

**AMENDMENT 1 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR XII SECTOR  
OPERATIONS PLAN**

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

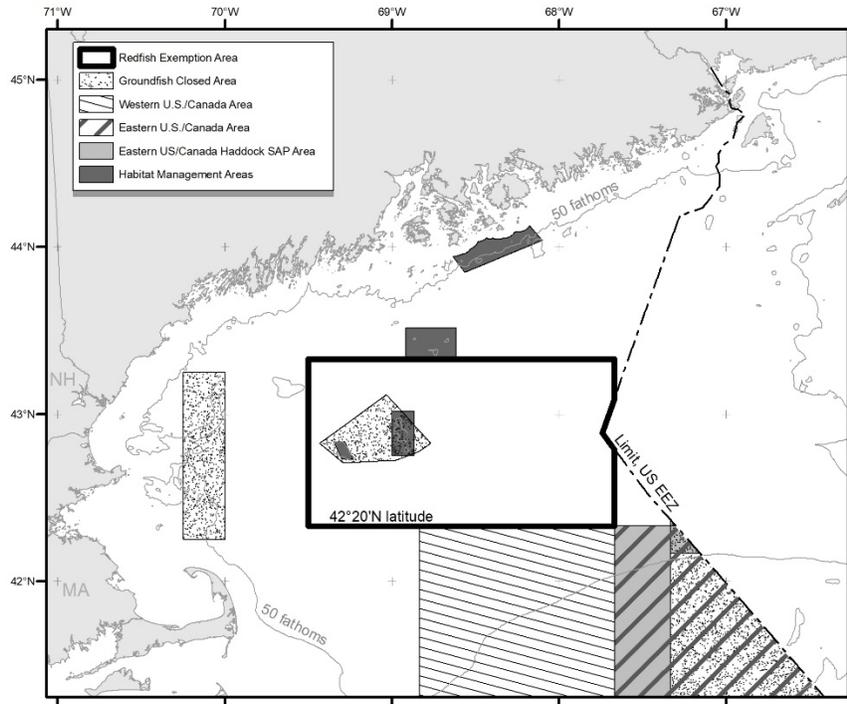
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

This amendment strikes all language under Exemption entitled “Minimum codend mesh size for directed redfish trips” listed under Exhibit B 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 C:

2020 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies NEFS XII Members during FY 2020.

<b>MRI</b>	<b>Vessel Permit No.</b>	<b>Vessel Name</b>	<b>Owner Name</b>
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
47900	152126	Ashley G	Thomas Bell
1851	250525	Mary Elizabeth	Philip M Lynch
2166	150948	Kathy Elizabeth	Philip M Lynch
2189	152196	Silver Rose	Motor Vessel Yankee Rose Inc