

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

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

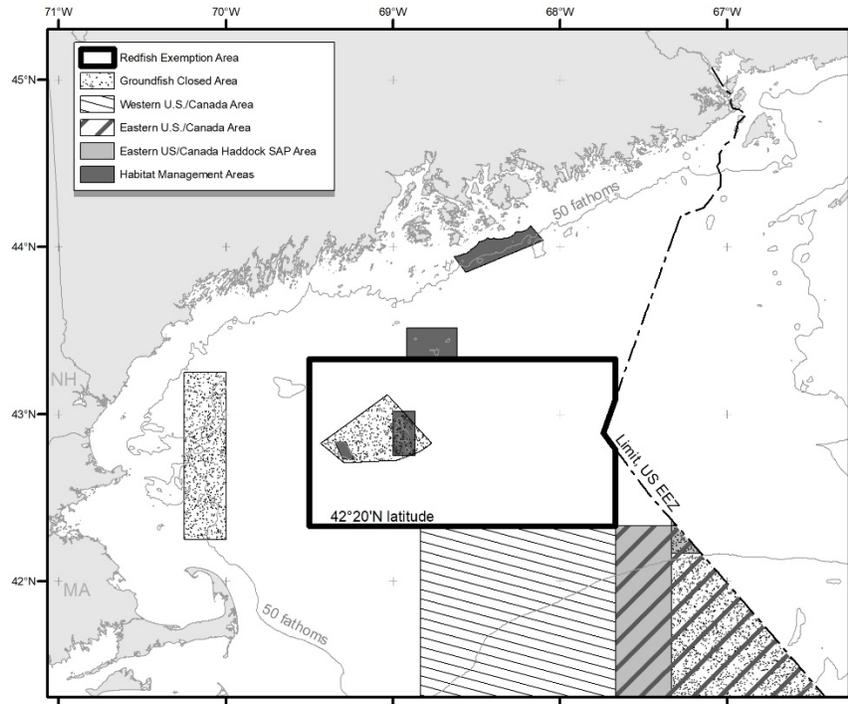
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

This amendment strikes all language under 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 VI Members during FY 2020.

<i><b>MRI</b></i>	<i><b>Permit #</b></i>	<i><b>Vessel Name</b></i>	<i><b>Owner</b></i>
201	231525	SHOOTING STAR	
316	CPH	CPH	Mike Walsh
421	CPH	CPH	KDL Fisheries Inc
447	CPH	CPH	Integrity Fishing Corporation
506	330851	BOOMER TOO	Michael Walsh
507	CPH	CPH	Michael Walsh
560	310421	FLIGHT 1	Michael Walsh
580	310394	PADRE PIO	Padre Pio Fishing LLC
610	320378	AMERICAN PRIDE	American Pride Fishing LLC
623	310337	ATLANTIC PRINCE	Michael Walsh
632	CPH	CPH	Integrity Fishing Corporation
713	330792	AMERICA	America Fishing Corp
850	CPH	CPH	Michael Walsh
854	CPH	CPH	Walsh Seafood Product Inc.
918	149581	BARBARA ANNA II	Sea Gold Fisheries Inc.
919	410369	OLYMPIA	KDL Fisheries
965	CPH	CPH	America Fishing Corp
1199	330638	GUARDIAN	Integrity Fishing Corporation
1540	149792	UNNAMED	Palombo Fishing Corp.
1750	251683	TRADITION	Andrew Walsh
1833	222163	JEAN B	Richard A Birarelli
1849	430012	TREMONT	TREMONT FISHERIES LLC
1999	CPH	CPH	Michael Walsh
3935	320780	FREEDOM	Palombo Fishing Corp.
597	320326	Sao Jacinto	Walsh Seafood Product Inc.
808	251242	American Heritage	Mike Walsh