

**AMENDMENT 1 TO THE GEORGES BANK FIXED GEAR SECTOR
OPERATIONS PLAN**

APPROVED BY NOAA’S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE MAY 1, 2020

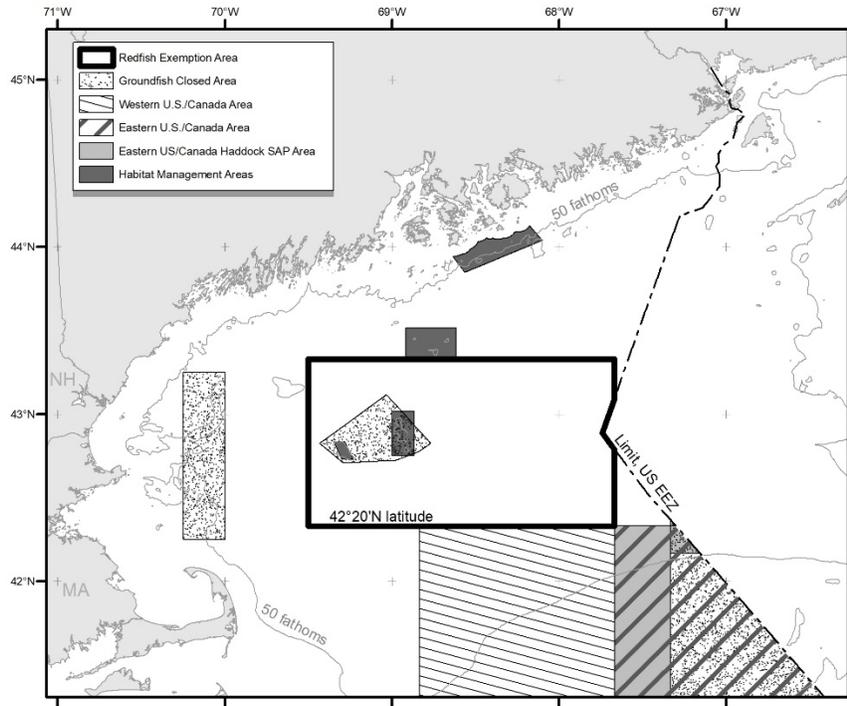
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

This amendment strikes all language under Exemption #15, entitled “Minimum codend mesh size for directed redfish trips” listed under Section 5.10 and replaces it with the following language:

15 Minimum codend mesh size for directed redfish trips

This exemption allows a sector vessel to fish for Acadian redfish in the designated Redfish Exemption Area, described below, using nets with codend mesh no smaller than 5.5 inches. When fishing inside the Redfish Exemption Area all other restrictions applicable to trawl nets still apply. In order to use this exemption, a vessel must strictly adhere to the following conditions and restrictions:

- 1. The vessel must declare its trip in PTNS consistent with the standard requirements. This exemption does not require additional at-sea monitoring coverage required above the target coverage level for sectors (40% in fishing year 2020).*
- 2. Prior to leaving the dock, the vessel must declare its intent to use the redfish exemption on the trip through the VMS multispecies trip start hail by checking the box “Redfish Trip” under sector exemptions.*
- 3. The vessel must submit a Multispecies Catch Report through its VMS system, each day for the **entire trip**, including Parts 1 and 2 of the trip as described below. The daily report is required if the vessel has declared the exemption, even if the vessel does not target redfish. The vessel must submit Multispecies Catch Reports through VMS in 24-hr intervals for each day of the fishing trip. The report must be submitted by 0900 hr (9:00 a.m.) on the date following the date the fish were caught. The report must provide a good faith estimate of the amount each regulated species caught on each day of the trip.*
- 4. The vessel may use a codend with 5.5-inch mesh (square or diamond) and greater within the Redfish Exemption Area (excluding areas otherwise closed to fishing activity). The area is shown below.*



The Redfish Exemption Area is bounded on the east by 67°40' West Longitude and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, the north by 43°20' North Latitude, the west by 69°30' West Longitude, and the south by 42°20' North Latitude. It is defined by the following coordinates, connected by straight lines in the order listed:

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
A	43°20.00'	69°30.00'
B	43°20.00'	67°40.00'
C*	43°06.23'	67°40.00'
D*	42°53.24'	67°44.55'
E*	42°47.17'	67°40.00'
F	42°20.00'	67°40.00'
G	42°20.00'	69°30.00'
A	43°20.00'	69°30.00'

*Approximate points corresponding to the intersections of 67°40' W. longitude and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, and the area's eastern boundary following the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.

