mortality was 45 percent higher than F_{MSY} . The current assessment shows that overfishing has not occurred for over ten years. Indeed, the 2015 assessment's status determination is an outlier when compared to the 2011, 2014, and 2017 assessments for this stock; all of these assessments found that overfishing was not occurring, and the stock was not overfished in 2010, 2013, and 2016.

Recent revisions to the guidelines for National Standard 1 (NSG1) are relevant to this discussion. The revisions focus attention on fishing mortality rates rather than fixed rebuilding periods. Indeed, in the final rule publication, the agency noted that "As mentioned in the proposed action, the 2013 National Research Council (NRC) report on rebuilding highlighted that the primary objective of a rebuilding plan should be to maintain fishing mortality at or below $F_{rebuild}$. By doing so, managers can avoid issues with updating timelines that are based on biomass milestones, which are subject to uncertainty (see § 600.310(j)(3)(i)(A)) and changing environmental conditions that are outside the control of fishery managers."

Therefore, I request you reconsider your finding of inadequate progress for GB winter flounder. The factors used in the evaluation of white hake appear similar to GB winter flounder, such that 1) the deadline for rebuilding is past but the stock continues to rebuild, 2) stock projections anticipate biomass growth, 3) catches have not exceeded annual catch limits nor have accountability measures been triggered. From the August 31, 2017 letter from GARFO to NEFMC:

We implemented the white hake rebuilding plan in 2004, with a target rebuild date of 2014. Stock biomass has steadily increased since we implemented the rebuilding plan, and is now estimated to be at 88 percent of the rebuilding target. Stock projections in the 2015 assessment show that this stock is expected to continue growing, and the stock will rebuild by 2022. Additionally, catch has been below the ACL in all fishing years since we established ACLs for this stock, so we have not needed to implement AMs.

Although the rebuilding plan ended in 2014, because of the positive gains in stock biomass and the expectation that it will continue to rebuild, we determined that white hake is making adequate rebuilding progress. Consistent with the NS 1 guidelines and the Council's ABC Control Rule, the Council should continue to set catch limits to maintain fishing mortality at 75 percent of F at maximum sustainable yield until the stock is rebuilt.

The 2017 assessment may even support discontinuing the rebuilding plan. As noted in NSG1, "A Council may discontinue a rebuilding plan for a stock or stock complex before it reaches B_{msy} if the Secretary determines that the stock was not overfished in the year that the overfished determination (see MSA section 304(e)(3)) was based on and has never been overfished in any subsequent year including the current year." As shown in Figure 39 of the 2017 Groundfish Operational Assessments report, the stock was not overfished in the year the determination was made (2007) and has not been overfished since. Indeed, none of the assessments of this stock conducted since 2008 indicate it was overfished in 2007.

I ask that you also evaluate whether the new assessment supports the conclusion the stock was not overfished in 2007, used as the basis for the original overfished determination. The Council may wish to consider discontinuing the rebuilding program if that is the case.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
 55 Great Republic Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

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JUL 23 2018

NEW ENGLAND
 FISHERY
 MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Thomas A. Nies
 Executive Director
 New England Fishery Management Council
 50 Water Street Mill 2
 Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Tom:

As you know, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center published final results of the stock assessment updates for 19 groundfish stocks in October 2017. In December 2017, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee approved the 2017 Atlantic halibut assessment report as a basis for catch advice. Based on the information used in the updated assessments, we have updated the commercial discard mortality estimate for Atlantic halibut and the recreational discard mortality estimate for Gulf of Maine haddock. Enclosed is a table of all the northeast multispecies discard mortality estimates we will use for catch accounting for fishing year 2018.

Atlantic Halibut

The Atlantic halibut assessment report retained the 76-percent discard mortality estimate for trawl gear and the 30-percent discard mortality estimate for gillnets. However, the report adopted a new 10-percent discard mortality estimate for both handline and longline based on discard mortality estimates used by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The IPHC uses a range of discard mortality estimates that vary by region, target species, tow depth, and gear type (trawl, pot, and longline). The average across longline gear was 9.9 percent. Based on that, we have adopted a 10-percent discard mortality estimate for handline and longline gear.

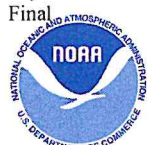
Gulf of Maine Haddock

The Gulf of Maine haddock recreational discard mortality estimate was updated in the 2017 operational assessment using season- and size-specific, post-release, discard mortality estimates from a new study (Mandelman, et al., 2017¹). This work provides separate discard mortality estimates for Spring and Fall, and for fish less than 50 cm and fish 50 cm or greater in size, as shown in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Gulf of Maine Haddock Recreational Discard Mortality Rates

Season	Waves	Size Class (cm)	Estimated Mortality (percent)
Spring	1,2,3	<50	32.1
Spring	1,2,3	>/=50	11.3
Fall	4,5,6	<50	74.2
Fall	4,5,6	>/=50	45.9

¹ Mandelman JW, Zemeckis DR, Homan WS, Dean MJ, Cadrin SX, Sulikowski JA. 2017. Addendum to Determining the post-release mortality rate and best capture and handling methods for haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) discarded in the Gulf of Maine recreational fisheries. Final Report to the Northeast Consortium. Grant: FNA10NMF4410008. Award Period: March 1, 2015 February 29, 2016. 30 p.



jc 7/26/18

If you have any questions on the discard mortality estimates, please contact Stephanie Hunt, Acting Groundfish Team Supervisor, at (978) 675-2153.

Sincerely,



for Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator

cc: Terry Stockwell, Chair, NEFMC Groundfish Committee
Dr. Jonathan Hare, Science and Research Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Enclosure

Northeast Multispecies Discard Mortality Estimates for Fishing Year 2018 (percent)					
Stock	Commercial Fishery			Recreational Fishery	
	Handline	Longline	Otter Trawl	Sink Gillnet	Hook and Line
GB Cod ¹	20	33	75	80	30
GOM Cod ¹					15
GB Haddock		100			
GOM Haddock		100			**
GB Yellowtail Flounder		100			
SNE Yellowtail Flounder		90			
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder		100			
American Plaice		100			
Witch Flounder		100			
GB Winter Flounder		100			
GOM Winter Flounder		50			15
SNE Winter Flounder		50			15
Redfish		100			
White Hake		100			
Pollock		100			100
Northern Windowpane		100			
Southern Windowpane		100			
Ocean Pout		100			
Halibut*	10		76	30	
Wolffish		8			

¹ Otter trawl includes all trawl gear. Cod bycatch in pot gear is not included in the most recent assessment (SARC 55), and was not assigned a gear-specific discard mortality rate. For monitoring purposes, 100-percent discard mortality will be assumed for pot gear.

* Atlantic Halibut updated in 2017 Assessment

** GOM Haddock recreational discards updated in 2017 Assessment. Rates vary by season and size class, see GOM Haddock Recreational discard Mortality Table on reverse.

GOM Haddock Recreational Discard Mortality Rates			
Season	Waves	Size Class (cm)	Estimated Mortality (percent)
Spring	1,2,3	<50	32.1
Spring	1,2,3	>/=50	11.3
Fall	4,5,6	<50	74.2
Fall	4,5,6	>/=50	45.9

From: lawrence@ljbruce.com

Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2018 12:51 PM

To: Moira Kelly; Earl Meredith; russell.dunn@noaa.gov; Tom Nies; Robin Frede; Rachel Feeney

Subject: GOM Recreational Fishing Lack of Representation

Hello all,

As a "true" recreational fisherman I question the lack of representation on the NEFMC by "true" recreational fisherman- those without a financial interest in recreational fishing. Perhaps I'm wrong now, but the last I checked there were no actual recreational fishing representatives on the board. That charter boats that bring recreational fishermen/fisherwomen to sea are a separate interest than boat owners who visit offshore fishing grounds for recreational fishing.

That charter boats that bring recreational fishermen/fisherwomen to sea should be considered commercial fishing as the proprietors are engaged in a business and prosper from the fishing. This is very different than boat owners who do not prosper from fishing, and as such the opinions, wants and needs are very different that those in the charter boat industry.

As a true recreational fisherman I embrace the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation & Management Act. I'm now watching the Cod get larger under the protection and have no doubt that the science of sustainable fisheries is far better than political oversight. I have seen first hand how the Haddock have benefited from protection.

I ask that the NEFMC actively seek out at least ONE member that is a true recreational fisher and not involved in any present or past commercial ties to the fisheries. I would be please to serve- I'm sure there are many others.

Thank you,

Lawrence Bruce
254 Chandler Road
Andover, MA 01810

je 7/26/18



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov
Date Issued: 6/29/2018

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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels Closure of the Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area for Gulf of Maine Haddock

JUL 12 2018

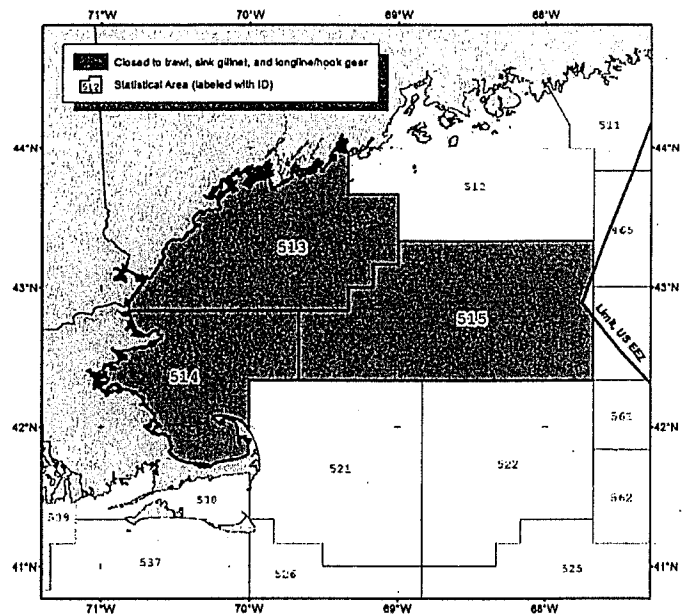
Effective Date: June 29, 2018, through August 31, 2018

NEW ENGLAND
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Effective at 0845 hours on June 29, 2018, statistical areas 513, 514, and 515 are closed, the remainder of Trimester 1, through August 31, 2018. During this closure, common pool vessel fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear, including handgear vessels, may not fish for, harvest, land, or possess regulated multispecies in or from this area.

The closure is required because 90 percent of the Trimester 1 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock has been caught. This area will reopen at the beginning of Trimester 2, at 0001 hours, September 1, 2018.

If you have crossed the vessel monitoring system demarcation line and are currently at sea on a groundfish trip, you may complete your trip in all or part of the closed areas. If you have set sink gillnet gear prior to June 29, 2018, you may complete your trip to retrieve that gear.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	We are required to close the Trimester TAC Area for a stock when 90 percent of the Trimester TAC is caught.
How much of the quota has been caught?	Based on data through June 17, it is projected that over 90 percent of the Trimester 1 quota for GOM haddock has been caught. Quota monitoring reports are available at: http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ .
What happens if the Trimester TAC is exceeded? Underharvested?	If the Trimester 1 or Trimester 2 TAC for a stock is exceeded, the overage is deducted from the Trimester 3 TAC. Any unused portion of the Trimester 1 or Trimester 2 TAC for the stock is carried forward to the following trimester. No unused portion of the total annual quota may be carried over to the following fishing year.
What happens if the annual quota is exceeded?	If the 2018 fishing year quota is exceeded, the amount of the overage will be deducted from the common pool's quota for fishing year 2019.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116

John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

June 20, 2018

Mr. Alan Risenhoover
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Alan:

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) reviewed the “Draft NMFS Procedural Directive on Cost Allocation in Electronic Monitoring (EM) Programs for Federally Managed U.S. Fisheries” and has the following comments. Please consider them while finalizing this directive.

First, additional information regarding what happens to a monitoring program in the event that NMFS has insufficient funding to cover its costs should be included in the guidance.

Second, it is difficult to comment on cost sharing between the industry and NMFS without a broader policy framework on cost sharing. Without such a framework, one possible implication of the Draft Directive is that the industry could be required to share the cost of the Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) if that program modernizes (as we hope it will) such that it uses EM whenever appropriate. At present, NEFOP is entirely funded by NMFS to fulfill scientific needs and to meet National Standard 9 requirements on bycatch. In this regard, it seems logical that cost sharing between industry and NMFS should primarily be based on the purpose of the activity that generates the cost, and not the type of activity.

Third, cost sharing between the industry and NMFS is a major policy issue that requires careful consideration of Congressional intent and an inclusive dialog with stakeholders. Specifically, with respect to the Draft Directive, more information on how the types of cost break down between NMFS and the fishing industry would be useful. While not directly related to this request for comments, the Council thinks it’s important to highlight that costs associated with video storage are of high concern, and therefore, details on the administrative costs of video storage would be useful. Also, guidance regarding maximum video storage times for both data that the industry might be required to retain as well as for data that NOAA/NMFS retains would better inform the range of possible cost estimates for industry and NOAA.

Finally, the Council recognizes that a number of details regarding electronic monitoring on a national level are still being developed. The Council is particularly concerned with privacy and

enforcement issues in addition to the costs of such a program, which include both allocations and affordability. Broader guidance on monitoring could alleviate some of these concerns.

If you have any questions about our Council 's comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Nies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small horizontal line above the "i" in "Nies".

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Marjorie "MJ" DeBrosky
Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance
1566 Main Street
Chatham, MA 02633

RECEIVED

JUN 15 2018

**NEW ENGLAND
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Dear Ms. DeBrosky,

On May 1, 2018, we filed in the *Federal Register* a final sector rule approving a new regulatory exemption for sectors. Because your sector requested this newly approved exemption, we amended the GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector operations plan. This change will allow your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

We also updated the Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Additionally, we updated your sector operations plan to allow sector members to participate in electronic monitoring options that will fulfill sector at-sea monitoring requirements for participating vessels.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 2 TO THE GB COD FIXED GEAR SECTOR OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

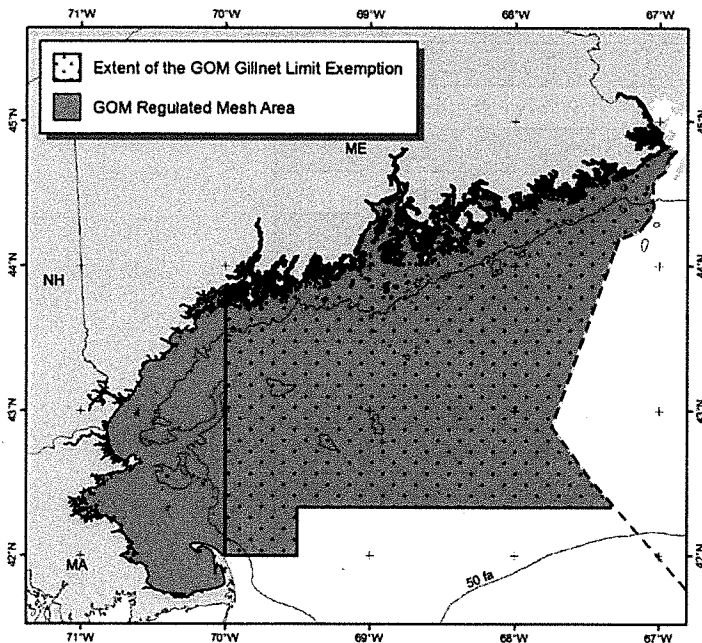
This document amends the section of this operations plan listing sector specific exemptions by adding the following exemption:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

This document also amends the section of this operations plan that provides additional detail on sector specific exemptions by adding the following language:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.



