



UPDATE: What John Bullard Heard on the Road

When John Bullard became NOAA Fisheries Service's Northeast Regional Administrator on Aug. 6, 2012, he immediately hit the road to meet his constituents. Between August and February, he held more than 20 meetings and public listening sessions with fishermen and other stakeholders in 17 ports from Ellsworth, ME to Manteo, NC.

He wanted to hear answers to two questions: What are the top concerns for the fisheries, and what does success look like for the fisheries?

Mr. Bullard received significant feedback from approximately 550 fishermen and others on a variety of topics. Below are the main themes he heard across the Northeast region.

Vision of the fishery

- There is a need to consider catch composition, vessel size, and ownership structure, and how each should be determined.

- To avoid further fleet consolidation, fishermen should be allowed to fish for a variety of species and to keep all that they catch. And,

- Large vessels are depleting inshore stocks in the Gulf of Maine and should be limited in their abilities to fish in nearshore waters.

Science, research

- Fishermen believe NOAA Fisheries science is flawed, particularly when it comes to surveys and stock assessments.

- Fishermen need to be more engaged in the science that underlies regulatory decision-making.

- NOAA Fisheries needs to better explain how survey and other data are incorporated into stock assessments.

- Fishermen believe scientific models are outdated.

- There is a need to engage fisheries scientists and fishermen in plain language dialogues.

- External reviews of government science are needed.

- The research vessel Henry B. Bigelow samples too far offshore and does not use appropriate gear to produce reliable results.

- Surveys should be undertaken by a fleet of NEAMAP fishing vessels and fishermen. It is the best way to bring credibility to the science and buy-in from fishermen. (NEAMAP stands for Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program, a cooperative state/federal data collection program.) And,

- More funding is needed for cooperative research.

Ecosystem, climate change

- Changing environmental conditions are producing unusual fish migration patterns and displacing fishing effort, a situation that needs to be considered in future regulations.

- Predator/prey interactions need greater attention in the regulatory arena. Dogfish and seals are of particular concern.

- Natural cycles of distribution and abundance should be considered in fishery management decision-making.

- There is a need to move away from single-species management to ecosystem management to reduce predators and increase valuable stocks.

- There is a need to protect food sources and habitats to foster healthy fish populations. And,

- NOAA Fisheries should employ an ecosystem-based approach that includes people as a factor in the accurate evaluation of the ocean environment.

Lower costs

- There is a dire need to reduce costs – observers, assumed discards, quota shares – for fishermen.

- Fishermen simply cannot afford to pay for at-sea monitors in 2013. And,

- Funding is needed for the equipment required to implement electronic monitoring.

Increase revenues

- There is a need to open some closed areas, such as Closed Area II, to provide access to more abundant and healthier stocks.

- Too much quota for some species cannot be harvested. There is a need to find ways to enable fishermen to catch their full allocations.

- The continuous fluctuations in annual catch limits prevent fishermen from engaging in effective business planning practices.

- Fishermen need increased access to closed areas in order to fish different species and use different gear types.

- Offshore closures should be lifted to encourage large vessels to fish offshore.

- It is difficult for small vessels to make up lost revenue from closed areas.

- Regulations enacted to protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act often stay in effect after populations of the listed species have recovered. This unnecessarily limits fishermen's abilities to fully harvest their fish quotas.

- Industry needs more notice of pending closures related to compliance issues.

- There is a need to address the inequality of the allocation of commercial catch quotas among states.

- Fishermen need to be able to land more fish to keep auctions open and shoreside infrastructure functional. And,

- A diverse fleet is necessary to maintain market share and a sustainable marine environment.

Management issues

- Management measures take too long to develop, preventing NOAA Fisheries from reacting and managing in real time.

- Some management decisions are based on poor science and a fear of legal action against the agency.

- Management needs to look at long-term trends, not just provide knee-jerk reactions.

- Local fishermen accepted and implemented input controls (days-at-sea) early to conserve stocks and now feel their commitment and efforts to conserve stocks are unrecognized.

- There is significant opposition from small vessels

and the recreational community to reopening the Western Gulf of Maine Closed Area due to the need to protect spawning fish and habitat.

- Catch shares should have been based on permits rather than catch history.

- There are an insufficient number of harbor porpoise takes to warrant a closure.

- Some fishermen prefer input controls (days-at sea) to catch shares. And,

- There is a need to revisit the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to incorporate more flexibility.

