

AMENDMENT 1 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR VIII SECTOR OPERATIONS PLAN

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

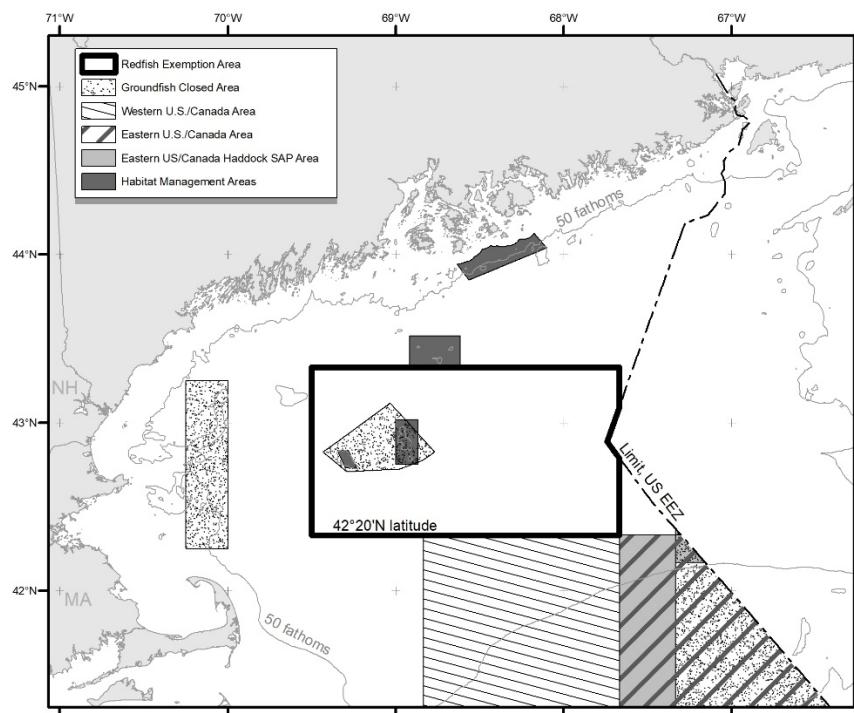
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

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:

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

**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.*

5. *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

6. *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 VIII Members during FY 2020.

Owner/Entity	MRI	Permit Number	Vessel Name	Documentation/Registration Number
<i>Captain WP McCann, Inc</i>	521	310433	<i>PILGRIM</i>	654389
<i>Coral Fishing Corp</i>	744	410126	<i>LUSO AMERICAN I</i>	585853
<i>Three Amigos Fishing Corp</i>	767	330517	<i>HUSTLER</i>	646423
<i>Willis E Blount Com Fishing Co</i>	809	330551	<i>RUTHIE B</i>	610395
<i>Marinaldo Fisheries, Inc</i>	831	320674	<i>IBERIA II</i>	672841
<i>BASE, Inc</i>	836	410253	<i>MARGUERITE C</i>	620472
<i>Boat United States, Inc</i>	862	330471	<i>UNITED STATES</i>	618882
<i>Cockeast Fisheries, Inc</i>	1080	151507	<i>DRAKE</i>	RI0046CE
<i>Alyssa & Zachary, LLC</i>	1234	320304	<i>ALYSSA & ZACHARY</i>	566708
<i>Cockeast Fisheries, Inc</i>	1574	152672	<i>BB</i>	R4198X
<i>Captain WP McCann, Inc</i>	1697	320113	<i>SHAMROCK</i>	503492
<i>William Borges</i>	2034	231511	<i>HOLLY JEAN</i>	914805
<i>Double Diamond Fishing Corp</i>	489	150921	<i>CPH</i>	MS3525AM
<i>Oneonta Fisheries, Inc</i>	565	330902	<i>RESILIENT</i>	1038788
<i>American Dream Fisheries, Inc</i>	615	150464	<i>SUNCRAFT</i>	MS3899BM
<i>Resolve Fishing, Inc</i>	621	149833	<i>RESOLVE</i>	939086
<i>Predator Fisheries, Inc</i>	708	330126	<i>PREDATOR</i>	524592
<i>PMJ, Inc</i>	722	330155	<i>OLIVIA CATHERINE</i>	533196
<i>Oliveira & Silva Fishing Corp</i>	731	150933	<i>SANDRA</i>	MS9691AV
<i>Canastra Fishing LLC</i>	732	330172	<i>CPH</i>	570715
<i>Humbak Fishing Corp</i>	749		<i>CPH</i>	
<i>Marinaldo Fisheries, Inc</i>	771	150587	<i>1987 SEARS SKIFF</i>	MS9037MF
<i>Cristian & Sophia</i>	778	151676	<i>SEA SIREN SKIFF</i>	MS1659BC
<i>Atlantic Shellfish, Inc</i>	829	410279	<i>NADIA LEE</i>	623419
<i>John & Nicholas, Inc</i>	832	330865	<i>JOHN & NICHOLAS</i>	1102517
<i>Seafarer Ent, Inc</i>	871	330493	<i>CHARLIES PRIDE</i>	613515
<i>ACCA Fishing Corp</i>	967	150715	<i>PEE WEE</i>	MS1366AW
<i>ALCOR Fishing Corp</i>	986	150370	<i>WATER TENDER</i>	MS8718AS
<i>CSM Fishing Corp</i>	997		<i>CPH</i>	
<i>Nordic, Inc</i>	1027	410221	<i>JUSTICE</i>	611053
<i>CPR Fishing, Inc</i>	1079	410318	<i>ALEXIS MARTINA</i>	638032

<i>Jessie Jean Ent, Inc</i>	<i>1095</i>	<i>410344</i>	<i>SEAFARER</i>	<i>675048</i>
<i>FV Majestic, Inc</i>	<i>1119</i>	<i>410392</i>	<i>MAJESTIC</i>	<i>689673</i>
<i>Blue Seas Ventures, LLC</i>	<i>1130</i>	<i>410419</i>	<i>CPH</i>	<i>917620</i>
<i>Italian Princess, Inc</i>	<i>1139</i>	<i>410364</i>	<i>Italian Princess</i>	<i>678575</i>
<i>Expedition Fishing Co</i>	<i>1231</i>	<i>410074</i>	<i>DONNY C</i>	<i>516305</i>
<i>Double Diamond Fishing Corp</i>	<i>1525</i>	<i>310430</i>	<i>CPH</i>	<i>651226</i>
<i>Cockeast Fisheries, Inc</i>	<i>1764</i>	<i>150936</i>	<i>MANDRAKE</i>	<i>RI9831U</i>
<i>Princess Scarlett, LLC</i>	<i>2123</i>	<i>410555</i>	<i>PRINCESS SCARLETT</i>	<i>1149379</i>
<i>Blanca Casa Fishing Corp</i>	<i>2371</i>		<i>CPH</i>	