This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following to Exhibit B:

“2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector Members during FY 2018.”

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Owner Name
27	150563	Cape Island	The Nature Conservancy
30	150988	Skiff	Tye Vecchione
76	150187	Seed	CCCFA
84	220839	Unicorn	Robert Eldridge, Jr
99	221764	Riena Marie	Theodore Ligenza
119	232108	Miss Fitz	John L. Our, Jr
129	150041	Zach n Abbie	Michael A Russo
142	151268	Jan M	Jan Margeson
145	147091	Gulf Venture	Michael A Russo
148	232096	Alicia Ann	Gregory F Walinski
151	230322	Pooh Bah	James L Young
153	150877	Sea Holly III	CCCFA
167	151403	2010 Beacon	Gregory J Connors
183	230926	Joanne A III	Joanne-A III, Inc.
194	231435	Back Off	Shawn Sullivan
195	151314	Lobster Mobster	Benjamin K Morgan
213	150922	Sylvanna	William H Amaru
224	150237	1971 Seacraft 20	Pillory Fisheries Inc.
236	150255	Annie Wilder II	Lynam Fisheries Inc
256	149575	Rebecca and Emily	Gregory J Connors
257	150616	1976 Homemade	The Red Death Inc
260	240543	Hunter	Kenneth Tolley
261	149991	Martha Elizabeth	Wesley C Brighton
262	149525	Bada Bing	Tye Vecchione
274	151192	Carole R II 2009 KL Indus	CCCFA
285	241576	Sea Dancer	Mark D Liska
328	150844	Sam Ryder	CCCFA
331	151539	White Cap	Jared Bennett
392	321116	Annie Wilder	Lynam Fisheries Inc
395	149963	Great Pumpkin	Jan Margeson
418	250571	Edward & Joseph	Harmony Fisheries Inc
441	150426	Lori B	Michael P Leary
449	150671	Carol Ann	CCCFA
465	240543	Hunteress	CCCFA

647	233617	Saga	Benjo Inc
653	250830	Pamet	Michael P Leary
658	151425	Unicorn Skiff	The Nature Conservancy
677	149988	2002 Skiff Tolley Susie Q	CCCFA
910	222737	Taint	Mark D Liska
1191	146765	Jack Tar	David Murdoch IV
1316	149278	Strangle Hold	Harmony Fisheries Inc
1434	151437	Marilyn Louise Skiff	CCCFA
1435	150652	Morgan I	Glen LeGeyt
1467	250463	Johanna	Johanna Fisheries LLC
1469	149826	Little Giant	Charlie S Dodge
1496	151931	Skiff	The Nature Conservancy
1521	135641	Water Horse	Theodore Ligenza
1527	221935	Sea Baggins	CCCFA
1545	149986	22 Hiliner	John Our Jr
1562	233853	Perfect Catch	Thomas M Szado
1563	150706	Sturdee	CCCFA
1576	118641	Dawn T	Nicholas Muto
1609	150361	1979 Young	John L. Our, Jr
1620	121162	Lady Irene	Harmony Fisheries Inc
1634	146922	Constance Sea	Gregory J Connors
1668	104564	Anna Marie	Raymond J Brunelle
1685	222231	Magic	James F Nash
1689	151926	Skiff	The Nature Conservancy
1708	242648	Tenacious II	Eric M Hesse
1725	151978	Skiff	CCCFA
1744	151695	Rug Rats Skiff	Linda St. Pierre
1746	211160	Sea Winds	CCCFA
1755	148810	1986 Cape Island	The Nature Conservancy
1852	150611	Carol Marie	Scott MacAllister
1856	120962	Little Rascal	CCCFA
1883	149261	Ann Marie	James F Nash
1886	232096	Alicia Ann	CCCFA
1888	151214	Seanymph	Thomas S. Smith
1906	151539	White Cap	Jared Bennett
1923	122157	Perry's Pride II	Timothy D Linnell
1940	111336	Buffy Anne	Charles J Comeau
1942	231457	Lost	Lost At Sea, LLC
1951	223588	Last Stand	Gregory J Connors
1958	223581	Lyndsy Liz	Raymond J Ransom III

1961	150562	Always Something	Michael A Russo
1985	100277	Althea K	Althea K Inc.
2001	222737	Jakob & Megan	Jakob & Megan Fisheries LLC
2006	213029	Peggy B II	Peggy B II Inc
2008	116103	Ouija	Gerald Miszkin
2013	223607	Headhunter	CCCFA
2020	222022	Jennifer Dan	Wade S Behlman
2039	150897	Monomoy	CCCFA
2050	221794	Surf Breaker	Theodore Ligenza
2107	151425	Paula Jean	CCCFA
2171	223565	Miss Jennifer	Shannon E McKosker
2179	151438	Fair Winds Skiff	CCCFA
2196	232043	William Gregory	CCCFA
2218	222175	Lori B	John Matthew Linnell
2248	130772	Zachary T	Nicholas O'Toole
2265	230420	Yellow Bird	James B Eldredge
2297	150597	1992 Sylvan Skiff	Gregory J Connors
2351	240872	Trappist	Peters Fisheries Inc.
2482	150359	Susan Lee	Michael A Russo
2623	146672	Sea Hook	Gregory Connors
2650	151425	Mattanza	The Nature Conservancy
2692	150529	Beacon	CCCFA
2992	223512	Time Bandit	Kurt Martin
3174	150691	Lolo	Kenneth Eldredge
3176	150861	Three Reasons	Nicholas O'Toole
3323	151849	Tuna Eclipse	Jean E Barker
3390	150584	Lei Lani	The Nature Conservancy
3449	211160	Sea Win	Thomas Luce
3542	221581	Irish Lady	Christopher J Ripa
3595	222365	Miss Melodye	Wallace H Bicknell
3669	230935	Seaborne	Mark J Hurley
3684	231241	Kelly J	Michael E Terrenzi
3688	233177	Rosey S	Leslie Shwam
4129	150841	Desire III	CCCFA
4202	220839	Unicorn	Robert Eldridge, Jr
4326	151429	Snafu II Skiff	CCCFA
47883	151425	Nothing But Trouble Skiff	CCCFA
47926	151436	Miss Molly Skiff	CCCFA
47964	220698	Nancy S	Nantucket Sound Fish Weirs Inc

48923	151352	Tony K	CCCFA
49047	148763	Blue Herron	Joseph J Geary
2995	150853	Blue Bag	CCCFA
3015	149404	DH Boatworks	CCCFA
3098	135589	Blue Sky	CCCFA
3158	136085	Little Sammy III	CCCFA

This document also amends this operations plan by overwriting Section 6.09 with the following language:

Electronic Monitoring Program in FY 2018

Vessel Operations

Sector vessels may use electronic monitoring (EM) systems (i.e. cameras, gear sensors, video recording equipment) in lieu of human at-sea monitors (ASM) to meet federal ASM requirements for fishing year 2018. These vessels may be authorized to use EM only under a valid Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued by NOAA Fisheries. Vessels fishing under the EFP must abide by all operational and reporting requirements and conditions outlined in the EFP and the vessel's Vessel Monitoring Plan.

Selection of Coverage

Sector vessels using EM are required to declare their intent to take a sector trip using the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS), consistent with standard notification protocols. PTNS selection and notification procedures for Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) coverage under EM remains the same. Vessels fishing under this EFP are not exempt from the requirement to carry a NEFOP observer when selected for coverage.

Service Provider

The sector has selected the following Electronic Monitoring Service Provider to provide EM services to participating vessels for FY 2018.

Ecotrust Canada

Skeena Office

6 – 222 Third Avenue West

Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

t: 250.624.4191

f: 250.622.0577

info@ecotrust.ca

Primary Contact: Amanda Barney, Amanda@ecotrust.ca



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Ben Martens
PO Box 112
Topsham, ME 04086

Dear Mr. Martens,

On May 1, 2018, we filed in the *Federal Register* a final sector rule approving a new regulatory exemption for sectors. Because your sector requested this newly approved exemption, we amended the Maine Coast Community Sector operations plan. This change will allow your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

We also updated the Maine Coast Community Sector operations plan in response to your updated roster and at sea-monitoring provider contract for fishing year 2018.

Additionally, we updated your sector operations plan to allow sector members to participate in electronic monitoring options that will fulfill sector at-sea monitoring requirements for participating vessels.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 1 TO THE MAINE COAST COMMUNITY SECTOR OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

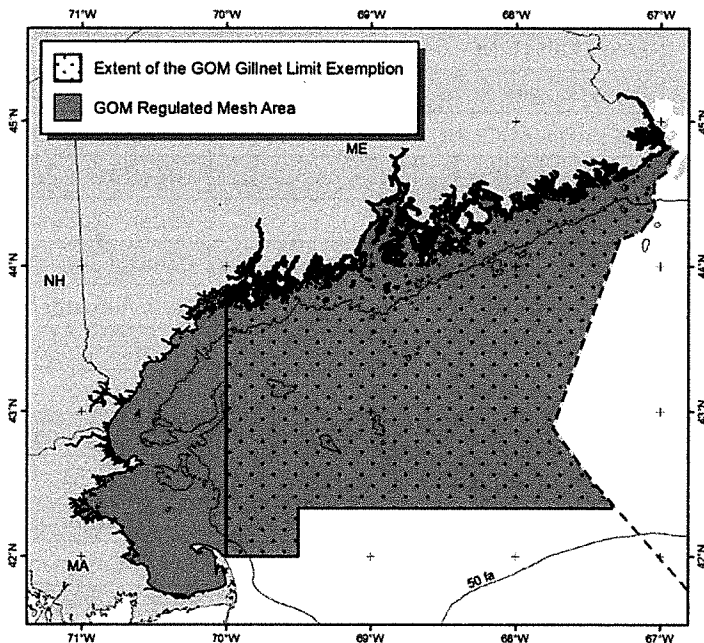
This document amends the section of this operations plan listing sector specific exemptions by adding the following exemption:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

This document also amends the section of this operations plan that provides additional detail on sector specific exemptions by adding the following language:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.



This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

At-Sea Monitoring provider for fishing year 2018: In fishing year 2018 Maine Coast Community Sector will contract with MRAG Americas to provide ASM services to sector vessels. MRAG Americas can be contacted here,

*8950 Martin Luther King Jr Street, Suite 212
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33702
Tel: (727) 563-9070*

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

“2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Maine Coast Community Sector Members during FY 2018.”

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Owner Name	Sector Member
5	148076	RAY OF HOPE	Bryan Bichrest	Bryan Bichrest
16	114846	MARIE ANN	Craig Durant	Craig Durant
49	220149	ANNE MARIE	Russell Daggett	Russell Daggett
78	152120	GRACELYN JANE	DANNY BOY FISHERIES, INC	Brian Pearce
87	220989	HANNAH RUTH	Preston Scott Carter, Jr.	Scott Carter
97	221740	HAYLEY ANN	HAYLEY MARITIME INC	Joe Nickerson
112	242567	CAPT'N LEE	HILDA & HELEN INC	Justin Libby
130	212165	FREE BIRD	Brian Durant	Brian Durant
163	149741	ROYAL AMERICAN	Kelo Pinkham	Kelo Pinkham
164	223592	PROVIDENCE	EASY DOES IT INC	Willis Spear
192	232006	KATIE & SARAH	Robert Eugley, Jr.	Robert Eugley, Jr.
196	150946	JETHRO	MICHAELA ALICE INC	Troy Bichrest
207	149180	RUBY CLAIRE	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
222	240081	NORTH STAR	BALZANO LLC	Vincent Balzano
235	240143	MISTY MAE	Donald Paulsen	Donald Paulsen
241	150423	HUNKY DORY	Terry Alexander	Terry Alexander
268	233869	BUG CATCHA	BUG CATCHER INC	Gerry Cushman
276	240423	MEGALTAY	Harold Todd Watts	Todd Watts
286	240636	HIGH ROLLER	Steven C Benner	Steven C Benner
290	152345	FLYING DUTCHMAN	EBEN R NIEUWKERK	EBEN R NIEUWKERK
338	131009	MR BAXTER	MARGARET F INC	Mark Bichrest
383	250387	ELLA CHRISTINE	Randy Cushman	Randy Cushman
402	CPH	BAD PENNY	Island Institute	Island Institute
411	150006	WATER TENDER	Dennis Robillard	Dennis Robillard
417	321079	DELIA D	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
419	CPH	GENERATION	Gerry Cushman	Gerry Cushman
429	136846	PENNY B	Tad Miller	Tad Miller

431	CPH	LUKE AND GRACE	David Horner	David Horner
455	151328	PEARLY BAKER	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
461	150572	THREES ENOUGH	Troy Bichrest	Troy Bichrest
530	149504	PHILLIS	MARGARET F INC	Mark Bichrest
569	150350	JOLY	Terry Alexander	Terry Alexander
670	330448	JENNIFER & EMILY	Mark Bichrest	Mark Bichrest
747	310421	Evangeline	The Nature Conservancy	The Nature Conservancy
851	128672	NIGHT OWL	MARGARET F INC	Mark Bichrest
913	330708	THE JOCKA	JORDAN LYNN INC	Terry Alexander
1028	410574	RUTH & PAT	MARGARET F INC	Mark Bichrest
1256	223471	SEA SPRAY II	John Daggett	John Daggett
1257	149637	VALERIE	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
1441	233812	ROBYN ELIZABETH	Roger Allard	Roger Allard
1445	221941	SHANNON DAWN	Preston Scott Carter, Sr.	Preston Carter
1446	250907	CAROL ANN	GALLEY HATCH FISHERIES LLC	Gary Hatch
1474	250558	VIOLA LEE	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
1570	232910	Sherm & Jake	Maynard E. Brewer	Maynard Brewer
1578	149582	JULIE ANN II	Dennis Robillard	Dennis Robillard
1642	151706	ELLA O	F/V JOHN V MILLER INC	Tad Miller
1653	241615	November Gale	Joseph B. Leask	Joe Leask
1686	148069	AVA & LAURA	Bryan Kelley	Bryan Kelley
1801	CPH	DELILAH JONES	ISLAND INSTITUTE FISHING PERMITS LLC	Island institute
1809	242848	JACOB AND JOSHUA	JACOB AND JOSHUA INC	Alexander Todd
1815	242777	PAMELA GRACE	MICHAELA ALICE INC	Troy Bichrest
1823	139950	PRETENDER	Mitchell T. Nunan	Mitch Nunan
1835	140344	THERESA IRENE III	Tom Casamassa	Tom Casamassa
1864	114793	ENDEAVOR	FATHERS & SONS FISHERIES INC	Dale Martel
1957	152172	JULIE ANN III	JILLITY LLC	Dennis Robillard
2040	410100	WESTERN SEA	WESTERN SEA INC	Glenn Robbins
2052	242609	AMANDA ELIZABETH	Gary Hawkes	Gary Hawkes
2188	222036	ANTOINETTE	REINIER NIEUWKERK	Knoep Nieuwkerk
2204	CPH	HAVEN LYN	Bryan Bichrest	Bryan Bichrest
2237	149493	CUTTER	REINIER NIEUWKERK	Knoep Nieuwkerk
2260	150163	BEVERLY JOYCE	F/V BEVERLY JOYCE INC	Robert Bichrest
2273	220363	SARAH GALE	Russell Daggett	Russell Daggett
2341	242844	SAFE HAVEN	Bryan Bichrest	Bryan Bichrest
2392	221064	LAUREN LINDSAY	Angus Crosby	Angus Crosby
2404	152100	CINDY LOU	F/V HANNAH JO LLC	Knoep Nieuwkerk
2453	118724	RACHEL T	JORDAN LYNN INC	Terry Alexander

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following language:

Electronic Monitoring Program in FY 2018

Vessel Operations

Sector vessels may use electronic monitoring (EM) systems (i.e. cameras, gear sensors, video recording equipment) in lieu of human at-sea monitors (ASM) to meet federal ASM requirements for fishing year 2018. These vessels may be authorized to use EM only under a valid Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued by NOAA Fisheries. Vessels fishing under the EFP must abide by all operational and reporting requirements and conditions outlined in the EFP and the vessel's Vessel Monitoring Plan.