Safety, new entrants

- There are significant safety concerns associated with an aging fleet coupled with the inability of fishermen to undertake effective long-term business planning. And,

- There is a need for funding and resources for people who are interested in joining the commercial fishing industry.

Mid-Atlantic concerns

- The Mid-Atlantic needs greater attention from NOAA Fisheries to deal with their particular concerns.

- There is a need to think about how to manage rebuilt fisheries.

- Bluefin tuna allocation needs to be more fairly distributed between New England and Mid-Atlantic fishermen. Quota could be distributed on a monthly basis.

- Both fishermen and fish species are being displaced by the impacts of regulatory and environmental changes. And,

- The charter industry should be managed differently than the commercial fisheries.

Maine concerns

- There is a need for greater diversification between the lobster and groundfish fisheries. And,

- The American lobster processing industry needs to become more competitive against Canadian companies in terms of product forms, marketing, and distribution.

Recreational fisheries

- Recreational daily bag limits should be set early in the calendar year to allow the charter industry to create effective business plans.

- The methods used to survey the recreational sector are flawed and insufficient.

- Ways to enable recreational fishermen to catch their underutilized quota need to be developed.

- The charter industry should be considered when trip limits are established.

- Recreational and commercial fisheries should be treated separately but allocated quota in the same way. And,

- The Western Gulf of Maine Closure area should be maintained to protect spawning cod.

See BULLARD ON THE ROAD, page 4

THIS SUPPLEMENT PROVIDED BY NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE'S NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

Olivia Rugo • Managing Editor • 978-675-2167 • olivia.rugo@noaa.gov

Paid copy, materials provided by the sponsor.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS • SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT • MAY 2013 • 1



Proposed Changes for Sectors in 2013

On March 14, 2013, NOAA Fisheries Service published a rule that proposes approving 18 Northeast multispecies sector operations plans and contracts for fishing year 2013.

We must approve a sector operations plan and contract for each sector to be allocated fish and for the sector members to be exempted from certain regulations.

If a sector operations plan and contract is not approved, the members of that sector must fish in the common pool and comply with all existing regulations.

The following 18 sectors submitted an operations plan for fishing year 2013:

- Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector;
- Maine Coast Community Groundfish Sector (formerly known as the Port Clyde Community Groundfish Sector);
- Northeast Coastal Communities Sector;
- Northeast Fishery Sectors II-XIII;
- Sustainable Harvest Sector I and III; and
- Tri-State Sector.

Amendment 16 to the federal groundfish plan granted several “universal exemptions” for sectors, including exemptions from: trip limits on allocated stocks; the Georges Bank Seasonal Closed Area; Northeast multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) restrictions; the requirement to use a 6-1/2” mesh codend when fishing with selective gear on Georges Bank; and portions of the Gulf of Maine Rolling Closure Areas.

In Fishing Year 2012, sectors were granted 21 exemptions from regulations, including effort controls, DAS leasing restrictions, gear requirements, and dockside monitoring provisions. Sectors have requested those exemptions again for 2013.

In addition, sectors have requested 39 additional exemptions for 2013, including exemptions from dockside monitoring and the seasonal restrictions of special access programs, and requests for additional flexibility when fishing in exempted fisheries.

Sectors also requested several exemptions that were previously denied but provided no new information

to justify reconsideration of the requests. Several exemptions requested are currently prohibited, including exemptions from at-sea monitoring.

In addition, two sectors also proposed provisions to continue to fish once the sector has exhausted its allocation of a particular stock.

The proposed rule also notifies the public that, for fishing year 2013, we have set a target at-sea monitoring coverage rate of 14%. When combined with the expected 8% coverage rate through the Northeast Fishery Observer Program, total coverage would be 22% of all sector trips. We also have extended the deadline to join a sector for 2013 until March 29, 2013.

Next steps

After the comment period closes on March 29, 2013, we will consider all the comments received. A final rule will be published before May 1 announcing approved exemptions and preliminary annual catch entitlement (ACE) allocations for each approved sector.

Each sector vessel will receive a letter of authorization listing approved exemptions. A separate notice in the Federal Register will announce final sector ACE allocations based on the final rosters after May 1.

For more information, contact Allison Murphy, Sustainable Fisheries Division, by phone at (978) 281-9122 or by e-mail at <Allison.murphy@noaa.gov>.

