This amendment removes Exemption #15, the exemption from “Minimum Mesh Size Requirement for Targeted Redfish Trips” as described in the Sector Operations Plan, Contract, and Environmental Assessment Requirements (FY 2021-22) Guide (also known as the sector operations plan guide) last updated September 2020. Accordingly, all references to that exemption are struck from this approved operations plan. This exemption is also known as the sector redfish exemption.

This amendment adds Exemption 5 to the Universal Sector Exemptions section of this sector operations plan consistent with Framework Adjustment 61 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan:

5. Exemption from the 6.5-inch minimum mesh size restriction for trawl gear codends when fishing under the provisions of the Redfish Exemption Program defined in § 648.85(e)(1), provided the vessel uses a codend with at least 5.5-inch minimum mesh size.