Selection of Coverage

Sector vessels using EM are required to declare their intent to take a sector trip using the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS), consistent with standard notification protocols. PTNS selection and notification procedures for Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) coverage under EM remains the same. Vessels fishing under this EFP are not exempt from the requirement to carry a NEFOP observer when selected for coverage.

Service Provider

The sector has selected the following Electronic Monitoring Service Provider to provide EM services to participating vessels for FY 2018.

Ecotrust Canada

Skeena Office

6 – 222 Third Avenue West

Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

t: 250.624.4191

f: 250.622.0577

info@ecotrust.ca

Primary Contact: Amanda Barney, Amanda@ecotrust.ca



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Patrick Shepard
Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
13 Atlantic Ave., PO Box 27
Stonington, ME 04681

Dear Mr. Shepard,

We updated the Northeast Coastal Communities Sector operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Additionally, we updated your sector operations plan to allow sector members to participate in electronic monitoring options that will fulfill sector at-sea monitoring requirements for participating vessels.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



**AMENDMENT 2 TO THE NORTHEAST COASTAL COMMUNITIES SECTOR
OPERATIONS PLAN**

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

This document amends this operations plan by adding the following to Exhibit K:

2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies NCCS Members during FY 2018.

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Sector Member	Owner Name
122	242753	MALLARY SKY	IRA MILLER	F/V JOHN V MILLER INC
206	231639	STEPHANIE DIANE	LAWRENCE HODGKINS	LAWRENCE HODGKINS
219	150893	FINLANDER II	TIMOTHY T RIDER	NEW ENGLAND FISHMONGERS LLC
283	240548	MISS WHITNEY	J. SCOTT MCGUIRE	MY LADY INC
522	150880	ACCESS GUARDIAN I	BRIAN CONKLIN-POWERS	MAINE CENTER FOR COASTAL FISHERIES
1227	223371	ROSE COREY	GREGORY DECESARE	GREGORY DECESARE
1522	211239	RUEBY	WILLIAM CHAPRALES	WILLIAM CHAPRALES
1663	231803	LOOK OUT	RUSSEL BREWER	F/V MOONSHINE INC
1768	148049	PERFECT C'S	MICHAEL PRATT	MICHAEL PRATT
1808	150576	FAIRWIND	MATHEW THOMSON	MATHEW THOMSON
1905	123544	EXCALIBUR	FRED BACKMAN	FRED BACKMAN
1973	150020	ACCESS GUARDIAN II	BRIAN CONKLIN-POWERS	MAINE CENTER FOR COASTAL FISHERIES
2029	233758	BAMPY	RALPH PRATT	MICHAEL KEVIN INC
2042	242718	TORI KAY	JAYSON KNOWLES	JAYSON KNOWLES
2122	152233	MAD CRAB	MATHEW THOMSON	MATHEW THOMSON
2180	221217	FREEDOM	WAYNE IACONO	WAYNE IACONO
2231	151458	CAPT CRAZ	DERRICK KELLEY	DERRICK KELLEY
2278	223572	ANDANAMRA	JASON JOYCE	JASON JOYCE
2325	151483	HAWSER	MATHEW THOMSON	ENVIRONMENTAL BUNKER SERVICES LLC
2413	223738	DORCAS ANNE	JOSHUA MILLER	JOSHUA MILLER
4160	221579	ROSE COREY	GREGORY J DECESARE	GREGORY J DECESARE
47880	233517	DAKINI	JOHN STOTZ	JOHN STOTZ
47890	243000	AVY-LAINE	MICHAEL R KEEGAN	MICHAEL R KEEGAN
47914	233854	FINLANDER	TIMOTHY T RIDER	TIMOTHY T RIDER
47928	152170	ATHENA	JIM LAMARCHE	JIM LAMARCHE
47968		PINWHEEL	TYLER MCLAUGHLIN	TYLER MCLAUGHLIN
48003	152452	FIGMENT	KEPER P CONNELL	KEPER P CONNELL
48020	310150	KRISTIN & MICHAEL	JASON MITSCHLE	GREAT LEDGE FISHERIES LLC

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following language:

Electronic Monitoring Program in FY 2018

Vessel Operations

Sector vessels may use electronic monitoring (EM) systems (i.e. cameras, gear sensors, video recording equipment) in lieu of human at-sea monitors (ASM) to meet federal ASM requirements for fishing year 2018. These vessels may be authorized to use EM only under a valid Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued by NOAA Fisheries. Vessels fishing under the EFP must abide by all operational and reporting requirements and conditions outlined in the EFP and the vessel's Vessel Monitoring Plan.

Selection of Coverage

Sector vessels using EM are required to declare their intent to take a sector trip using the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS), consistent with standard notification protocols. PTNS selection and notification procedures for Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) coverage under EM remains the same. Vessels fishing under this EFP are not exempt from the requirement to carry a NEFOP observer when selected for coverage.

Service Provider

The sector has selected the following Electronic Monitoring Service Provider to provide EM services to participating vessels for FY 2018.

Ecotrust Canada

Skeena Office

6 – 222 Third Avenue West

Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

t: 250.624.4191

f: 250.622.0577

info@ecotrust.ca

Primary Contact: Amanda Barney, Amanda@ecotrust.ca



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Libby Etrie
Northeast Fishery Sector I
1 Blackburn Center, 2nd Floor
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Ms. Etrie,

We updated the Northeast Fishery Sector I operations plan in response to your update, sent April 12, 2018, that there will be no active vessels in the sector for fishing year 2018. Additionally, we made updates to reflect the change in roster and permits fulfilling the rule of three requirement.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 1 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR I OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

This document amends this operations plan by adding the following to Exhibit C:

"SECTOR MEMBERS: *The following table identifies the NEFS I Members during FY 2018.*

Owner/Entity	PERMIT #	MRI
<i>Island Queen Fishing Corp.</i>	<i>109652</i>	<i>1749</i>
<i>Michael Walsh</i>	<i>CPH</i>	<i>316</i>
<i>Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund</i>	<i>CPH</i>	<i>1365</i>

ACTIVE MEMBERS: *There will be no active members in NEFS 1 during FY 2018."*

This document also amends Section 2.1 of this document by adding the following:

"This criterion has been fulfilled for FY 2018 with MRI # 1749, under the distinct ownership of Island Queen Fishing Corp., MRI # 1365 under the distinct ownership of Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, and MRI # 316 under the distinct ownership of Michael Walsh."



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

David Leveille
10 Witham Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Leveille,

On May 1, 2018, we filed in the *Federal Register* a final sector rule approving a new regulatory exemption for sectors. Because your sector requested this newly approved exemption, we amended the Northeast Fishery Sector II operations plan. This change will allow your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

We also updated the Northeast Fishery Sector II operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 1 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR II OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

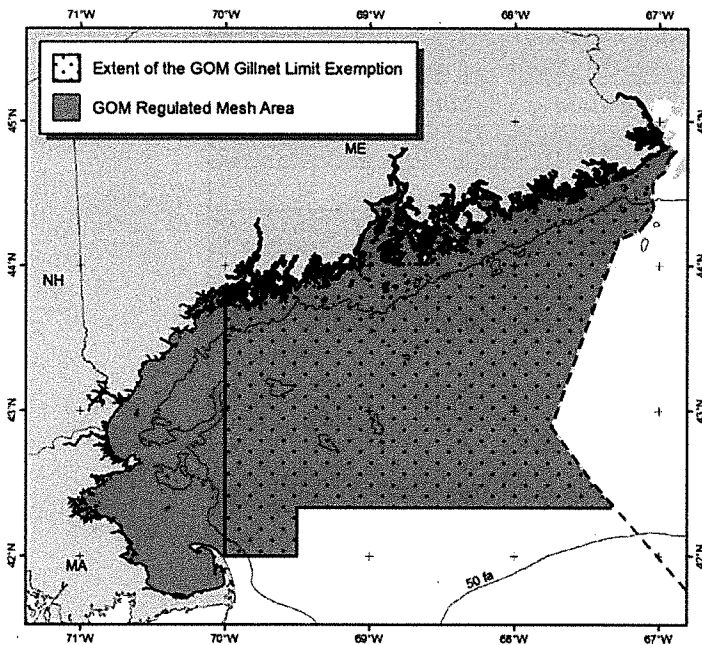
This document amends the section of this operations plan listing sector specific exemptions by adding the following exemption:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

This document also amends the section of this operations plan that provides additional detail on sector specific exemptions by adding the following language:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.



This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

“2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Northeast Fishery Sector II Members during FY 2018.”

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Owner Name
14	144413	Amanda + Andy II	Santapaola Fisheries Inc
34	150909	WATER TENDER NINE	Russo Fishing Corp.
40	CPH	CPH	JAS FISHERIES INC
68	151165	JUDITH LEE ROSE	GFCP Inc.
106	230035	RAZZO	Raz Fishing Co.
111	231052	CAT EYES	Cat Eyes Fisheries Inc.
133	240896	SPECIAL K	A & J Fisheries
149	150566	TWO DOGS	Dennis P. Robillard Jr.
160	230418	Predator	Daniel M Murphy
168	CPH	CPH	PHILIP A POWELL
178	151137	TERMINATOR	Paul Theriault
185	150703	CAPT LEO II	Joseph Jurek
187	231209	MARIA G S	J Sans Jr Fisheries Inc.
189	231302	EARLY TIMES	Early Times Fisheries
248	321113	HORIZON	Jam Fishing Co.
252	149677	LADY JUSTINE	RMV Inc.
255	240234	SABRINA MARIA	Cottone Inc.
259	149535	UNNAMED	PAJAM Fishing Corp
288	222427	JESSICA MEGAN	Irma Fishing LLC
293	150485	LITTLE STORM	Carl Bouchard
309	150483	MONI HONI	Carl Bouchard
310	147967	STORMY WEATHER	Carl Bouchard
314	250009	LITTLE SANDRA	Little Sandra Corp
330	149626	LUCKY JOE	Emilie Inc.
347	320673	JENNY G	Renegade Fishing LLC
370	251683	CAPT NOVELLO	Vincie N Inc.
373	250313	MISS SANDY	Taormina Fishing Corp.
381	CPH	CPH	PHILIP A POWELL
443	149710	Solina Soo	PHILIP A POWELL
470	150345	GRACE MARIE II	AGV Company Ltd
485	310189	CHRISTINA ELENI	Sal & Sons
490	320233	JANAYA & JOSEPH	s.s. Fisheries Inc.
512	151757	Santo Pio	Maria SS Dellume
525	CPH	Lowe	PHILIP A POWELL

593	150203	NJORD II	Stefanie Noto
664	150369	UNNAMED	Captain Dominic and Bros.
669	320695	MARY AND JOSEPHINE	P & V Fishing Corp.
735	330448	Tyler	F/V TYLER INC
769	330260	GRACE MARIE	AGV Company Ltd
773	149606	ACHILLES	Lily Jean Corp.
802	330338	LADY JANE	F/V SCM Inc.
816	330362	CAPTAIN DOMINIC	Captain Dominic and Bros.
825	151270	SEA ESCAPE II	G&N Fishing Corp.
844	310995	MIDNIGHT SUN	Lisa T Corp
907	410555	Orion	Princess Diana 1 Inc.
1009	149233	KEYWEST	Sandler Fisheries Inc.
1043	410242	MISS TRISH II	Russo Fishing Corp.
1153	410106	CAPT JOE	Princess Elena Inc.
1251	150603	Addy	WOOD FISHERIES INC
1433	148668	Foxy Lady	PHILIP A POWELL
1439	231826	skiff	JAS FISHERIES INC
1484	123845	BANTRY BAY	Daniel M Murphy
1493	250659	DEBRA ANN II	FV DEBRA ANN II LLC
1505	320892	SEAFARMER II	Sandler Fisheries Inc.
1608	211998	Lucky Strike	Jeff and Jane Tutine
1610	240998	TINA & TOM	Tina and Tom Inc.
1722	150322	LITTLE LADY	Joseph Jurek
1724	149632	ALYSSA & ANDREW	James Vanderpool
1734	214761	HARVEST MOON	F/V Harvest Moon Inc.
1766	250366	Amanda Leigh	JAS FISHERIES INC
1767	250366	ANGELA & ROSE	RMV Inc.
1798	110688	RUTH D II	Sebastian Noto
1806	144816	THREE W'S	Debra A Metivier
1810	150574	UNNAMED	Raz Fishing Co.
1818	146860	MYSTIQUE LADY	Joseph Jurek
1830	230329	FRANCESCA & CARLO	Francesca Corp
1846	149824	STORMY WEATHER I	Carl Bouchard
1878	330271	LILY JEAN	Lily Jean Corp.
1921	110688	Amanda + Andy III	Santapaola Fisheries Inc
1950	150963	ANNA MAE	Daniel M Murphy
1987	149295	LADY ELAINE	Dennis Oconnell
2011	150058	1997 Lowe 10	PHILIP A POWELL
2016	250508	EXPLORER IV	Explorer II Corp.
2091	150702	TINA & TOM II	Tina and Tom Inc.

