

AMENDMENT 1 TO THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST SECTOR 3 OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE SEPTEMBER 17,
2019

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 17, 2019, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

This document amends Section 2.6.1 of this operations plan by striking the following language on line 1 of page 29:

17. *[Not requested]*

And replacing the deletion with the following language:

17. Requirement to Fish Exclusively with 10-inch, or Larger, mesh gillnets to Target Dogfish on Groundfish Trips Excluded from At-Sea Monitoring (ASM) Coverage

Sector trips fishing with extra-large mesh gillnets (10 inches or greater) exclusively in the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic and Inshore Georges Bank Broad Stock Areas are not subject to ASM. This exemption allows a sector vessel on these non-ASM sector groundfish trips to also target dogfish using 6.5-inch mesh gillnet gear within the footprint and season of either the Nantucket Shoals Dogfish Exemption Area (June 1 through October 15), the Eastern Area of the Cape Cod Spiny Dogfish Exemption Area (June 1 through December 31), or the Southern New England Dogfish Gillnet Exemption Area (May 1 through October 31). The vessel must submit a vessel trip report (VTR) to document catch on the extra-large mesh portion of the trip, and a separate VTR for the portion of the trip in which the vessel deploys 6.5-inch mesh gillnet gear within the footprint and season of the existing dogfish exempted areas. The following requirements apply:

In order to use this exemption, the following additional conditions and restrictions apply:

- 1. The vessel must declare its trip into the Pre-Trip Notification System consistent with current requirements.*
- 2. The vessel must declare its trip in the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) consistent with current requirements, including the intention to use gillnet gear and fish entirely within the SNE/MA and/or Inshore GB BSAs.*
- 3. Prior to leaving the dock, the vessel must also send a Multispecies Trip Start Hail through the VMS and check the box next to "Extra Large Mesh Gillnet in SNE and/or IGB option" under sector exemptions.*
- 4. The vessel may only fish with gillnets with meshes that are 10 inches or greater during the first portion of the trip, and must complete a VTR for that portion of the trip before deploying 6.5 inch mesh gillnet gear.*
- 5. Upon completing the extra-large mesh portion of the trip, the vessel must submit a Multispecies Catch Report via VMS with a good faith estimate of all catch on board and with Step 5 completed.*

6. *The date-time stamp of the Multispecies Catch Report indicates to Enforcement that the vessel is now in the second portion of the trip and is prohibited from redeploying its large-mesh gear.*
7. *Following submission of the Multispecies Catch Report, the vessel may deploy 6.5-inch mesh gillnet gear exclusively within the footprint and season of the existing dogfish exempted areas (listed above).*
8. *The vessel must comply with the remaining requirements of a sector trip, including the submission of VTRs, a trip end hail, and a final Multispecies Catch Report.*
9. *A vessel fishing with this exemption must retain and land all legal-sized groundfish on both the extra-large mesh and regulated mesh portions of the trip.*