- During a Redfish Exemption Trip, any codend that is only authorized on a Redfish Exemption Trip must be stowed not available for use consistent with the methods outlined in 50 CFR 648.2 until the vessel has completed the requirements identified in paragraph 8 below. Although vessels are not required by this exemption to stow their smaller mesh codend below deck in all cases, vessels transiting closed area are reminded participation in this exemption does not waive the transiting restrictions outlined in § 648.81(e).

Part 1 of Redfish Exemption Trip

- When a vessel declares a "Redfish Trip" via VMS, it may fish outside the Redfish Exemption Area during Part 1 of the Redfish Exemption Trip in accordance with

otherwise applicable regulations and sector exemptions. However, fishing outside of the Redfish Exemption Area first is optional. A vessel may choose to immediately transit to the Redfish Exemption Area and begin fishing.

- 7. Any catch thresholds do not apply for Part 1 of the trip.*

Part 2 of Redfish Exemption Trip: Fishing With a Smaller Mesh Codend

- 8. When the vessel plans to target redfish, it must travel to the Redfish Exemption Area. Once the vessel is in the Redfish Exemption Area, before fishing with a codend with smaller than 6.5-inch mesh, it must send a Multispecies Catch Report via VMS. This report is in addition to the daily Multispecies Catch Reports that are required when utilizing this exemption. The vessel must send a Multispecies Catch Report providing a good faith estimate of all fish caught by the vessel that day between 12:01 AM and the time of the report, and must fill out Step 5 in the report, indicating that it intends to fish with a smaller mesh codend and use the exemption immediately after sending the report. After the vessel is in the Redfish Exemption Area and submits the required catch report, it may make available for use the 5.5-inch mesh codend and begin using it. The vessel may use a 5.5-inch mesh codend (or greater) for the remainder of the trip in Redfish Exemption Area.*
- 9. Once a vessel sends the Multispecies Catch Report via VMS indicating that it is switching to the smaller mesh codend (Step 5), it is prohibited from fishing outside the Redfish Exemption Area.*
- 10. The vessel must submit a final daily catch report, in addition to other required reports, and a Trip End Hail via VMS once it stops fishing and begins its return to port. The vessel may not fish outside the Redfish Exemption Area.*

Summary Of All Redfish Exemption Trip Reporting Requirements

- 1. Submit a Multispecies Trip Start Hail declaring a redfish trip*
- 2. Submit VTRs for each chart area, gear, and/or mesh size fished.*
- 3. Submit daily catch reports of all kept fish by 9 AM the following day.*
- 4. Send a catch report of all kept fish since 12:01 AM of that day, with Step 5 of the catch report completed prior to fishing under the exemption.*
- 5. Submit a final daily catch report and Trip End Hail once fishing is complete.*

Monitoring Catch Thresholds

For all trips declaring the redfish exemption and targeting redfish during Part 2 of the trip, at least 50% of the total groundfish kept must be redfish. For observed trips (NEFOP/ASM/EM) declaring the redfish exemption and fishing a smaller than 6.5-inch mesh codend during Part 2 of the trip, total groundfish discards (including redfish) may not exceed 5% of all kept fish. If after at least one month, it is determined that the sector is not meeting either of these two thresholds, NMFS will notify the sector and be given 30 days to modify fishing behavior in order

to meet both thresholds. NMFS retains the authority to rescind the exemption if either threshold is not being met.

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

“2020 SECTOR ROSTER: The following table identifies GB Fixed Gear Sector Members during FY 2020.