2119	310729	NORTHERN EDGE	Northern Edge Inc.
2176	CPH	CPH	WOOD FISHERIES INC
2192	100409	Irma C II	Jam Fishing Co.
2352	149590	LENDALL I	Lily Jean Corp.
2369	150401	MARK TWAIN	Mark Twain Corp.
2533	113476	SHARKBAIT II	John G Sharkey
3607	149686	PEPPA	Corrado Buccheri
47822	149602	MISS MEGAN	Daniel M Murphy
47848	134630	AMBER AND JOHN	Ruth D Inc.
1960	CPH		Heidi and Heather Fisheries, LLC
228	146819	LORI B	Heidi and Heather Fisheries, LLC
367	CPH	ZODIACAL	Heidi and Heather Fisheries, LLC
117	CPH		Heidi and Heather Fisheries, LLC
1807	149318	RYAN ZACHARY	Richard E Burgess
320	CPH		Richard E Burgess
1482	CPH		Richard E Burgess
2177	CPH		Richard E Burgess
240	CPH		Richard E Burgess
1531	CPH		Heidi L Burgess
238	CPH		Heidi and Heather Fisheries, LLC
446	250887	Mellon	Melon Fiseries Inc
47802	148239	Sea OX	Tom Luppó
1456	CPH	MOTHER & GRACE	Russo Fishing Corp.
2391	CPH	ST. FRANCIS	Russo Fishing Corp.
1843	CPH	ST. JUDE	Russo Fishing Corp.
1647	150700	1988 Seanymp	Chadwick Fish and Lobster
4300	114880	Native Son	Chadwick Fish and Lobster
223	150593	F/V Skiff	Santapaola Fisheries Inc
843	150791	Little Flower	GFCP Inc.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

John 'Spice' Montgomery
10 Witham Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Montgomery,

On May 1, 2018, we filed in the *Federal Register* a final sector rule approving a new regulatory exemption for sectors. Because your sector requested this newly approved exemption, we have amended the Northeast Fishery Sector III operations plan. This change will allow your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

We also updated the Northeast Fishery Sector III operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018. We also updated the plan to reflect the change in entities fulfilling the rule of three requirement.

Additionally, we updated your sector operations plan to allow sector members to participate in electronic monitoring options that will fulfill sector at-sea monitoring requirements for participating vessels.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 2 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR III OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

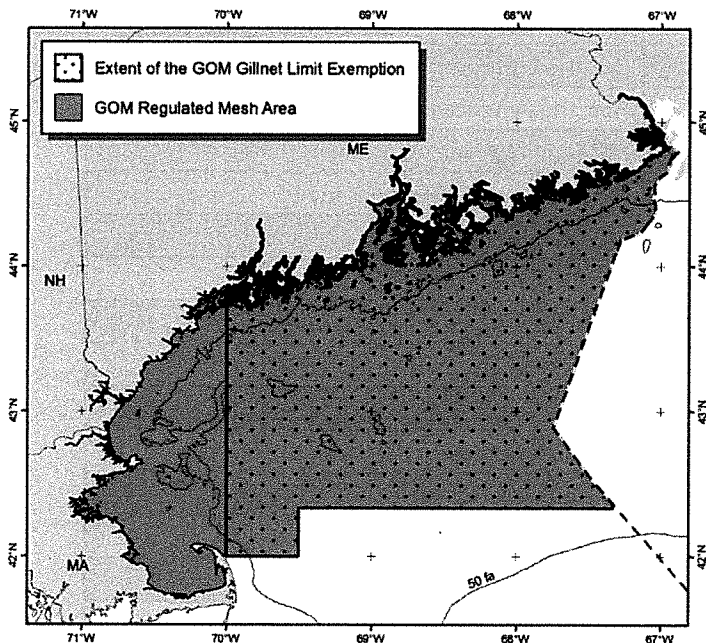
This document amends the section of this operations plan listing sector specific exemptions by adding the following exemption:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

This document also amends the section of this operations plan that provides additional detail on sector specific exemptions by adding the following language:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.



This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

“2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Northeast Fishery Sector III Members during FY 2018.”

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Owner Name
8	148401		Catherine F Lobster Co. Inc
131	231019		Edward E. Smith
133	240896		A & J Fisheries Inc
157	138579		A & J Fisheries Inc
173	150534		Edward E. Smith
175	231019	Kathryn Leigh	William G. Brown V
214	233139	Aaron and Alexa	New Shell Lobsters Inc
337	242738	Hannah Story	White Wave, LLC
372	250311	Manford L. Porter	Homarus Americanus Inc
459	149171		Homarus Americanus Inc
477	251853	Claudia Marie	A & J Fisheries Inc
575	127504		A & J Fisheries Inc
1288	150659	Sea Skiff III	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund
1534	121155	Dunlin	Michael T. Frontiero
1574	123717		Never Home inc
1639	115856	Allison Carol	F/V Allison Carol
1652	121338	Labor in Vain	Douglas L. Germain
1701	240355	Kenneth J. Duncan	Homarus Americanus Inc
1770	127576		F/V Sasquatch, Inc
1859	240883		Ashley & Anthony Fisheries Inc
1997	220748	Carol Ann	Carol Ann & Sons inc
2014	230636		A & J Fisheries Inc
2019	241144	Janel Leigh	Janel Leigh Inc.
2032	146936		Scott O Swicker
2051	232312	Sharon E	White Wave, LLC
2055	151909	scooby Doo	Sundance Fisheries
2088	212924		David Jewell
2127	151160		A & J Fisheries Inc
2165	118832	Miss Meredith	Matthew G. Cooney
2195	240441		Catherine F Lobster Co. Inc
2320	124061	Miss Carla	Arthur H Sawyer Jr
2327	150785	Mikes Skiff	Michael T. Frontiero
2370	231161		John Greenleaf
2804	149180		A & J Fisheries Inc

3354	150655	Unnamed	Island Queen Fishing Corp.
3524	221275	Catherine M	Lance Edwards
3636	223677	Toby Ann	Brian Higgins
3787	150943		Edward E. Smith
47905	147994		Catherine F Lobster Co. Inc

This document also amends Section 2.1 of this document by adding the following:

“This criterion has been fulfilled for FY 2018 with MRI # 1288, under the distinct ownership of Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, MRI # 575 under the distinct ownership of A & J Fisheries Inc., and MRI # 214 under the distinct ownership of New Shell Lobster Inc.”

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following language:

Electronic Monitoring Program in FY 2018

Vessel Operations

Sector vessels may use electronic monitoring (EM) systems (i.e. cameras, gear sensors, video recording equipment) in lieu of human at-sea monitors (ASM) to meet federal ASM requirements for fishing year 2018. These vessels may be authorized to use EM only under a valid Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued by NOAA Fisheries. Vessels fishing under the EFP must abide by all operational and reporting requirements and conditions outlined in the EFP and the vessel’s Vessel Monitoring Plan.

Selection of Coverage

Sector vessels using EM are required to declare their intent to take a sector trip using the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS), consistent with standard notification protocols. PTNS selection and notification procedures for Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) coverage under EM remains the same. Vessels fishing under this EFP are not exempt from the requirement to carry a NEFOP observer when selected for coverage.

Service Provider

The sector has selected the following Electronic Monitoring Service Provider to provide EM services to participating vessels for FY 2018.

Ecotrust Canada

Skeena Office

6 – 222 Third Avenue West

Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

t: 250.624.4191

f: 250.622.0577

info@ecotrust.ca

Primary Contact: Amanda Barney, Amanda@ecotrust.ca



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Vito Giacalone
10 Witham Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Giacalone,

We updated the Northeast Fishery Sector IV operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 1 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR IV OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

This document amends this operations plan by adding the following to Exhibit B:

"2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies NEFS IV Members during FY 2018.

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Owner Name
246	150592	ACME	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
2678	151157	AMERICAN EAGLE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
234	150600	AVALON II	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1491	150600	BLUE SURF	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1320	150659	BONAVENTURE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
147	151157	CABARET IV II	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1880	150789	CAPE COD	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
505	150781	CAPE MAY	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
588	320567	CATERINA G	Caterina G Inc.
794	150929	CHARLOTTE G II	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1812	150666	CURLEW	Boston Sustainable Fishing Preservation Fund Inc
1551	150592	DOLORES J II	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
125	150722	DOLPHIN	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
594	241218	ENDEAVOR	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1709	150531	HOLY CROSS	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
444	150513	HOLY FAMILY	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1867	150669	JEAN D ARC	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
358	150926	JOSEPH AND LUCIA	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
498	149675	JUNE	F/V EMILIE INC
1447	150827	KATIE D	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
684	150762	LADY IN BLUE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
56	150564	LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
2112	150564	LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
356	150560	LADY OF THE ROSARY	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
868	150749	LEVIATHAN	Boston Sustainable Fishing Preservation Fund Inc
2044	150789	LITTLE HUNTER III	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc

210	151247	MELISSA SUE II	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
272	151247	MELISSA SUE II	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
665	150914	MISS JUDITH II	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
2356	150551	MOTHER & GRACE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
2023	150523	OUR LADY OF FATIMA	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
467	150479	OVER THE HORIZON	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
200	150568	SAINT JUDE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
421	149838	SALVATORE	KDL, INC
502	150550	SANTA LUCIA	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1712	150553	SANTA MARIA	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1855	150589	SKIFF III	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1263	150546	ST BERNADETTE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
432	150590	ST FRANCIS	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
468	150621	ST GEORGE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1530	150539	ST JOSEPH	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1332	150532	ST MARY	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1650	150512	ST NICHOLAS	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
2004	150514	ST PETER	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1967	150544	ST ROSALIE	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
476	150582	ST STEPHEN	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1279	150527	ST VICTORIA	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
4304	150781	STEPHANIE LYNN II	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
985	150784	TEXAS	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
2739	151254	THERESA R	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc
1011	150802	VINCIE N	Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Inc



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Dan Salerno
P.O. Box 335
N. Kingstown, RI 02852

Dear Mr. Salerno,

We updated the Northeast Fishery Sector V operations plan in response to your request to remove references to the Northeast Sector Services Network, dated April 3, 2018. We also updated the Northeast Fishery Sector V operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

We also made updates you requested as part of adding a new sector exemption. Additionally, we updated your sector operations plan to allow sector members to participate in electronic monitoring options that will fulfill sector at-sea monitoring requirements for participating vessels.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 2 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR V OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

This document amends this operations plan by making the following changes:

Page 5, line 12;

initial Membership Fee and paying ~~Network and Sector fees~~ in connection with landings of catch

Page 6, lines 1-3;

Pay Sector Operating Fees on the net amount of Sector ACE transferred out of the Sector by such Member, ~~and pay the Network Fee on the net amount of Sector ACE transferred out of the NEFS Sectors by such Member.~~

Page 6, line 13;

Members of the Sector, ~~Active Members of other Northeast Fishery Sectors,~~ and certain other parties in

Page 8, lines 11-12;

authorizes the release to the Manager of V Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc.; ~~Program Director of Northeast Sector Service Network, and the FishTrax Programmer,~~ of information that may be or is considered to

Page 17, lines 14-15;

to time by the Board, in favor of Active Members of the Sector, ~~Active Members of other Northeast Fishery Sectors,~~ and certain other parties.

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

"2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Northeast Fishery Sector V Members during FY 2018."

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Owner Name
340	250164	Kelsi & Morgan	Heidi & Kristi Inc
357	CPH	Zodiac	Rianda S Fisheries Inc.
365	CPH	Seafarer II	KCS Holdings LLC

382	151988	Estrela Domar	Inshore & Offshore Charters Inc
394	151069	Proud Mary	Goldenwood Fisheries Inc
409	148642	Sweet Misery	Sutton Enterprises Inc
428	151492	Elizabeth & Katherine	Kingston Trawlers Inc
504	250243	Eaglet II	Eaglet Fishing Inc
529	310473	Linda Marie	Kenneth A Ketcham
551	CPH	Crestliner Skiff	Inshore & Offshore Charters Inc
562	320139	Ocean State	Ocean State Fisheries Inc
573	320205	Donald T	Joseph Fisheries Corp
599	310991	Virginia Marise	Rodman W Sykes
636	320550	Atlantic Queen	Atlantic Queen Inc
649	320645	Stephanie & Bryan	Elmridge Fisheries Inc
761	330782	Determination	Determination Fisheries LLC
830	330388	Braedon Micheal	Joseph Fisheries Corp
902	330567	Black Sheep	Black Sheep Fisheries Inc.
1085	410327	Heather Lynn	Heather Lynn Inc
1471	CPH	Miss Karyn	Miss Karyn Inc.
1507	310378	Rianda S	Rianda S Fisheries Inc.
1554	151203	Kary Ann	Ken Raynor
1780	250582	Windsong	Vincenzo Seafood Corp.
1813	152014	Alisha J	Jeffrey M Kraus
2046	150542	Providence	William W Reed

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following under Section 21:

21.12 Prohibition on discarding legal-size unmarketable fish

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following language:

Electronic Monitoring Program in FY 2018

Vessel Operations

Sector vessels may use electronic monitoring (EM) systems (i.e. cameras, gear sensors, video recording equipment) in lieu of human at-sea monitors (ASM) to meet federal ASM requirements for fishing year 2018. These vessels may be authorized to use EM only under a valid Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued by NOAA Fisheries. Vessels fishing under the EFP must abide by all operational and reporting requirements and conditions outlined in the EFP and the vessel's Vessel Monitoring Plan.

Selection of Coverage

Sector vessels using EM are required to declare their intent to take a sector trip using the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS), consistent with standard notification protocols. PTNS

selection and notification procedures for Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) coverage under EM remains the same. Vessels fishing under this EFP are not exempt from the requirement to carry a NEFOP observer when selected for coverage.

Service Provider

The sector has selected the following Electronic Monitoring Service Provider to provide EM services to participating vessels for FY 2018.

Ecotrust Canada

Skeena Office

6 – 222 Third Avenue West

Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

t: 250.624.4191

f: 250.622.0577

info@ecotrust.ca

Primary Contact: Amanda Barney, Amanda@ecotrust.ca



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

David Leveille
10 Witham Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Leveille,

We updated the Northeast Fishery Sector VI operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Heil".

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 2 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR VI OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

This document amends this operations plan by adding the following to Exhibit C:

"2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies NEFS VI Members during FY 2018.

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Sector Member	Owner Name
201	231525	SHOOTING STAR	Joe Biraelli	F/V Shooting Star Inc
342	149690	COURIER II	Tory Bramante	COURIER FISHING INC
447	150923	PATRIOT	Mike Walsh	KDL Inc
506	330851	Boomer Too	Mike Walsh	Michael Walsh
507	147979	White Whaler	Mike Walsh	Michael Walsh
560	320135	TRIDENT	Mike Walsh	Integrity Fishing Corp
580	310394	PADRE PIO	Tory Bramante	PADRE PIO FISHING LLC
610	320378	AMERICAN PRIDE	Tory Bramante	AMERICAN PRIDE FISHING LLC
623	310337	ATLANTIC PRINCE	Mike Walsh	Michael Walsh
632	330638	GUARDIAN	Mike Walsh	Integrity Fishing Corp
638	114998	JOSEPHINE	Tory Bramante	BARBARA JOAN FISHERIES INC
713	330792	AMERICA	Tory Bramante	AMERICA FISHING CORP
850	149914	TAHOMA	Mike Walsh	Michael Walsh
854	150353	SKIFF 2	Mike Walsh	Integrity Fishing Corp
918	149581	BARBARA ANNA II	Tory Bramante	SEA GOLD FISHERIES INC
919	410501	MISS LINDSEY II	Mike Walsh	KDL Inc
1199	330683	American Heritage	Mike Walsh	Integrity Fishing Corp
1540	149792	UNNAMED	Tory Bramante	PALOMBO FISHING CORP
1750	251683	Tradition	Andrew Walsh	Andrew J Walsh
1833	222163	JEAN B	Joe Birarelli	Richard Birarelli
1999	150930	JOSEPHINE	Mike Walsh	KDL Inc
3935	320780	FREEDOM	Tory Bramante	PALOMBO FISHING CORP
1849	149859	REICHL/LOW 2004 OPEN	Mike Walsh	DOROTHY MAY LLC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Linda McCann
Northeast Fishery Sector VIII
114 MacArthur Drive
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Ms. McCann,

In response to your request dated April 24, 2018, we updated the Northeast Fishery Sector VIII operations plan to include additional sector-specific exemptions and offloading ports, as well as the additional vessels listed on the sector roster.

