

AMENDMENT 1 TO THE MAINE COAST COMMUNITY SECTOR OPERATIONS PLAN

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

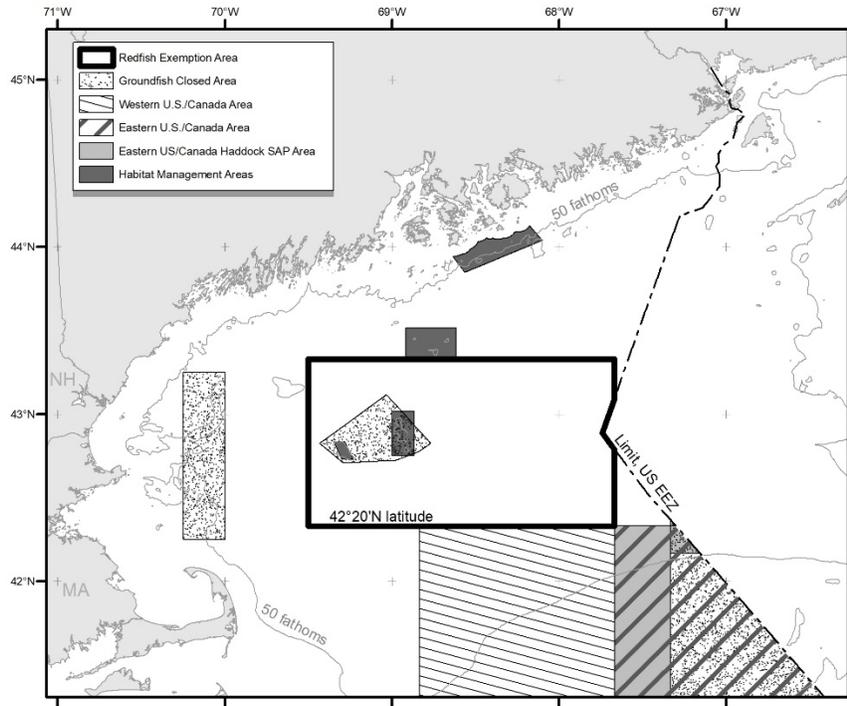
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

This amendment strikes all language under Exemption #15, entitled "Minimum codend mesh size for directed redfish trips" listed under Section 5.09 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 to Exhibit D:

2020 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Maine Coast Community Sector Members during FY 2020.

MRI	Permit #	Vessel Name	Owner
5	148076	RAY OF HOPE	Bryan Bichrest
16	114846	MARIE ANN	Craig Durant
49	220149		Herman Coombs
78	152120	GRACELYN JANE	Brian Pearce
87	220989	HANNAH RUTH	Scott Carter
97	221740	HAYLEY ANN	Joe Nickerson
112	242567	CAPT'N LEE	Justin Libby
122	242753	Mallary Sky	Tad Miller
130	212165	FREE BIRD	Brian Durant
163	149741	ROYAL AMERICAN	Kelo Pinkham
164	223592	PROVIDENCE	Willis Spear
192	232006	KATIE & SARAH	Robert Eugley, Jr.
196	150946	JETHRO	Troy Bichrest
207	149180	Ruby Claire	TNC
222	240081	NORTH STAR	Vincent Balzano
235	240143	MISTY MAE	Donald Paulsen
241	150423	Hunky Dory	Terry Alexander
268	233869	BUG CATCHA	Gerry Cushman
276	240423	MEGALTAY	Todd Watts
283	240548	Miss Whitney	Scott McGuire
286	240636	HIGH ROLLER	Steve Benner
290	152345	Flying Dutchman	Eben Nieuwkerk
338	131009	Mr Baxter	Mark Bichrest
383	250387	ELLA CHRISTINE	Randy Cushman
402		BAD PENNY	Island Institute
411	150006	Water Tender	Dennis Robillard
417	321079	Delia D	TNC
419		GENERATION	Gerry Cushman
429	231459	Julie Ann	Tad Miller
431		LUKE AND GRACE	David Horner
455	151328	PEARLY BAKER	TNC
461	150572	THREES ENOUGH	Bryan/Troy Bichrest