Northeast VMS Program FAQ

NOAA Fisheries Service’s Northeast Vessel Monitoring System Team is available to help you comply with all of your VMS reporting requirements. You can reach the team by phone at (978) 281-9213 or by sending an e-mail to <NMFS.OLE.NE@noaa.gov>.

The following Q & A addresses some common issues.

Q: What is the latest version of the Northeast VMS software that I should be using?

A: Boatracs and SkyMate sent their customers the latest software in October 2012. Boatracs users should be using Activity V14 and Reports V9 macros. SkyMate users should be using version 3.944. Thrane users should continue to use the old software until the upgrade is ready for release. We will alert Thrane users when the upgrade is released.

Q: Am I required to send an activity declaration for every trip?

A: Yes. You must declare your intent prior to leaving port on every trip, including “Declare out of Fishery” (DOF) trips.

Q: My groundfish sector is exempt from VMS reporting at the dock. Does this mean I can simply shut off the power to my VMS unit?

A: No. You must first send the power down declaration (PWD-PWD-XXXXXX) from your VMS unit. The Boatracs power down declaration menu is on Macro #24. For SkyMate users, select “Activity NE,” “More,” and then “Other.” For Thrane users, select “Trip Declaration” and then “Other.” However, if your vessel holds other permits requiring continuous VMS reporting, you should not shut off the VMS.

Q: If my VMS unit allows me to declare into an area, is that area open to fishing?

A: No, not necessarily. Your VMS software is not equipped to distinguish between which areas are open and not open to fishing at any given time. You must determine which areas are open to your vessel for fishing based on your permits and current regulations. If you are unsure about an area, please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Q: As a groundfish vessel, when am I required to send the “Trip End Hail” form to NOAA Fisheries?

A: You are required to send the “Trip End Hail” form to us for each groundfish trip six hours prior to arriving in port. If you are less than six hours transit to port, send the form immediately upon leaving the fishing grounds.

Q: If my vessel has a surf clam or ocean quahog permit, can I shut off my VMS unit at the dock?

A: No. These permits require continuous VMS reporting. You may apply for a Letter of Exemption (LOE) by contacting the VMS Team for assistance. You also may go online to <www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/vms> and select “Instructions & Forms” to view the section on “VMS Power Down Exemption.”

Q: My question wasn’t answered here. Where can I find more information about the VMS Program?

A: If you have any questions about complying with the VMS program, please call us at (978) 281-9213 and press “1” for VMS. You also can refer to the VMS operator instructions on our website at <www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/vms>.

Spiny Dogfish Catch Limits Continue to Rise

NOAA Fisheries Service recently proposed increased quotas and trip limits for the spiny dogfish fishery for the next three fishing years, 2013-2015. These proposed measures, jointly recommended by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils, would increase the commercial quotas 14%-to-17% over current levels and the possession limit from 3,000 pounds to 4,000 pounds per trip.

Quotas for spiny dogfish have been increased by NOAA Fisheries every year since 2008 as the stock has successfully recovered from an overfished condition.

From 2000 to 2008, the commercial quota was limited to 4 million pounds. In 2010, when the stock was declared rebuilt, the quota increased to 15 million pounds and, in 2012, the quota jumped to nearly 36 million pounds. For the next three years, the quota will stabilize to between 41 million and 42 million pounds, the highest levels since implementation of the spiny dogfish fishery management plan.

“If there’s one thing that I’ve consistently heard up and down the coast, it’s that fishermen want to catch more spiny dogfish,” said NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator John Bullard.

“We are pleased that the science supports increasing the catch limits for the next few years, which may provide fishing vessels some sorely needed flexibility,” he said, referring to impending cuts in several key groundfish quotas.

In addition to the dogfish quota hikes, the proposed
See SPINY DOGFISH, next page

Proposed Changes to Groundfish Fishery for 2013

The New England Fishery Management Council has recommended Framework 48 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). It includes a number of administrative adjustments to allow for further changes to be made through Framework 50, which will establish updated catch limits for fishing years 2013-2015.

Both frameworks contain measures to increase fishing opportunities and improve profitability for the groundfish fishery in response to the need for substantial reductions in catch limits for some important groundfish stocks. The target implementation date is May 1, 2013. The public comment periods for these rules will have closed by the publication of this paper.