Also, on May 1, 2018, we approved a new sector exemption from the gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine. Because your sector requested this exemption, we included this exemption in the amendment. This change will allow your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



**AMENDMENT 2 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR VIII OPERATIONS
PLAN**

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

This document amends the approved operations plan by revising the following sections as specified below:

Page 6 – Re-direction of Effort:

- Fishery: Scallop (Gear: Trawl, dredge)
- Fishery: Monkfish (Gear: Gillnet, Trawl)
- Fishery: Skate (winter & bait) Gear: Gillnet, Trawl
- Fishery: Fluke (Gear: Trawl, Gillnet)
- Fishery: Dogfish (Gear: Trawl, Gillnet)

Page 28 – Sector Specific Exemptions:

21.8 20 Day Spawning Block

21.9 DAS Leasing Program Length and Horsepower Restrictions

21.10 Prohibition on Discarding

21.11 Trawl Gear Requirements in the Eastern US/CA Management Area

21.12 Requirement to declare intent to fish in the Eastern US/CA SAP and CA II YT/Haddock SAP from the dock

21.13 Seasonal Restrictions for the Eastern US/CA Haddock Sap 14 21.14 Seasonal Restrictions for the CA II YT/Haddock SAP

21.15 Minimum Mesh Size Requirement for Targeted Redfish Trips.*

21.16 Prohibition on using small mesh trawl nets to target small mesh species (silver hake, red hake, and squid) on a Sector Trip in the SNE Regulated Mesh Area*

21.17 120 – Day Block Requirement Out of the Fishery for Day Gillnet Vessels:

21.18 Limitation on the Number of Gillnets for Day Gillnet Vessels Outside the Gulf of Maine:

21.19 Prohibition on a vessel's hauling another Vessel's gillnet gear

21.20 Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Page 30 -Offloading Ports:

Primary Port(s) of Landing	Secondary Port(s) of Landing
Massachusetts: New Bedford, Westport, Nantucket	Massachusetts: Provincetown, Gloucester, Hyannis Rhode Island: Point Judith Virginia and North Carolina

Page 40 – SECTOR MEMBERS:

Owner/Entity	MRI	Permit Number	Vessel Name
Double Diamond Fishing Corp	489	150921	DOUBLE DIAMOND
Captain WP McCann. Inc	521	310433	PILGRIM
MS Fishing Corp	550	320112	SEVEN SEAS
Oneonta Fisheries, Inc	565	330902	RESILIENT
Resolve Fishing, Inc	621	149833	RESOLVE
Predator Fisheries, Inc	708	330126	PREDATOR
PMJ, Inc	722	330155	OLIVIA CATHERINE
Coral Fishing Corp	744	410126	LUSO AMERICAN 1
Humbak Fishing Corp	749		CPH
FV Poseidon Fisheries, Inc	756		CPH
Three Amigos Fishing Corp	767	330517	HUSTLER
Marinaldo Fisheries, Inc	771	150587	1987 SEARS SKIFF
Cristian & Sophia	778	151676	SEA SIREN SKIFF
Willis E Blount Com Fishing Co	809	330551	RUTHIE B
Atlantic Shellfish, Inc	829	410279	NADIA LEE
Marinaldo Fisheries, Inc	831	320674	IBERIA II
John & Nicholas, Inc	832	330865	JOHN & NICHOLAS
Boat United States, Inc	862	330471	UNITED STATES
Seafarer Ent, Inc	871	330493	CHARLIES PRIDE
ACCA Fishing Corp	967	150715	PEE WEE
Arapaho Fishing Corp	971	321097	SERENO
ALCOR Fishing Corp	986	150370	WATER TENDER
CSM Fishing Corp	997	410177	CSM
Nordic, Inc	1027	410221	JUSTICE
CPR Fishing, Inc	1079	410318	ALEXIS MARTINA
Cockeast Fisheries, Inc	1080	151507	DRAKE
Jessie Jean Ent, Inc	1095	410344	SEAFARER
FV Majestic, Inc	1119	410392	MAJESTIC
Blue Seas Ventures, LLC	1130	410419	BRITTANY ERYN
Expedition Fishing Co	1231	410074	DONNY C
Double Diamond Fishing Corp	1525	310430	CPH
Captain WP McCann. Inc	1697	320113	SHAMROCK

Cockeast Fisheries, Inc	1764	150936	MANDRAKE
Blanca Casa Fishing Corp	2371		CPH
Base, Inc	836	151269	CPH
Adventure King, LLC	375	136935	KINGFISHER
Kimco, LLC	420	148172	JOLLY ROGER
Adventure King, LLC	1417	152222	CORRINE & GIRLS
William Borges	2034	231511	HOLLY JEAN

Page- 41: The following Table identifies the Vessels that are authorized to harvest Sector Ace:

Permit Number	Vessel Name
310433	PILGRIM
320112	SEVEN SEAS
330551	RUTHIE B
151507	DRAKE
320113	SHAMROCK
646423	HUSTLER
672841	IBERIA II
618882	UNITED STATES
585853	LUSO AMERICAN 1
602713	CSM

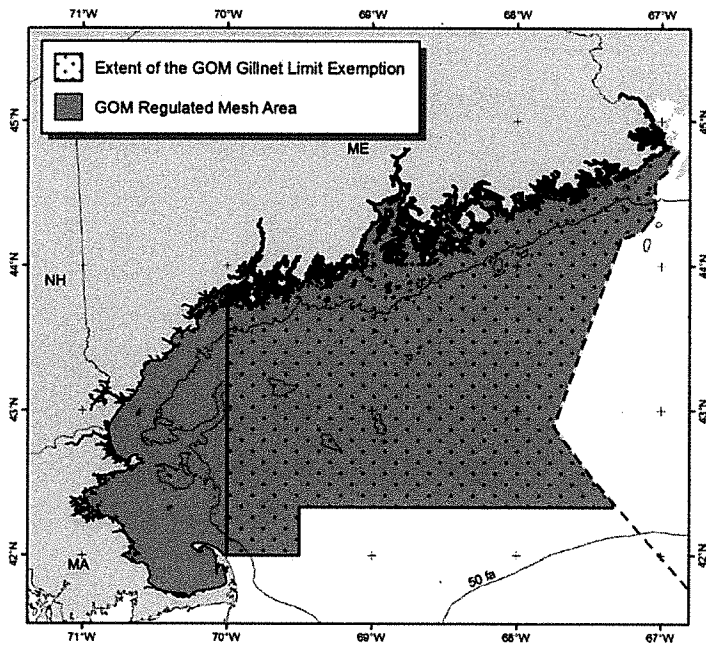
Page -- 41 Additional information on Federal permits associated with Sector Vessels and Sector Members:

NEFS 8 - FY 2017/18 FEDERAL & STATE PERMIT INFORMATION				State Permits			
IMRI	Permit	F/V Name	Federal Permits	MASSACHUSETTS	VIRGINIA	NORTH CAROLINA	RHODE ISLAND
708	330126	PREDATOR	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Bluefish, Herring, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop, Skate,	Offshore Non Trap LMA 3, Fluke, Sea Scallop Shuck			
489	150921	DOUBLE DIAMOND	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Herring, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults Red Crab, Scallop, Scup, Skate, Spiny dogfish, Squid/butterfish, Summer Flounder, Tilefish Comm cl, Tilefish	None			
521	310433	PILGRIM	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Herring, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scup, Skate, Spiny Dogfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam, Tilefish	Offshore Non Trap LMA 2 & 3			
565	330902	RESILIENT	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Bluefish, Herring, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop-LAGC, Scallop Ltd Access, Skate, Spiny Dogfish, Squid/Butterfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam, Tilefish	Offshore Non Trap LMA 3, OC, Dogfish, Sea Herring, Sea Scallop			
550	320112	SEVEN SEAS	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Herring, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults, Red Crab, Scup, Skate, Spiny Dogfish, Squid/Butterfish, Summer Flounder, Tilefish	Offshore Non Trap LMA 2 & 3, Fluke, Scup, Sea	Fluke		
621	150681	CPH	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop, Scup, Skate, Spiny Dogfish, Squid/butterfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam	None			
809	330351	RUTHIE B	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Herring, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop LAGC, Scup, Skate, Spiny dogfish, Squid/butterfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam, Tilefish, Atlantic Tunas	Offshore Non Trap LMA 3, Fluke, Northern Shrimp, Scup			
815	330359	CPH	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Bluefish, Herring, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop LAGC, Skate, Spiny Dogfish, Squid/Butterfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam, Tilefish	Offshore Non Trap LMA 3, Fluke, Scup, Sea Bass, Sea Scallop			
829	410279	NADIA LEE	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Herring, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop-LAGC, Scallop, Scup, Skate, Spiny dogfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam, Tilefish	Offshore Non trap LMA 2 & 3, Dogfish, Scup Sea Bass, Sea	Fluke, Blk Sea Bass	Fluke	
832	330865	JOHN & NICHOLAS	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Herring, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop-LAGC, Scallop, Scup, Skate, Spiny dogfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam, Tilefish	Offshore Non trap LMA 2, Dogfish, Scup Sea Bass, Sea	Fluke, Blk, Sea Bass	Fluke	
871	330493	CHARLIES PRIDE	American Lobster, Bluefish, Black Sea Bass, Spiny Dog fish, Summer Flounder, Herring, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scup, Skate, Loligo/butterfish, Atlantic Mackerel, Tilefish, Scallop, Squid/Butterfish, Surf Clam	Offshore Non trap LMA 2 & 3, Dogfish, Scup Sea Bass,			
1080	151507	DRAKE	American Lobster Non Trap, American Lobster Trap Area 1 & 2, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Herring, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scup, Spiny Dogfish, Skate, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam	Offshore Lobster LMA 2, Stripe Bass			Mult Purpose Lic
1095	410344	SEAFARER	American Lobster, Bluefish, Black Sea Bass, Spiny Dog fish, Summer Flounder, Herring, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scup, Skate, Loligo/butterfish, Atlantic Mackerel, Tilefish, Scallop, Squid/Butterfish, Surf Clam	Offshore Non trap LMA 2 & 3, Dogfish, Scup Sea Bass,			RI 000489
1119	410392	MAJESTIC	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Herring, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop-LAGC, Scallop, Scup, Skate, Spiny dogfish, Squid Butterfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam, Tilefish	Offshore Lobster, Fluke Sea Scallop Shuck			
1231	410074	DONNY C	American Lobster, Atlantic Mackerel, Bluefish, Herring, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Scallop, Spiny Dogfish, Squid/butterfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam	Offshore Non Trap LMA 3			
1525	310430	CPH	American Lobster Trap Area 1.2 & Outer Cape, Atlantic Mackerel, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop, Scup, Skate, Spiny Dogfish, Squid/Butterfish, Summer Flounder, Surf Clam, Tilefish	None			
1697	320113	SHAMROCK	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Bluefish, Herring, Loligo/butterfish, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scup, Skate, Spiny Dogfish, Surf Clam, Tilefish	Offshore Non Trap LMA 3 Gillnet Handlines			
1764	150936	MANDRAKE	CPH				
2371	CPH	American Lobster Non Trap, Atlantic Mackerel, Bluefish, Herring, Monkfish, NE Mults, Ocean Quahog, Red Crab, Scallop-LAGC, Skate,	CPH				

This document also amends the section of this operations plan that provides additional detail on sector specific exemptions by adding the following language:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

John Haran
205 Rockland St.
So. Dartmouth, MA 02748

Dear Mr. Haran,

On May 1, 2018, we filed in the *Federal Register* a final sector rule approving a new regulatory exemption for sectors. Because your sector requested this newly approved exemption, we amended the Northeast Fishery Sector X operations plan. This change will allow your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

We also updated the Northeast Fishery Sector X operations plan in response to your request to remove references to the Northeast Sector Services Network, dated April 3, 2018, and in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 2 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR X OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

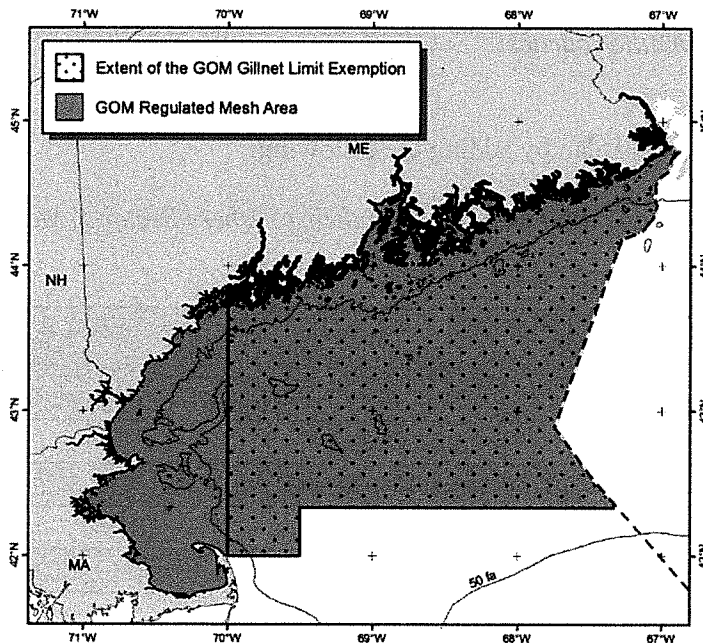
This document amends the section of this operations plan listing sector specific exemptions by adding the following exemption:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

This document also amends the section of this operations plan that provides additional detail on sector specific exemptions by adding the following language:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.



This document also amends this operations plan by making the following changes:

Page 5, line 12;

initial Membership Fee and paying ~~Network and Sector fees~~ in connection with landings of catch

Page 6, lines 1-3;

Pay Sector Operating Fees on the net amount of Sector ACE transferred out of the Sector by such Member, and pay the Network Fee on the net amount of Sector ACE transferred out of the NEFS Sectors by such Member.

Page 6, line 13;

Members of the Sector, ~~Active Members of other Northeast Fishery Sectors,~~ and certain other parties in

Page 8, lines 6-7;

authorizes the release to the Manager of X Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc.; ~~Program Director of Northeast Sector Service Network, and the FishTrax Programmer,~~ of information that may be or is considered to

Page 17, lines 6-7;

to time by the Board, in favor of Active Members of the Sector, ~~Active Members of other Northeast Fishery Sectors,~~ and certain other parties.

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

"2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Northeast Fishery Sector X Members during FY 2018."

