

AMENDMENT 1 TO THE MOONCUSSER SECTOR OPERATIONS PLAN

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

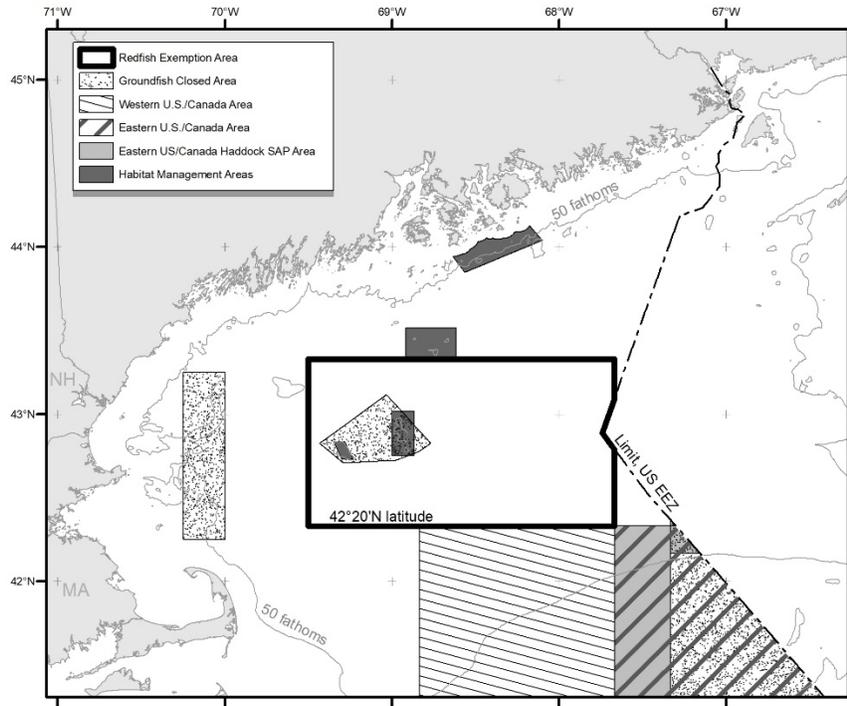
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

This amendment strikes all language under Exemption #14, 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 Mooncusser Sector Members during FY 2020.

Owner Name	MRI #	Permit #	Vessel Name
TNC	27	150563	Cape Island
TNC	1496	151931	Skiff
TNC	1689	151926	Skiff
TNC	1755	148810	1986 Cape Island
TNC	2650	151425	Mattanza
TNC	3390	150584	Lei Lani
CCCFA	76	150187	Seed
CCCFA	153	150877	Sea Holly III
CCCFA	274	151192	Carole R II 2009 KL Indus
CCCFA	328	150844	Sam Ryder
CCCFA	449	150671	Carol Ann
CCCFA	465	240543	Huntress
CCCFA	677	149988	2002 Skiff Tolley Susie Q
CCCFA	1434	151437	Marilyn Louise Skiff
CCCFA	1527	221935	Sea Baggins
CCCFA	1563	150706	Sturdee
CCCFA	1725	151978	Skiff
CCCFA	1746	211160	Sea Winds
CCCFA	1856	120962	Little Rascal
CCCFA	1886	232096	Alicia Ann
CCCFA	2013	223607	Headhunter
CCCFA	2039	150897	Monomoy
CCCFA	2107	151425	Paula Jean
CCCFA	2179	151438	Fair Winds Skiff
CCCFA	2196	232043	Gregory
CCCFA	2692	150529	Beacon
CCCFA	4129	150841	Desire III
CCCFA	4326	151429	Snafu II Skiff
CCCFA	47883	151425	Nothing But Trouble Skiff
CCCFA	47926	151436	Miss Molly Skiff
CCCFA	2995	150853	Blue Bag
CCCFA	3015	149404	DH Boatworks

CCCFA	3098	135589	Blue Sky
CCCFA	3158	136085	Little Sammy III
CCCFA	653	151425	Pamet
CCCFA	441	150426	Lori B
CCCFA	1961	150562	Always Something
Jean Barker	3323	213004	Tuna Eclipse
Eric Hesse	1744	151695	Rug Rats Skiff
Paul Parker	750	330200	Lady Patricia