522	150880		<i>Patrick Shepard</i>
530	149504	<i>Phillis</i>	<i>Mark Bichrest</i>
557	118724	<i>Northern Lights</i>	<i>Vincent Balzano</i>
569	150350	<i>Joly</i>	<i>Terry Alexander</i>
670	330448	<i>Jennifer & Emily</i>	<i>Mark Bichrest</i>
747		<i>Evangeline</i>	<i>TNC</i>
851	128672	<i>Night Owl</i>	<i>Mark Bichrest</i>
913	330708	<i>THE JOCKA</i>	<i>Terry Alexander</i>
1028	410574	<i>RUTH & PAT</i>	<i>Mark Bichrest</i>
1156	150287	<i>Francis Dawn</i>	<i>Mark Bichrest</i>
1227	223371	<i>Rose Corey</i>	<i>Greg Decesare</i>
1256	223471	<i>SEA SPRAY II</i>	<i>John Daggett</i>
1257	149637	<i>Valerie</i>	<i>TNC</i>
1441	233812	<i>ROBYN ELIZABETH</i>	<i>Roger Allard</i>
1445	221941	<i>SHANNON DAWN</i>	<i>Preston Carter</i>
1446	250907	<i>CAROL ANN</i>	<i>Gary Hatch</i>
1474	250558	<i>VIOLA LEE</i>	<i>TNC</i>
1522	211239	<i>Rueby</i>	<i>William Chaprales</i>
1570	232910	<i>Sherm & Jake</i>	<i>Maynard Brewer</i>
1578	149582	<i>Julie Ann II</i>	<i>Dennis Robillard</i>
1642	151706	<i>ELLA O</i>	<i>Tad Miller</i>
1663	231803	<i>Lookout</i>	<i>Russell Brewer</i>
1686	148069	<i>AVA & LAURA</i>	<i>Brian Kelley</i>
1768	148049	<i>Perfect C's</i>	<i>Michael Pratt</i>
1801	150886	<i>DELILAH JONES</i>	<i>TNC</i>
1809	242848	<i>JACOB AND JOSHUA</i>	<i>Alexander Todd</i>
1815	242777	<i>PAMELA GRACE</i>	<i>Troy Bichrest</i>
1823	139950	<i>PRETENDER</i>	<i>Mitch Nunan</i>
1835	140344		<i>Gerry Cushman</i>
1864	114793	<i>ENDEAVOR</i>	<i>Dale Martel</i>
1887			<i>TNC</i>
1905	123544	<i>Excaliber</i>	<i>Fred Backman</i>
1957	152172	<i>JULIE ANN III</i>	<i>Dennis Robillard</i>
1973	150020		<i>Patrick Shepard</i>
2029	233758	<i>Bampy</i>	<i>Ralph Pratt</i>
2040	410100	<i>WESTERN SEA</i>	<i>Glenn Robbins</i>
2052	242609	<i>Roman's Road</i>	<i>Cory Hawkes</i>
2055	151622	<i>FV PEGGY-O</i>	<i>TNC</i>
2168	152390	<i>Eleanor J</i>	<i>John Mitchell</i>
2188	147517	<i>HANNAH JO</i>	<i>Knoep Nieuwkerk</i>
2204		<i>HAVEN LYN</i>	<i>Bryan Bichrest</i>

2229	138096	<i>Lady Rebecca</i>	<i>Joe Letourneau</i>
2237	149493	<i>CUTTER</i>	<i>Knoep Nieuwkerk</i>
2260	233726	<i>Alanea Mae</i>	<i>Robert Bichrest</i>
2273	220363	<i>SARAH GALE</i>	<i>Russell Daggett</i>
2341	242844	<i>SAFE HAVEN</i>	<i>Bryan Bichrest</i>
2392	221064	<i>Lauren Lindsay</i>	<i>Angus Crosby</i>
2404	152100	<i>CINDY LOU</i>	<i>Knoep Nieuwkerk</i>
2453	118724	<i>Rachel T</i>	<i>Terry Alexander</i>
2465	152208	<i>Brittany Lynn</i>	<i>Geordie King</i>
4160	221579		<i>Greg Decesare</i>
48003	152452	<i>Figment</i>	<i>Keper Connell</i>
1451	242536	<i>Shannon Kristine</i>	<i>Eben Nieuwkerk</i>
426			<i>TNC</i>
1975	250566	<i>Karen Lynn</i>	<i>Jeremy Davis</i>