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Owner
19	151447	2011 KL INDUSTRIES SKIFFMANNIX	SOUTH SHORE FISHING COMM PRES FUND INC
26	223496	DESTINY	PAUL UNANGST
103	230003	ANGENETTE	RONALD BORJESON
182	230855	SIRIUS	EDWARD BARRETT
212	150818	FRANCIS ELIZABETH	SOUTH SHORE FISHING COMM PRES FUND INC
225	149517	Rolex	Judith Dutra
313	240194	ODESSA	TIMOTHY BARRETT
374	149711	NICHOLAS ZACHARY	SOUTH SHORE FISHING COMM PRES FUND INC

386	250393	BETSY GALS II	LEE JACKSON
397	250467	HOLLY & ABBY	STEPHEN P WELCH
406	147967	MYSTIC	STEPHEN WELCH
500	150792	VESSEL PLAYTIME II	SOUTH SHORE FISHING COMM PRES FUND INC
642	150642	1982 STUR	STEPHEN WELCH
1226	148859	DRIFTER	PETER M KRZYZEWSKI
1473	231809	CYGNET	MICHAEL DUANE
1619	150767	1973 Sea Ray	James Bergstrom
1624	222158	SORRY CHARLIE	DANIEL SHANNON
1637	149568	LESLIE	STEPHEN P WELCH
1802	150852	UNICORN	SOUTH SHORE FISHING COMM PRES FUND INC
1831	230273	Kyley Lauren	SOUTH SHORE FISHING COMM PRES FUND INC
1847	210396	PHOENIX	EDWARD BARRETT
1902	150803	NELLIE M STANLEY	SOUTH SHORE FISHING COMM PRES FUND INC
1917	151608	COLEMAN	HENRY MCCARTHY
1964	220437	SURVIVAL	KEVIN SCOLA
1986	151326	1990 APPLEBY	JOHN J GOOD
2026	150850	ESTER M	SOUTH SHORE FISHING COMM PRES FUND INC
2090	223338	SARAH ANN	PHILIP BRAZAO
2362	150742	1976 SKIMMER	STEPHEN WELCH
7378	150845	GAMBLER	SOUTH SHORE FISHING COMM PRES FUND INC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Dan Salerno
1 Pierce Island Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Mr. Salerno,

On May 1, 2018, we filed in the *Federal Register* a final sector rule approving a new regulatory exemption for sectors. Because your sector requested this newly approved exemption, we amended the Northeast Fishery Sector XI operations plan. This change will allow your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

We also updated the Northeast Fishery Sector XI operations plan in response to your request to remove references to the Northeast Sector Services Network, dated April 3, 2018, and in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Additionally, we updated your sector operations plan to allow sector members to participate in electronic monitoring options that will fulfill sector at-sea monitoring requirements for participating vessels.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 1 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR XI OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

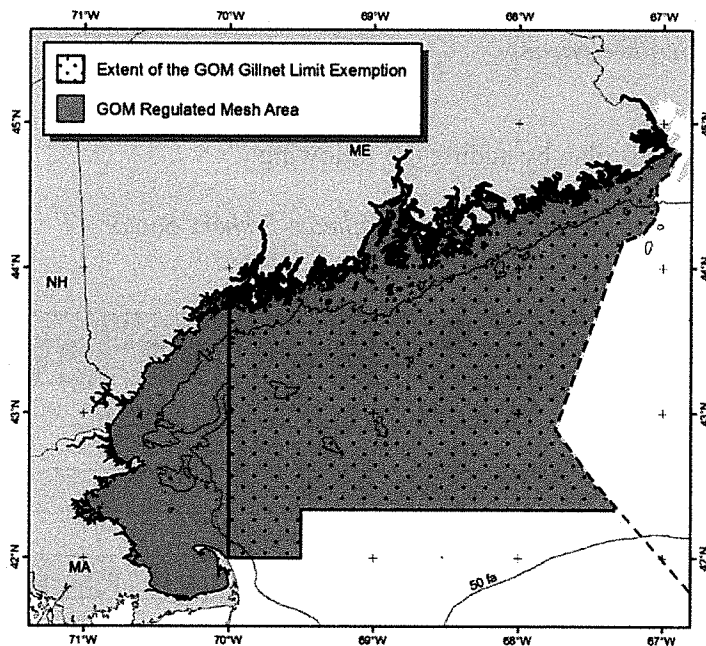
This document amends the section of this operations plan listing sector specific exemptions by adding the following exemption:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

This document also amends the section of this operations plan that provides additional detail on sector specific exemptions by adding the following language:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.



This document also amends this operations plan by making the following changes:

Page 5, line 12;

initial Membership Fee and paying ~~Network and Sector fees~~ in connection with landings of catch

Page 5, lines 26-28;

Pay Sector Operating Fees on the net amount of Sector ACE transferred out of the Sector by such Member, ~~and pay the Network Fee on the net amount of Sector ACE transferred out of the NEFS Sectors by such Member.~~

Page 6, line 10;

Members of the Sector, ~~Active Members of other Northeast Fishery Sectors,~~ and certain other parties in

Page 8, lines 6-7;

authorizes the release to the Manager of XI Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc.; ~~Program Director of Northeast Sector Service Network, and the FishTrax Programmer,~~ of information that may be or is considered to

Page 17, lines 6-7;

to time by the Board, in favor of Active Members of the Sector, ~~Active Members of other Northeast Fishery Sectors,~~ and certain other parties.

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

"2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Northeast Fishery Sector XI Members during FY 2018."

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Sector Member
20	CPH	unnamed	XI Northeast Fishery Sector Inc
85	CPH	unnamed	XI Northeast Fishery Sector Inc
98	221742	Last Penny	Gart L Glidden
101	CPH	Sweet Scantum II	Jayson J Driscoll
193	231422	Wendy Lee	Peter A Falnigan
198	231481	Katie Rue	Katie Rue LLC
209	CPH	August West	The Nature Conservancy
253	122647	Jennifer K	Ocean Pride Corp

270	CPH	Bridget Leigh	Richard E Anderson
291	240738	Ellen Diane	David T Goethel
298	149374	Rimrack	Parental Guidance Inc
300	223596	Pier Pressure	Charles H Felch III
344	100192	Janice Marie	Sassy II Inc
350	CPH	unnamed	XI Northeast Fishery Sector Inc
389	CPH	Bonnie Lee	The Nature Conservancy
437	131421	Lady Victoria	Charles H Felch III
438	310609	Ann Marie	Ocean Pride Corp
509	150059	Alanna Renee	Andrew E Lang
541	150865	Catamount	Fanel Dobre
1197	CPH	Vicki Mae	Charles H Felch III
1390	149302	Red Dog	James A Hayward
1419	146928	Judy Marie	Cape Neddick Fisheries
1425	211035	Paniolo	Jon B Drake
1459	CPH	Tripboat	Mike Anderson
1487	150119	Kris & Kev	Anderson Family Revocable Trust
1572	150341	Gipper	David T Goethel
1573	CPH	Skiff	Mike Anderson
1582	150021	Marion Mae	Craig P Mavrikis
1694	232278	Marion J	Thomas R Lyons
1699	150583	unnamed	Thomas R Lyons
1735	CPH	Sweet Caroline	Sweet Carolyn LLC
1745	149496	Ashleigh E	Sassy II Inc
1747	CPH	Little Sadie	The Nature Conservancy
1765	CPH	Lucy Rose	Norman N Pike
1781	146759	Hope Lynn	Norman N Pike
1782	148837	Wil-Mar	James A C Jones
1789	127422	Sweet Misery	Jayson J Driscoll
1879	147937	Isabelle Nicole	James A Hayward
1887	321079	Angela Michelle	Ocean Pride Corp
1891	CPH	unnamed	Charles H Felch III
1913	CPH	Karen Lyn II	Jayson J Driscoll
1920	146679	Sandi Lynn	Norman N Pike
1969	148106	Heidi & Elisabeth	James A Hayward
1990	CPH	Jacque & Nicole	Jeffrey White
2007	CPH	Christopher K	Stephen Lord
2058	CPH	Calculated Risk II	Wendy Leigh LLC

2077	151663	Jenny	Viking Fisheries LLC
2178	233317	Miss Dolores	Randall H Morgan
2241	150718	unnamed	David T Goethel
2465	152208	Chris & Lisa	King Marine LLC

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following language:

Electronic Monitoring Program in FY 2018

Vessel Operations

Sector vessels may use electronic monitoring (EM) systems (i.e. cameras, gear sensors, video recording equipment) in lieu of human at-sea monitors (ASM) to meet federal ASM requirements for fishing year 2018. These vessels may be authorized to use EM only under a valid Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued by NOAA Fisheries. Vessels fishing under the EFP must abide by all operational and reporting requirements and conditions outlined in the EFP and the vessel's Vessel Monitoring Plan.

Selection of Coverage

Sector vessels using EM are required to declare their intent to take a sector trip using the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS), consistent with standard notification protocols. PTNS selection and notification procedures for Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) coverage under EM remains the same. Vessels fishing under this EFP are not exempt from the requirement to carry a NEFOP observer when selected for coverage.

Service Provider

The sector has selected the following Electronic Monitoring Service Provider to provide EM services to participating vessels for FY 2018.

Ecotrust Canada

Skeena Office

6 – 222 Third Avenue West

Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

t: 250.624.4191

f: 250.622.0577

info@ecotrust.ca

Primary Contact: Amanda Barney, Amanda@ecotrust.ca



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Paula Lynch
PO Box 205
Scituate, MA 02066

Dear Ms. Lynch,

On May 1, 2018, we filed in the *Federal Register* a final sector rule approving a new regulatory exemption for sectors. Because your sector requested this newly approved exemption, we amended the Northeast Fishery Sector XII operations plan. This change will allow your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

We also updated the Northeast Fishery Sector XII operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 2 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR XII OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

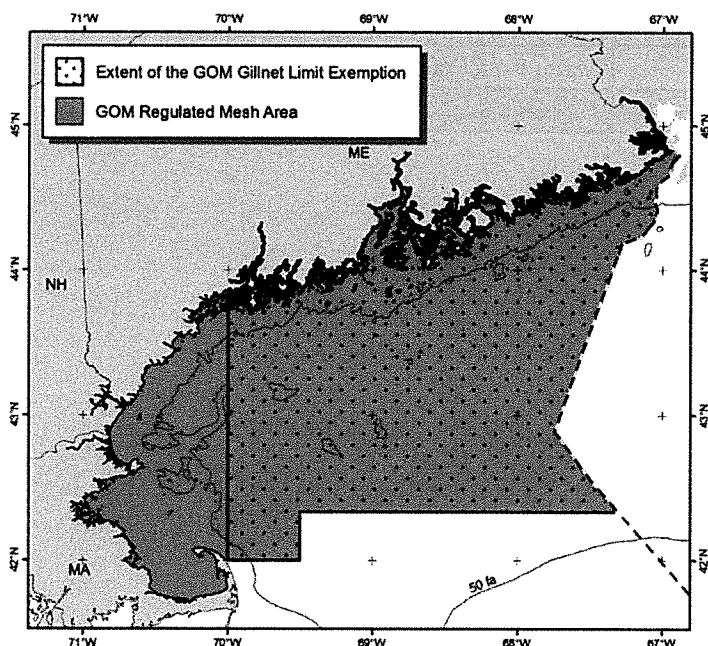
This document amends the section of this operations plan listing sector specific exemptions by adding the following exemption:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

This document also amends the section of this operations plan that provides additional detail on sector specific exemptions by adding the following language:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.



This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

“2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Northeast Fishery Sector XII Members during FY 2018.”

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name	Owner Name
135	230228	ENDEAVOR	Kevin Shea
190	151622	Gabriella Rose Skiff	Ronald Gustafson
211	240033	Mona Elizabeth	Philip M Lynch
216	251005	Paula Lyn	Philip M Lynch
380	149951	Miss Emily	Motor Vessel Yankee Rose Inc
398	250468	Cheryl Ann	Ronald Gustafson
482	150538	Five Girls	Thomas Bell
491	149951	Barbara L Peters (HR)	Boat Kathleen A Mirarchi Inc
1262	232093	Sarah C	Robert Roche
1277	214901	Wayne's World	Ocean Harvest Inc
1444	250541	Michael Brandon	Thomas Bell
1512	241633	Patty M	Craig Keefe
1537	125520	C W Griswold	Timothy M Caldwell
1669	125743	Brenna Ashley	Ames Fisheries Inc
1851	250525	Mary Elizabeth	Philip M Lynch
2166	150948	Kathy Elizabeth	Philip M Lynch
2189	128572	Silver Rose	Motor Vessel Yankee Rose Inc
47900	152126	Ashley G	Thomas Bell



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

John Haran
205 Rockland St.
So. Dartmouth, MA 02748

Dear Mr. Haran,

We updated the Northeast Fishery Sector XIII operations plan in response to your request to remove references to the Northeast Sector Services Network, dated April 24, 2018. We also updated the Northeast Fishery Sector XIII operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



**AMENDMENT 2 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR XIII OPERATIONS
PLAN**

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

This document amends this operations plan by making the following changes:

Page 5, line 14;

initial Membership Fee and paying ~~Network and~~ Sector fees in connection with landings of catch

Page 6, lines 1-3;

Pay Sector Operating Fees on the net amount of Sector ACE transferred out of the Sector by such Member, and pay the Network Fee on the net amount of Sector ACE transferred out of the NEFS Sectors by such Member.

Page 6, line 13;

Members of the Sector, ~~Active Members of other Northeast Fishery Sectors,~~ and certain other parties in

Page 8, lines 3-4;

authorizes the release to the Manager of XIII Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc.; ~~Program Director of Northeast Sector Service Network, and the FishTrax Programmer,~~ of information that may be or is considered to

Page 17, lines 14-15;

to time by the Board, in favor of Active Members of the Sector, ~~Active Members of other Northeast Fishery Sectors,~~ and certain other parties.

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

"2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Northeast Fishery Sector XIII Members during FY 2018."