Owner Name	MRI #	Permit #	Vessel Name
Tye Vecchione	30	150988	Skiff
Robert Eldridge, Jr	84	220839	Unicorn
Theodore Ligenza	99	221764	Riena Marie
John L. Our, Jr	119	232108	Miss Fitz
Gregory F Walinski	148	232096	Alicia Ann
James L Young	151	230322	Pooh Bah
Gregory J Connors	167	151403	2010 Beacon
Joanne-A III, Inc.	183	230926	Joanne A III
Shawn Sullivan	194	231435	Back Off
Benjamin K Morgan	195	151314	Lobster Mobster
William H Amaru	213	150922	Sylvanna
Pillory Fisheries Inc.	224	150237	1971 Seacraft 20
Lynam Fisheries Inc	236	150255	Annie Wilder II
Gregory J Connors	256	149575	Rebecca and Emily
Samuel Linnell	260	240543	Hunter
Tye Vecchione	262	149525	Bada Bing
Mark D Liska	285	241576	Sea Dancer
Jared Bennett	331	151539	White Cap
Lynam Fisheries Inc	392	321116	Annie Wilder
Jan Margeson	395	149963	Great Pumpkin
Harmony Fisheries Inc	418	250571	Edward & Joseph
Benjo Inc	647	233617	Saga
The Nature Conservancy	658	151425	Unicorn Skiff
David Murdoch IV	1191	146765	Jack Tar
Harmony Fisheries Inc	1316	149278	Strangle Hold
Glen LeGeyt	1435	150652	Morgan I
Nantucket Sound Fish Weirs Inc	1467	250463	Johanna
Theodore Ligenza	1521	135641	Water Horse
John Our Jr	1545	149986	22 Hiliner
Thomas M Szado	1562	233853	Perfect Catch
Nicholas Muto	1576	118641	Dawn T
John L. Our, Jr	1609	150361	1979 Young

Harmony Fisheries Inc	1620	121162	Lady Irene
Gregory J Connors	1634	146922	Constance Sea
Raymond J Brunelle	1668	104564	Anna Marie
James F Nash	1685	222231	Magic
Eric M Hesse	1708	242648	Tenacious II
Scott MacAllister	1852	150611	Carol Marie
James F Nash	1883	149261	Ann Marie
Thomas S. Smith	1888	151214	Seanymph
Zachary Bennett	1906	152078	Elisa
Timothy D Linnell	1923	122157	Perry's Pride II
Charles J Comeau	1940	111336	Buffy Anne
Lost At Sea, LLC	1942	231457	Lost
Gregory J Connors	1951	223588	Last Stand
Raymond J Ransom III	1958	223581	Lyndsy Liz
Althea K Inc.	1985	100277	Althea K
Jakob & Megan Fisheries LLC	2001	222737	Jakob & Megan
Peggy B II Inc	2006	213029	Peggy B II
Gerald Miszkin	2008	116103	Ouija
Wade S Behlman	2020	222022	Jennifer Dan
Theodore Ligenza	2050	221794	Surf Breaker
Shannon E McKosker	2171	223565	Miss Jennifer
John Matthew Linnell	2218	222175	Lori B
Nicholas O'Toole	2248	130772	Zachary T
Gregory J Connors	2297	150597	1992 Sylvan Skiff
Gregory Connors	2623	146672	Sea Hook
Kurt Martin	2992	223512	Time Bandit
Kenneth Eldredge	3174	150691	Lolo
Nicholas O'Toole	3176	150861	Three Reasons
Thomas Luce	3449	211160	Sea Win
Christopher J Ripa	3542	221581	Irish Lady
Wallace H Bicknell	3595	222365	Miss Melodye
Mark J Hurley	3669	230935	Seaborne
Michael E Terrenzi	3684	231241	Kelly J
Leslie Shwam	3688	233177	Rosey S
Robert Eldridge, Jr	4202	220839	Unicorn
Nantucket Sound Fish Weirs Inc	47964	220698	Nancy S
CCCFA	48923	151352	Tony K
Joseph J Geary	49047	148763	Blue Herron
John Matthew Linnell	2284	118724	Rachel T