The management measures in Framework 48 are intended to improve the administration of the fishery by better aligning the requirements for annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs). Additionally, Framework 48 would change the minimum fish size for some species, modify monitoring programs, and propose additional measures intended to increase profitability in the fishery.

Here is a list of measures proposed by the council in Framework 48.

- Allow sectors to request access for their vessels to fish in portions of year-round groundfish mortality closed areas to target healthy stocks.
- Reduce minimum fish sizes for most stocks to turn fish discards into landed revenue.
- Eliminate dockside monitoring to reduce operating costs.
- Eliminate the industry's responsibility to pay for at-sea monitoring in fishing year 2013.
- Revise the administration of recreational AMs by giving the regional administrator (RA) the authority to adjust measures proactively. For example, the RA would be able to adjust recreational measures prior to the start of a fishing year so that recreational fishermen could harvest their allocation without exceeding established limits.
- Allow the RA to exempt small vessels using handgear from specific common pool trimester total allowable catch (TAC) AMs when appropriate.
- Revise groundfish fishery AMs for stocks not allocated to sectors to help prevent overfishing of these stocks. For example, it would include creating restricted gear areas as an AM for overages of Atlantic wolffish and Atlantic halibut, which would apply to both sectors and the common pool.
- Clarify the goals and performance standards for monitoring programs to help the council and NOAA Fisheries Service design effective monitoring programs and evaluate them. And,

Spiny dogfish

Continued from previous page

increase in the trip limit is expected to help improve trip-level profits for fishing vessels. Spiny dogfish are currently worth about 21 cents per pound at the dock.

NOAA Fisheries also is considering implementation of a new spiny dogfish exemption area off Cape Cod, which would allow additional opportunities for vessels to target the abundant fish.

More than 300 vessels participate in the fishery coastwide. Most of the meat is exported to Europe, while fins are exported to Asia.

For more information, please call Tobey Curtis, Sustainable Fisheries Division, at (978) 281-9273 or e-mail him at <Tobey.Curtis@noaa.gov>.

- Remove gear stowage requirements for groundfish trawlers when transiting closed areas.

For more information regarding Framework 48, call Melissa Hooper, Sustainable Fisheries Division, at (978) 281-9166 or e-mail her at <Melissa.hooper@noaa.gov>.

Framework 50

Framework 50 proposes to set specifications for fishing years 2013-2015 for all groundfish stocks, including fishing year 2013 TACs for US/Canada stocks.

In addition, Framework 50 proposes to revise the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) winter flounder rebuilding program and address sector carryover.

Here is a list of measures proposed by the council in Framework 50.

- Fishing year 2013 catch limits for the three transboundary Georges Bank (GB) stocks □ Eastern GB cod and haddock and GB yellowtail flounder.
- Catch limits for all groundfish stocks and consideration of emergency measures for GB yellowtail flounder.

- Fishing year 2013 common pool trip limits for groundfish stocks.
- SNE/MA winter flounder allocations to sectors, plus modifying the commercial fishery AMs accordingly and allowing commercial sector and common pool and recreational vessels to land the stock. And,
- Sector carryover provisions for fishing year 2013 and specifying how we will account for carryover in future years to help ensure that the carryover provision is more consistent with national policy and National Standards.

For more information regarding Framework 50, call Sarah Heil, Sustainable Fisheries Division, at (978) 281-9257 or e-mail her at <sarah.heil@noaa.gov>.

New Data Request E-mail Address

If you would like to make a data request, such as for Vessel Trip Report (VTR) or dealer landings data for your vessel, please use this new e-mail address: <NMFS.NER.Data.Requests@noaa.gov>. If you have any questions, call the Data Request Team at (978) 281-9133.

Meet Port Agent Joanne Pellegrino

As a port agent and team coordinator for the Southern Mid-Atlantic area, Joanne Pellegrino has responsibilities for NOAA Fisheries Service's Fisheries Data Services Division (FDSD) from northern New Jersey through Virginia.

In her primary ports in central (Barnegat Light and Point Pleasant) and northern (Belford) New Jersey, Joanne works directly with people in the fishing industry to assist them in meeting their reporting and fishing requirements. She provides direct assistance to seafood dealers as they make their reports through SAFIS, personally visiting them throughout the year.

Joanne also provides information to captains and crewmembers to help them navigate current fishing regulations. She lets them know what fisheries are open, what the size limits are, and provides them with other information to explain how, where, and for what they can fish.