MRI	Permit No.	Owner Name
181	151337	Amanda L Inc
368	250375	Scandinavian Fisheries, Inc

516	320699	Tenacious Fishing Corp
523	310439	Heritage Fisheries Inc
527	310455	J.F.H. Fisheries Inc
556	320127	Mattice and Maren Inc
585	320266	Roanoke Fish Co.Inc.
591	320287	Susan Rose
607	320374	Kevin D Fisheries Inc
619	223598	Miss Priss
626	150615	FJM Fisheries LLC
634	320540	Barlow Fisheries Inc.
635	360989	Humbak
639	320583	Leisure Coast Fisheries
646	310989	McGlade Fisheries Inc
648	310360	Nat W Inc
655	320657	Travis&Natalie
656	320658	Erin Fisheries Inc
692		Curlew II Inc
721	330153	William F Callaway
724	330161	Henry Daniels Inc.
738	330181	T Luis
748	330198	Sao Paulo
758	151346	2011 skiff Imigrante
792	330313	Shelby Ann
795	320646	Evan Christine
803	330339	Excalibur Fisheries LLC
811	330354	River Center Marine LLC
815		
826		S&S Fisheries Inc
855		
858	330464	Rhonda Denise
869	330487	Karen Sue Inc
886	330534	Rebecca Mary
892	330549	Mark Phillips
906	330579	TCM Fisheries, Inc
972	410499	Kathy&Jackie Fishing Corp.
988	410166	Good Shepard Fisheries Co
1000	410180	Sao Marcos II
1005	410186	Fisherman

1036		
1062	410273	
1074	410298	Buzzards Bay Fishing Co
1082	410323	Endurance
1084	410326	Salt Pond Fisheries Inc
1090	410338	Thor
1093	410342	Karen Sue Inc
1108	410367	Rose Marie Inc
1113	321056	
1114		
1118	410588	L&G Fisheries, LLC
1123	330739	Prevail
1126	410410	Lightning Bay
1163	410469	Anticipation
1168	410514	Yankee Pride Fisheries Inc
1524		Julia Westcott
1607	410154	Pontos Fisheries Inc
1670	410201	
1704	410602	Mark Phillips
1954	320419	Evening Prayer Fisheries Inc
1955	330575	Gabby G
2208	212096	Chuck and Ace Seafood Inc.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Hank Soule
PO Box 356
S. Berwick, ME 03908

Dear Mr. Soule,

On May 1, 2018, we filed in the *Federal Register* a final sector rule approving a new regulatory exemption for sectors. Because your sector requested this newly approved exemption, we amended the Sustainable Harvest Sector 1 operations plan. This change will allow your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

We also updated the Sustainable Harvest Sector 1 operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018 and your request to update the permits fulfilling the sectors rule of three requirement.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 2 TO THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST SECTOR 1 OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

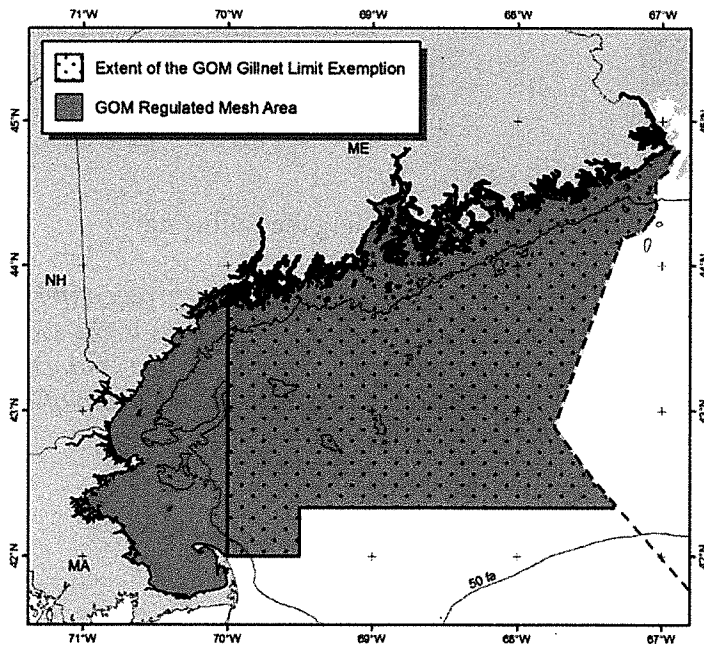
This document amends the section of this operations plan listing sector specific exemptions by adding the following exemption:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

This document also amends the section of this operations plan that provides additional detail on sector specific exemptions by adding the following language:

Day gillnet limit in the Gulf of Maine

Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.



This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

“2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Sustainable Harvest Sector 1 Members during FY 2018.

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name
145	147091	GULF VENTURE
297		
353	149492	POINTER
391	240880	LISA ANN III
407	250512	DE DEE MAE II
408	149776	
413	250547	ROBERT MICHAEL
424	250631	LORI ANN
426	149567	
436	251690	WILMAR II
475	310231	Donna Marie
484	150978	King's Small Craft
615	150464	
872	330496	TWO MEGS
879	330517	HUSTLER
965	410106	CAPT JOE
1019	410210	TROPICO
1881	250716	NICOLE LEIGH
1977	240770	DONNA JEAN II

This document also amends Section 1.4 of this document by adding the following:

“The NE multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) defined a sector as a group of three or more persons, none of whom have an ownership interest in the other two persons in the sector. This criterion has been fulfilled for FY 2018 with permit number 250547 under the distinct ownership of Robert Micheal Inc.; permit number 240880 under the distinct ownership of Lisa Ann Fisheries LLC; and permit number 250716 under the distinct ownership of Dana Hammond.”



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Hank Soule
PO Box 356
S. Berwick, ME 03908

Dear Mr. Soule,

We updated the Sustainable Harvest Sector 2 operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 2 TO THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST SECTOR 2 OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

This document amends this operations plan by adding the following:

"2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Sustainable Harvest Sector 2 Members during FY 2018.

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name
3	150851	
59	151086	
120	150908	
412	242536	SHANNON KRISTINE
415	149544	TORI T
434	150043	
442	150276	LUCKY DUCK
508	149551	
517	150972	
526	251242	AMERICAN HERITAGE
532	310504	
578	310988	VICKIE II
723	330812	BALD EAGLE II
752	330786	SASSY SARAH
785	330823	PACIFICS
788	410584	LADY ANNA
853	149358	
875	330873	BRIDGOT DENISE
993	149462	
1110	152282	OLYMPIA II
1423	149593	NEXT GENERATION
1536	321025	CAITLIN & MAIREAD
1539	150635	WILD WILLY
1579	146646	
1592	150604	JESSICA K
1696	150309	2007 TRACKER
1821	150667	
2461	150495	
47872	146585	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 11, 2018

Hank Soule
PO Box 356
S. Berwick, ME 03908

Dear Mr. Soule,

On May 1, 2018, we filed in the *Federal Register* a final sector rule approving a new regulatory exemption for sectors. Because your sector requested this newly approved exemption, we amended the Sustainable Harvest Sector 3 operations plan. This change allows your sector members to use the exemption for the 2018 fishing year.

We also updated the Sustainable Harvest Sector 3 operations plan in response to your updated roster for fishing year 2018.

Additionally, we updated your sector operations plan to allow sector members to participate in electronic monitoring options that will fulfill sector at-sea monitoring requirements for participating vessels.

Enclosed is a copy of the amendment, which you should append to your copies of the approved operations plan. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Sullivan at 978-282-8493.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heil
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc. Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Enclosure



AMENDMENT 2 TO THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST SECTOR 3 OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2018

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2019

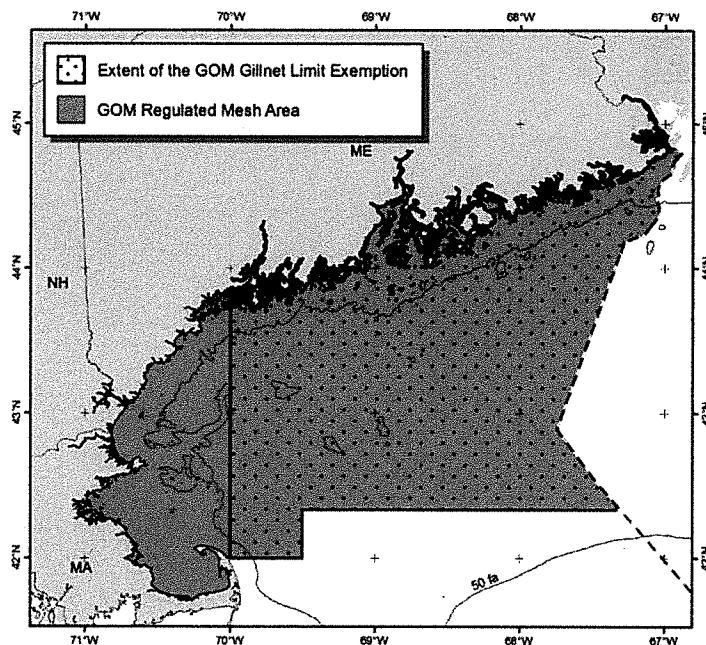
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Day gillnet vessels may fish above the limit of 100 gillnets [specified in § 648.80 (a)(3)(iv)(B)(2)], up to 150 nets total under the following conditions: Any nets above the existing 100-net limit must have a minimum mesh size of 10.0 inches (25.4 cm) and may only be fished east of 70 degrees West longitude. Vessels are limited to no more than 50 roundfish gillnets. Vessels must comply with the net tagging requirements at § 648.80(a)(3)(iv)(B)(4), which require roundfish gillnets to be tagged with two tags per net, while flatfish gillnets may be marked with one tag per net, and all gillnets fished must be tagged.



This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following:

"2018 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Sustainable Harvest Sector 3 Members during FY 2018.

MRI	Permit No.	Vessel Name
231	149649	CRESTLINER
326	150578	TONI ANNE
401	151541	SEARS
422	149556	MAGGIE J
472	149454	
478	149567	
493	149133	BUSTER B
499	232055	MICHELLE & LEXI
518	320885	TARA LYNN II
534	310510	CHRISTINA CAROL
557	118724	
559	149890	
564	150306	1990 GALAXY
572	320541	LYDIA & MAYA
574	150391	
581	330779	RAYDA CHERAMIE
600	330387	SECOND WIND
628	410537	TERESA MARIE IV
631	320470	BROOKE ELISE
650	150766	
659	150083	UNNAMED
671	320712	PAULO MARC
709	330774	TITAN
712	151250	
718	149844	
765	330251	
766	149975	
804	149560	SEA NYMPH
808	410369	
814	149515	UNNAMED
821	150773	SEA BREEZE TOO
834	150371	
842	330392	BLACK BEAUTY
876	330504	LINDA

877	330508	CAPTN MARK
880	330519	CAPTN JAKE
882	330526	
883	150277	
895	330552	HERCULES
962	150046	137CB
1004	149805	
1021	410212	SAMMY JO
1054	149805	
1077	410457	HARMONY
1091	149549	
1099	410349	WILLIAM LYNN
1103	410355	TERESA MARIE III
1104	410357	PERCEPTION
1115	149842	134FM
1122	410401	MARIA/JO-ANN
1139	149839	
1140	149872	SPECIAL K
1144	410452	NOBSKA
1150	410538	MORAGH K
1156	150287	1975 SILVERLINE
1171	410522	MORUE
1234	320304	ALYSSA & ZACHARY
1363	330516	AARON & MELISSA II
1443	320722	ISABELLA & AVA
1763	149495	SEA NYMPH
1952	410527	MARY K
2358	250527	MARIA AND DOROTHY

This document also amends this operations plan by adding the following language:

Electronic Monitoring Program in FY 2018

Vessel Operations

Sector vessels may use electronic monitoring (EM) systems (i.e. cameras, gear sensors, video recording equipment) in lieu of human-at-sea monitors (ASM) to meet federal ASM requirements for fishing year 2018. These vessels may be authorized to use EM only under a valid Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued by NOAA Fisheries. Vessels fishing under the EFP must abide by all operational and reporting requirements and conditions outlined in the EFP and the vessel's Vessel Monitoring Plan.

Selection of Coverage

Sector vessels using EM are required to declare their intent to take a sector trip using the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS), consistent with standard notification protocols. PTNS selection and notification procedures for Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) coverage under EM remains the same. Vessels fishing under this EFP are not exempt from the requirement to carry a NEFOP observer when selected for coverage.

Service Provider

The sector has selected the following Electronic Monitoring Service Provider to provide EM services to participating vessels for FY 2018.

Ecotrust Canada

Skeena Office

6 – 222 Third Avenue West

Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

t: 250.624.4191

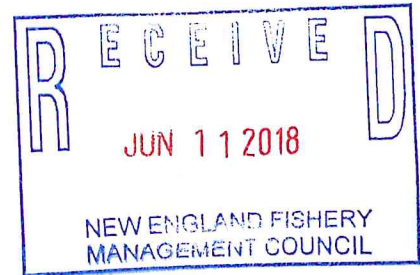
f: 250.622.0577

info@ecotrust.ca

Primary Contact: Amanda Barney, Amanda@ecotrust.ca

June 7, 2018

Dr. John Quinn, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water St. Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950



Re: Exemption for vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area

Dear Dr. Quinn,

We are writing to request that the Council take action to exempt vessels fishing exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Groundfish minimum fish size regulations, so that we may land our catch in accordance with the minimum fish sizes specified in the Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) for NAFO. We understand the Council will be initiating Framework 58 at its June meeting and we request this be included as a management measure for consideration in that action.

Currently, the NAFO CEM specifies the following sizes:

Annex I.D

(2018)

**Annex I.D
Minimum Fish Size ***

Species	Gilled and gutted fish whether or not skinned; fresh or chilled, frozen, or salted.			
	Whole	Head Off	Head and Tail Off	Head Off and Split
Atlantic Cod	41 cm	27 cm	22 cm	27/25 cm**
Greenland halibut	30 cm	N/A	N/A	N/A
American plaice	25 cm	19 cm	15 cm	N/A
Yellowtail flounder	25 cm	19 cm	15 cm	N/A

* Fish size refers to fork length for Atlantic cod; whole length for other species.

** Lower size for green salted fish.

<https://www.nafo.int/Portals/0/PDFs/COM/2018/CEM-2018-web.pdf?ver=2017-12-21-133002-477>

Tremont Fisheries LLC purchased F/V Tremont, a western rigged freezer trawler in order to fish as a U.S. vessel in the NAFO Regulatory Area, and this is the second year we have received an allocation of Yellowtail Flounder. During the 2017 fishing season we landed NAFO Yellowtail and American Plaice whole/round in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The preferred filet market is H & G (head and gutted) frozen at sea fish. However, in 2017 we were unable to pursue this market because we were bound by the minimum fish sizes specified for the domestic Northeast Multispecies Fishery.

JC 6/18/18

In the United States there is already an established market for H & G frozen at sea yellowtail, however that demand is currently being fulfilled by foreign companies. The predominant market for frozen at sea yellowtail is H & G because the process allows for a higher quality frozen product which is preferred for the filet market. Currently there is a healthy local demand for H & G frozen at sea yellowtail in the Boston and New Bedford area. However, this demand is currently being filled solely by foreign imports. We feel we are uniquely positioned to tap into this well established market, but in order to do so we need the ability to head and gut yellowtail we catch while fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Currently, we are required to abide by the Northeast Groundfish Minimum Fish sizes, which is 12 inches (30.5 cm) for yellowtail. As specified in §648.83 (a)(2) Multispecies minimum fish sizes:

*(2) The minimum fish size applies to whole fish **or to any part of a fish while possessed on board a vessel**, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, and to whole, whole-gutted or gilled fish only, after landing. For purposes of determining compliance with the possession limits in §648.86, the weight of fillets and parts of fish, other than whole-gutted or gilled fish, will be multiplied by 3. Fish fillets, or parts of fish, must have skin on while possessed on board a vessel and at the time of landing in order to meet minimum size requirements. "Skin on" means the entire portion of the skin normally attached to the portion of the fish or to fish parts possessed is still attached. **(emphasis added)***

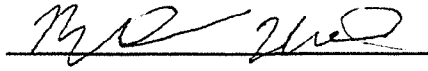
When processing H & G the fish is expected to lose 25% of its total length. In 2017 a large portion of our catch was less than 16 inches, which means we would be unable to H & G a significant portion of our catch and satisfy the 12 inch minimum fish size. Because of the operational realities of what we are catching and being constrained by the US domestic minimum fish size regulations we are at a competitive disadvantage to other vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area who ship their H & G yellowtail to US markets.

With this in consideration, we request that the Council include in Framework 58, a management measure that would exempt vessels fishing exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Groundfish minimum fish size regulations.

We are constantly learning and evaluating how best to successfully persecute fishing activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area and realize that future requests similar to this may arise. Thinking beyond this immediate request we would greatly appreciate it if the Council working collaboratively with the Agency would consider whether it may be appropriate to create a blanket exemption for vessels fishing exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area from management measures from all stocks managed by the Council. Such an approach would provide a proactive measure to avoid similar issues as this in the future. If possible, it would be nice to have this included as a potential priority for 2019.

