

## AMENDMENT 2 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR XIII SECTOR OPERATIONS PLAN

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

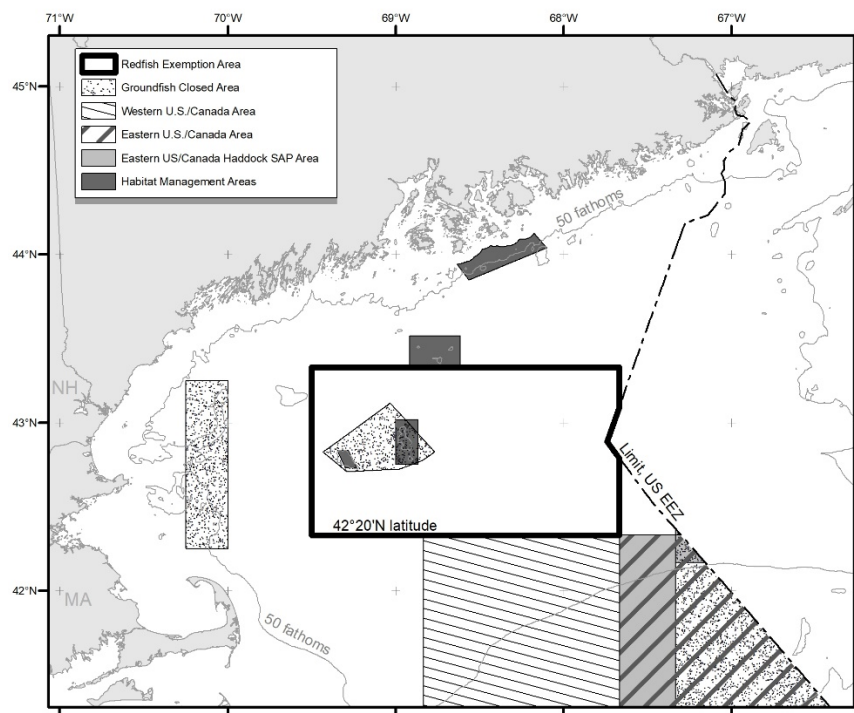
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

This amendment strikes all language under Exemption #15, entitled "Minimum codend mesh size for directed redfish trips" listed under Exhibit C 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 A:

2020 SECTOR MEMBERS: The following table identifies Sector 13 Members during FY 2020.

<b>Permit #</b>	<b>MRI</b>	<b>Vessel Name</b>	<b>Owner</b>
151337	181	Mary L	Amanda L Inc.
310504	299	Miss Edi	Reposa Fisheries
250375	368	Asher&Ariana	Scandinavian Fisheries, Inc
320699	516	tenacity	Tenacity Fisheries LLC
310439	523	Heritage	Heritage Fisheries Inc.
310455	527	James & Matthew	J F H Fishaeries
320127	556	Mattie & Maren	Mattice and Maren Inc
320266	585	Captain Ralph	Roanke Fish Co., Inc.
320287	591	Susan Rose	Susan Rose Fisheries
223598	619	Miss Priss	Fishing Vessel Enterprises Inc
150615	626	F/V 2007Walker Bay	FJM Fisheries LLC
320540	634	Lena Pearl	Barlow Fisheries Inc.
320549	635	Bailey Boy	F/V Bailey Boy Inc.
320583	639	Hope & Sydney	Liesure Coast Fisheries
310989	646	Cody	McGlade Fisheries Inc.
310360	648	Tradition	Nat W Inc.
320657	655	Travis&Natalie	Fishing Vessel Enterprises Inc
320658	656	Enterprise	Erin Fisheries Inc.
330084	692	Curlew II	Curlew II Inc.
330153	721	C-Venture	HOB0 Seafood inc
330161	724	Joyce D	Henry Daniels Inc.
330181	738	F V T Luis	Milema Fishing Corp
330198	748	Sao Paulo	Cura & Borges Fish Corp
151346	758	2011 Skiff Imigrante	Boat Imigrante Inc
330313	792	Shelby Ann	Hard Bottom Fisheries
320646	795	Evan Christine	Loftes Fisheries Inc
330339	803	Excalibur	Excalibur Fisheries LLC
330354	811	Anne Kathryn	River Center Marine LLC
330359	815	Mayflower	F A T Fishing Corp
410410	821	Lightning Bay	Lightning Bay Inc
330383	826	Mischief	S & S Fisheries Inc.
330464	858	Rhonda Denise	American Seafood Inc.
320306	861	Miss Sue Ann	FV Miss Sue Ann

330487	869	Margaret Holley	Karen Sue Inc.
330534	886	Rebecca Mary	Rebecca mary Fisheries LLC
330549	892	F/V Illusion	Mark Phillips
330579	906	Conor & Michael	TCM Fisheries Inc.
410499	972	Kathy&Jackie	Kathy&Jackie fishing Corp
410166	988	Provider	Good Shepard Fisheries Inc.
410180	1000	Sao MarcosII	Lucinda Fishing Corp
410186	1005	Fisherman	M & P Fishing Corp.
410234	1036	Lucimar	Lucimar Inc.
410273	1062	Megan Marie	Blue Water Fisheries Inc
410298	1074	Buzzards Bay	Buzzards Bay Fishing Co.
410323	1082	Endurance	S A I Fisheries
410326	1084	Karen Elizabeth	Salt Pond Fisheries Inc
410338	1090	Thor	Thor Fishing Corporation
410432	1093	Debbie Sue	Karen Sue Inc.
410367	1108	Rose Marie	Rose Marie Inc.
321056	1113	Second Wind	FV Pacific Capes LLC
410384	1114	Thunder Bay	Fishing Vessel Enterprises Inc
410588	1118	Jason & Danielle	L & G Fisheries LLC
330739	1123	Prevail	Jennifer Fisheries Inc
410410	1126	Lightning Bay	Lightning Bay Inc
410469	1163	Anticipation	Fishing Vessel Enterprises Inc
410514	1168	Yankee Pride	Yankee Pride Fisheries Inc.
410403	1524	Titan-CPH	Titan Fisheries INC
250270	1598	MatthewJames	Roy Rogers
410154	1607	Pontos	Edgar Seafood Products Inc.
410201	1670	Langley Douglas	A&D Fisheries LLC
330281	1704	F/V Predator	Mark Phillips
320577	1752	Hopefull	JMJ Fisheries Inc
330534	1908	Rebecca Mary	Rebecca mary Fisheries LLC
320419	1954	Evening Prayer	Evening Prayer Fisheries Inc.
330575	1955	Gabby G	Gabby G Fisheries Inc
212096	2208	Miste Rose	Chuck and Ace Seafood Inc.
151386	2232	Pontos	Pontos Fisheries LLC
150773	2323	Sea Breeze Too	Sea Breeze Too Fisheries LLC