When fishermen ask questions, ranging from how to fill out logbooks to where to fish for fluke to what the latest actions are for Atlantic sturgeon, Joanne can either provide the answer or lead them to someone else who can.

Equally important, Joanne lets other NOAA Fisheries Service staff know the kinds of questions people on the docks are asking on, advising us on potential problems with existing measures and helping us communicate more clearly and effectively.

Formerly a biological sampler, Joanne is now the coordinator for other FDSD staff in her region, which includes ports covered by staff in our Cape May, NJ and Hampton, VA offices. The team meets regularly via webinar to share ideas and coordinate efforts for dealer compliance and outreach-related dealer visits.

One of Joanne's favorite duties is collaborating with the industry people at the Viking Village commercial dealer/landing dock in Barnegat Light, NJ to plan and participate in their summer weekly dock tours. Joanne displays lots of interesting NOAA literature and children's activity books while chatting with local people, the visiting public, and fishing industry members and their families. She demonstrates how biological samples are collected and happily answers questions from visitors on what NOAA and NOAA Fisheries Service are all about.

"I love being the face of NOAA and an on-the-spot resource for my local fishing industry, sort of like an insurance agent. I know their boats, their fisheries, their challenges, and, in many cases, their families, and I can get them the answers they need pretty quickly without them having to explain their whole history every time they call," Joanne said.

"Time is money to these folks, and I realize that every time I am approached," she added. "It feels great when an industry member calls or stops me on the docks with a concern or question and I am able to ease their minds and point them in the right direction."



Joanne at a fish display at the Viking Village Dock Tour in Barnegat Light, NJ
Photo credit: J.Pellegrino

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) was implemented to reduce serious injuries and deaths of right, humpback, and fin whales due to entanglement in commercial trap/pot and gillnet gear from Maine to Florida.

The following table lists upcoming dates for Northeast and Mid-Atlantic ALWTRP management area restrictions that fishermen need to know. Additionally, management areas also are in place in the Southeast (NC-FL). Visit the ALWTRP website at <www.nero.noaa.gov/Protected/whaletrp> for more details.

Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan

The Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan (HPTRP) was implemented to reduce bycatch of harbor porpoise in gillnet fisheries from Maine to the North Carolina/South Carolina border.

Management measures under the HPTRP include pinger requirements, seasonal closure areas, and consequence closure areas.

The following table lists upcoming dates for Northeast and Mid-Atlantic HPTRP management area restrictions that gillnet fishermen need to know.

The HPTRP includes a provision that implements additional seasonal "consequence closure areas" if harbor porpoise bycatch exceeds a specific threshold for two consecutive seasons within an area.

One consequence closure area, the Coastal Gulf of Maine Consequence Closure Area*, has been enacted because bycatch rates exceeded the specified threshold.

Without a change to the plan, this area will be closed each October and November unless harbor porpoise takes throughout their range are reduced to very low levels.

The target bycatch rate has not been exceeded for the Eastern Cape Cod and Cape Cod South Expansion Consequence Closure Area. Therefore, this consequence closure area will not be enacted during the upcoming season. Bycatch rates for this area will be analyzed again at the end of the 2013 management season.

Details on gear modifications, pinger specifications, consequence closure area bycatch thresholds, and management area maps are available on the HPTRP website at <www.nero.noaa.gov/hptrp>.

For more information, call a member of the NOAA Fisheries Service Gear Research Team: John Higgins at (207) 677-2316; John Kenney at (401) 294-0443; Glenn Salvador at (757) 414-0128; or ALWTRP Coordinator Kate Swails at (978) 282-8481.

Bullard on the road

Other

- Many industry members expressed appreciation for John Bullard's willingness to meet with fishermen in their homeports.
- The fishing industry needs help from NOAA Fisheries to market underutilized species to the public.
- If available, disaster funding should be given to fishermen who lost their vessels and businesses. And,
- There is a need to develop aquaculture opportunities for fishermen.

As you can see, many people had many different thoughts and opinions on a wide range of topics. Our job now is to determine which issues NOAA Fisheries is authorized to address and to continue crafting solutions to these varied and complex problems.

We already have committed to paying for 100% of observer coverage costs in fishing year 2013 to help fishermen lower costs and raise their revenues. This is a first step in promoting a viable fishery now and in the future.