Thank you for your time and consideration, we appreciate any assistance the New England Council can provide to ensure that vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area have the requisite exemptions to not only facilitate efficient fishing operations but to maximize the benefit to the United States.

Sincerely,



Michael Walsh
T: (617) 291-5108
E: Walsh3615@gmail.com



Andrew Walsh
T: (781) 316-7675
E: AWalsh54@yahoo.com

Tremont Fisheries L.L.C.
36 Central Ave.
Lakeville, MA 02347

Attachment: § 648.17 Exemptions for vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

§ 648.17 Exemptions for vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area. (a) Fisheries included under exemption—

(1) NE multispecies. A vessel issued a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance Permit under part 300 of this title and that complies with the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section, is exempt from NE multispecies permit, mesh size, effort-control, and possession limit restrictions, specified in §§648.4, 648.80, 648.82 and 648.86, respectively, while transiting the EEZ with NE multispecies on board the vessel, or landing NE multispecies in U.S. ports that were caught while fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

(2) Monkfish. A vessel issued a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance Permit under part 300 of this title and that complies with the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section is exempt from monkfish permit, mesh size, effort-control, and possession limit restrictions, specified in §§648.4, 648.91, 648.92 and 648.94, respectively, while transiting the EEZ with monkfish on board the vessel, or landing monkfish in U.S. ports that were caught while fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

(b) General requirements. (1) The vessel operator has a valid letter of authorization issued by the Regional Administrator on board the vessel; (2) For the duration of the trip, the vessel fishes, except for transiting purposes, exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area and does not harvest fish in, or possess fish harvested in, or from, the EEZ; (3) When transiting the EEZ, all gear is properly stowed in accordance with the definition of not available for immediate use as defined in §648.2; and (4) The vessel operator complies with the High Seas Fishing Compliance Permit and all NAFO conservation and enforcement measures while fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area. [70 FR 21942, Apr. 28, 2005, as amended at 79 FR 52580, Sept. 4, 2014]



June 7, 2018

John Quinn, Ph. D
Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01930

Via Email to: comments@nefmc.org

Re: Development of Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Amendment 23

Dr. Quinn:

When the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) meets later this month to consider the work that has been done to date on Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and provide direction on the range of alternatives, it will be a significant milestone in the development of this important management action. As such, the Council should take great care to ensure the Amendment follows the rationale that led to its initiation as well as the purpose and need for the action, which is to adjust the groundfish monitoring program to improve reliability and accountability.

If done correctly, Amendment 23 will make significant necessary improvements to the catch monitoring program for the historic New England groundfish fishery. This will improve the in-season administration of this fishery and allow the fishery to meet the biological and economic outcomes that have been promised to the fishery for decades. Failing to make these necessary changes will not only miss a rare opportunity but also will further challenge this already troubled fishery and allow fishery participants to skirt the law and regulations. It will also raise significant concerns regarding compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Ahead of this important discussion, Oceana offers the following comments on the Amendment 23 development process as well as the content of the range of alternatives that should be included in Amendment 23.

jc 6/8/18

Amendment 23 is an exceptional opportunity for the Council to take action to address a specific problem in an FMP with a dedicated action. Rushing this action will miss this opportunity and leave the groundfish fishery with unaddressed problems that threaten its future.

As always, Oceana remains committed to the successful future of this fishery and will continue to engage in the Council process to improve the final Amendment 23.

The Council should delay its scheduled selection of preferred alternatives.

The agenda for the June 2018 meeting states that the Council “may select the range of alternatives [for Amendment 23] for further analysis”.¹ Recent discussions among the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) and at the committee level make it clear that a May 1, 2019 implementation date is not only unrealistic but also premature for Amendment 23.

Instead of pushing forward with the incomplete range of alternatives found in the Draft Amendment 23 including a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS),² the Council should take action to extend the timeframe for development of Amendment 23 to allow a full range of alternatives to be developed by the PDT. This should not be an endless extension or an invitation to introduce a litany of vague unanswerable questions that will delay this process for years. Instead, at its June meeting, the Council should provide the PDT with specific guidance about the Council’s expected scope of alternatives. From this, the Council should work with the PDT to develop a reasonable action plan for the completion of a range of alternatives and an expected date for future action.

This clear action will produce a better process and a better product. It should be the first order of business for Amendment 23.

The Council should direct the Plan Development Team to develop alternatives that are directly responsive to the purpose and need of Amendment 23 and the ideas raised during scoping.

The purpose of Amendment 23 is, in part, to “adjust the groundfish monitoring program to improve reliability and accountability” with the further clarification that “(t)here are also questions about the accurate representation of the information, since there is evidence that fishing behavior may be different on observed and unobserved trips.”³

¹ New England Fishery Management Council Agenda, 83 Fed. Reg. 23639 (May 22, 2018).

² Draft Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP including a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, May 24, 2018
(http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/3_180524_Draft_Groundfish_A23_alternatives_180525_102737.pdf, accessed June 4, 2018).

³ Amendment 23 Scoping Document at 3 (http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/170217_GF_A23_Scoping-Documents.pdf, accessed June 4, 2018).

This is a serious problem for a catch share fishery. It is even more serious for a fishery where quota is administered at the vessel level as here with the sector fishery.⁴ To respond to this need, the PDT should be tasked with developing a wide range of alternatives that will prevent overfishing and ensure accountability in the groundfish fishery using accurate, precise and timely catch information; respond to the purpose and need of the action and address issues raised during scoping.

Important concepts that were raised during scoping and preliminary analysis and should be more fully developed, regardless of whether they use human or electronic monitoring, are discussed below.

Sector monitoring alternatives should not be driven by a Coefficient of Variation.

In Amendment 16, the Council borrowed the “performance standard” of a 30% coefficient of variation (CV) as the driving factor in calculating monitoring levels for the groundfish fishery. This decision was a mistake for the fishery at the time because it did not look at accuracy and focused on precision. This knowingly introduced significant uncertainty into the sector fishery which continues today at the expense of the fishery.

Because of the known weaknesses in CV-driven monitoring, the Council should not move forward with CV-based monitoring approach at any level (e.g. 10%, 20%, etc.) until it has adequately resolved the issues related to bias which are now well-documented by the work of the Science Center,⁵ and the PDT. In fact, the PDT recently advised that “[l]arge observer effects concerns will likely make the use of CVs to predict monitoring coverage invalid.”⁶

Finally, on the subject of precision and bias, it is important that the Council be aware of an inappropriate slide that was presented to the Groundfish Committee on June 1, 2018. This slide from an agency statistician boldly asserts that “(p)robability of accurate estimate from a given sample increases with better precision.”⁷

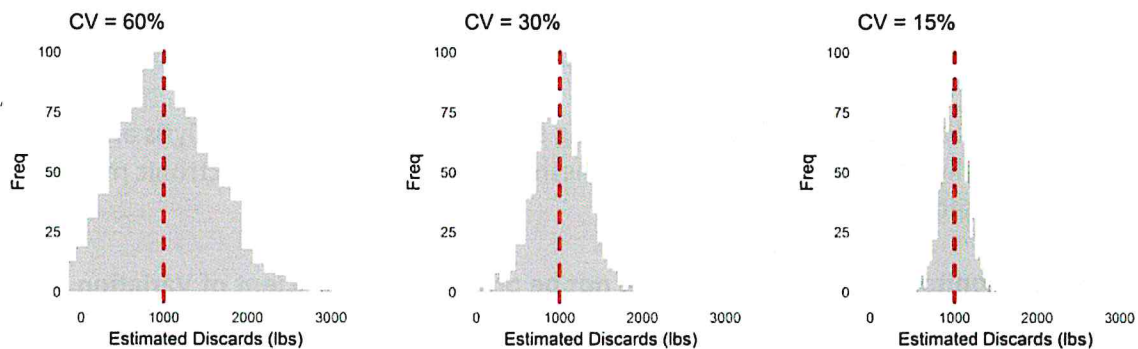
⁴ “By regulation ACE is pooled within sectors, however most sectors seem to follow the practice of assigning catch allowances to member vessels based on PSC allocations.” Fishing Years 2015-2020 Northeast Multispecies Sector Operations Plans and Contracts: A Programmatic Environmental Assessment. p. 144 (https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies/sector/docs/fy2015/1504_07_fy2015_sector_ea_for_final_rule_with_fonsi_unsigned.pdf, accessed June 4, 2018).

⁵ Evaluating the Observer Effect for the Northeast U.S. Groundfish Fishery, May 31, 2018. p. 28 (http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/180529-GF-PDT-memo-to-GF-CMTE-re-additional-analyses-for-A23_revised.pdf).

⁶ Groundfish PDT Memo to the Groundfish Committee, May 29, 2018. p. 2 (http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/180529-GF-PDT-memo-to-GF-CMTE-re-additional-analyses-for-A23_revised.pdf).

⁷ National Marine Fisheries Service Presentation to the Groundfish Committee, June 1, 2018. p. 32 (http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/2_180601_Groundfish_A23_FW58_staff_presentation.pdf).

Probability of accurate estimate from a given sample increases with better precision



Source: Slide 32 of the National Marine Fisheries Service Presentation to the Groundfish Committee on June 1, 2018⁸

This statement is contrary to many years of Council and agency work in developing the NE region Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM), Amendment 16 and other management actions where a nexus between accuracy and precision could not be established. In discussion and questioning at the Groundfish Committee Meeting on June 1, 2018, it was revealed that this statement includes a significant assumption: that no bias exists. However, other focused analysis has shown this assumption to be false, which nullifies the assertion being made in the slide.

It is concerning that this caveat is not included in this slide. Oceana requests that the Council correct this issue to prevent the slide from being used out of context in future discussions of the connection between accuracy and precision.

Monitoring sampling stratification should be driven by the way the fishery is administered, at the vessel or sector level.

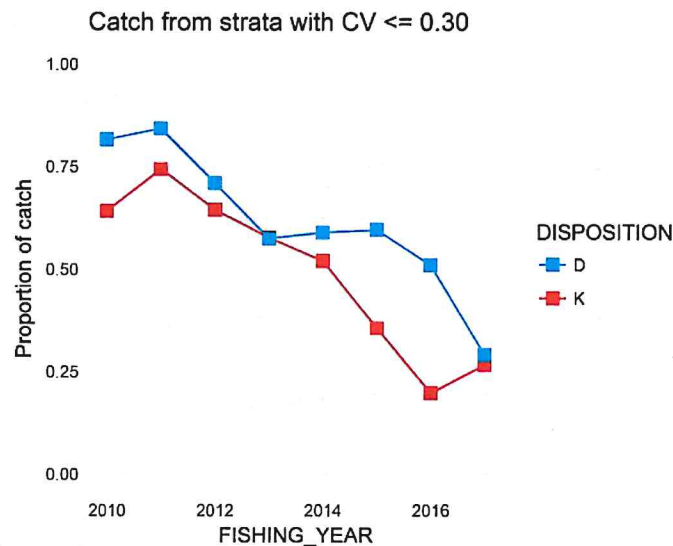
As noted above, many, if not all, sectors operate under the assumptions or requirement that each vessel is limited to catch only the amount of Potential Sector Contribution (PSC) that the vessel contributed to the sector's overall Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE).⁹ This vessel level information is therefore the basis of required accountability. Without accurate and precise information at the vessel level, any other accountability is undermined.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Fishing Years 2015-2020 Northeast Multispecies Sector Operations Plans and Contracts: A Programmatic Environmental Assessment. p. 144.

(https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies/sector/docs/fy2015/1504_07_fy2015_sector_ea_for_final_rule_with_fonsi_unsigned.pdf, accessed June 4, 2018).

The Council has taken action in recent years to move away from this necessary level of stratification, including the use of rolling averages and new interpretations of stratification (e.g., Framework Adjustment 55). These changes have recently been analyzed by the National Marine Fisheries Service and show a consistent decline in necessary information (as measured in Stock/Gear/Area information) since the advent of the sector fishery:



Source: Slide 36 of the National Marine Fisheries Service Presentation to the Groundfish Committee on June 1, 2018¹⁰.

This plot provided to the groundfish committee on June 1, 2018 shows the proportion of catch (Discards and Kept) that has met the 30% CV standard at the sector/gear/area level of stratification since 2010.¹¹ This level of stratification is the level where ACE is currently monitored.

Even with the inherent flaws of the CV-based approach, this graph shows that the groundfish fishery is not collecting the information necessary to support the long-term sustainability of the fishery. To remedy this, the Council should include a range of alternatives in Amendment 23 that explore the sampling stratification for the fishery to ensure that the sampling design supports the in-season needs of the fishery with statistically sound information.

¹⁰ National Marine Fisheries Service Presentation to the Groundfish Committee, June 1, 2018. p. 36 (http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/2_180601_Groundfish_A23_FW58_staff_presentation.pdf, accessed June 5, 2018).

¹¹ *Id.*

Amendment 23 should include alternatives to require sector-specific monitoring plans.

Since the inception of the sector fishery, monitoring has been prescribed for the fishery as a whole based on a one-size-fits-all analysis completed by the National Marine Fisheries Service prior to the beginning of the fishing year. This static approach is outdated, ineffective and fails to create any incentive to improve fishing, monitoring or management. In place of this outdated approach, Amendment 23 should include options that foster innovation and improvement in the fishery including a requirement for sector-specific monitoring rates that are based on the participants in the sector.

Allowing or requiring sector-specific monitoring rates could make monitoring more efficient as sectors could make decisions about membership, areas fished or gears to reduce their required monitoring or make sector-specific plans to incorporate electronic monitoring (EM) or other cost-savings efforts into their monitoring plan.

Sectors were created to provide control to the fishery. This control should extend to the design of monitoring programs.

Groundfish monitoring should be directly connected to uncertainty buffers.

The groundfish fishery currently uses standardized buffers for scientific and management uncertainty regardless of the catch information that is collected for any given stock. Because of the nexus between catch data and these uncertainties, Amendment 23 should reconsider the generic buffers for scientific uncertainty and management uncertainty that are fundamental to the fishery. Any changes to monitoring will have effects on these uncertainties for each stock – both positive and negative.

The Amendment 23 EIS must consider these assumptions and adjust them in proportion to the monitoring scheme selected for each sector or the fishery as a whole. At the sector level, this will provide an incentive and a choice for each sector: convert more of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) associated with its boats into catch in exchange for more robust monitoring or sacrifice potential catch to account for the uncertainty that is associated with ineffective monitoring. This will provide greater certainty that ACEs, Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and ABCs are not exceeded.

Oceana is enthusiastic about the potential for Amendment 23 to fix serious flaws in the current groundfish fishery and finally achieve management success for every stock in the fishery. Oceana urges the Council to consider a range of alternatives that address the purpose and need for Amendment 23, meet the needs of the groundfish fishery and respond to the issues raised during scoping.

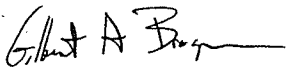
To accomplish this goal, Oceana encourages the Council to slow its development of Amendment 23, provide clear guidance to the PDT and let the PDT explore and develop

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effective alternatives. Only then will the Council be able to select the alternatives that are best for the fishery.

As always, Oceana will continue to participate in the Council process and looks forward to providing public comments at the meeting in Portland, Maine in June.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilbert A. Brogan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Gib Brogan
Oceana