For more information, call Olivia Rugo, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office, at (978) 675-2167 or e-mail her at <Olivia.Rugo@noaa.gov>.



Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Trap/Pot Management Areas & Requirements		
Management Area	Dates	Closure or Gear Modifications
Northern Inshore State Trap/Pot Waters	Year-round	Gear modifications and markings
Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area (state & federal waters)	Jan. 1- May 15	Gear modifications and markings
Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area (state waters only)	May 16- Dec. 31	Gear modifications and markings
Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area (federal waters only)	May 16- Dec. 31	Gear modifications and markings
Stellwagen Bank Jeffrey's Ledge Restricted Area	Year-round	Gear modifications and markings
Great South Channel Restricted Trap/Pot Area	April 1-June 30	CLOSED to ALL trap/pot fishing
Great South Channel Restricted Trap/Pot Area	July 1- March 31	Gear modifications and markings
Northern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters (Northeast)	Year-round	Gear modifications and markings
Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters (Northeast)	Year-round	Gear modifications and markings
Offshore Trap/Pot Waters (Northeast)	Year-round	Gear modifications and markings
Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters (Mid-Atlantic)	Sept. 1- May 31	Gear modifications and markings
Offshore Trap/Pot Waters (Mid-Atlantic)	Sept. 1- May 31	Gear modifications and markings
Gillnet Management Areas & Requirements		
Management Area	Dates	Closure or Gear Modifications
Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area	Jan. 1- May 15	CLOSED to ALL gillnet fishing
	May 16- Dec. 31	Gear modifications and markings
Stellwagen Bank Jeffrey's Ledge Restricted Area	Year-round	Gear modifications and markings
Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area	April 1- June 30	CLOSED to ALL gillnet fishing
	July 1- March 31	Gear modifications and markings
Great South Channel Sliver Restricted Area	Year-round	Gear modifications and markings
Other Northeast Gillnet Waters (Northeast)	Year-round	Gear modifications and markings
Other Northeast Gillnet Waters (Mid-Atlantic)	Sept. 1- May 31	Gear modifications and markings
Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters	Sept. 1- May 31	Gear modifications and markings

Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan Northeast Gillnet Fisheries (All)		
Management Area	Dates	Closure or Gear Modifications
Northeast Closure Area	August 15- September 13	CLOSED to ALL gillnet fishing
Mid-Coast Management Area	September 15- May 31	Pingers Required
	November 1- February 28/29	Pingers Required
Massachusetts Bay Management Area	March 1-31	CLOSED to ALL gillnet fishing
	April 1- May 31	Pingers Required
Stellwagen Bank Management Area	November 1- May 31	Pingers Required
Southern New England Management Area	December 1- May 31	Pingers Required
Cape Cod South Closure Area	March 1-31	CLOSED to ALL gillnet fishing
Offshore Management Area	November 1- May 31	Pingers Required
Cashes Ledge Closure Area	February 1-28/29	CLOSED to ALL gillnet fishing
Coastal Gulf of Maine Consequence Closure Area* (Enacted)	October 1- November 30	CLOSED to ALL gillnet fishing
Mid- Atlantic Gillnet Fisheries (Large and Small Mesh Requirements)		
Area	Dates Gear Modifications Required	Dates of Gillnet Closure
> Large Mesh Gillnet (Mesh Size 7-18 inches)		
Mudhole North Management Area	Jan. 1- Jan. 31; March 16-March 31; April 21- April 30	Feb. 15- March 15; April 1-April 20
Mudhole South Management Area	Jan. 1- Jan. 31; March 16-March 31; April 21- April 30	Feb. 1- March 15; April 1-April 20
Southern Mid-Atlantic Management Area	Feb. 1- Feb. 14; March 16- April 30	Feb. 15-March 15
Waters off New Jersey Management Area	Jan 1- Mar 31, April 21-30	April 1-April 20
> Small Mesh Gillnet (Mesh Size >5 inches to < 7 inches)		
Waters off New Jersey Management Area	Jan. 1- April 30	-
Mudhole North Management Area	Jan. 1-Feb 14, March 16-31, April 21-30	Feb. 15- March 15
Mudhole South Management Area	Jan. 1- Jan. 31; March 16-April 30	Feb. 1- March 15
Southern Mid-Atlantic Management Area	Feb. 1-April 30	-

The NOAA FISHERIES NAVIGATOR