



Northeast Multispecies Information Sheet

U.S./Canada Management Area, Regular B-DAS Program, and Special Access Programs



This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements; it is not a substitute for the regulations which can be found at 50 CFR 648.85. You are strongly encouraged to read the regulations in conjunction with this information sheet to fully understand how this fishery is managed. This information sheet will be updated when regulations are revised.

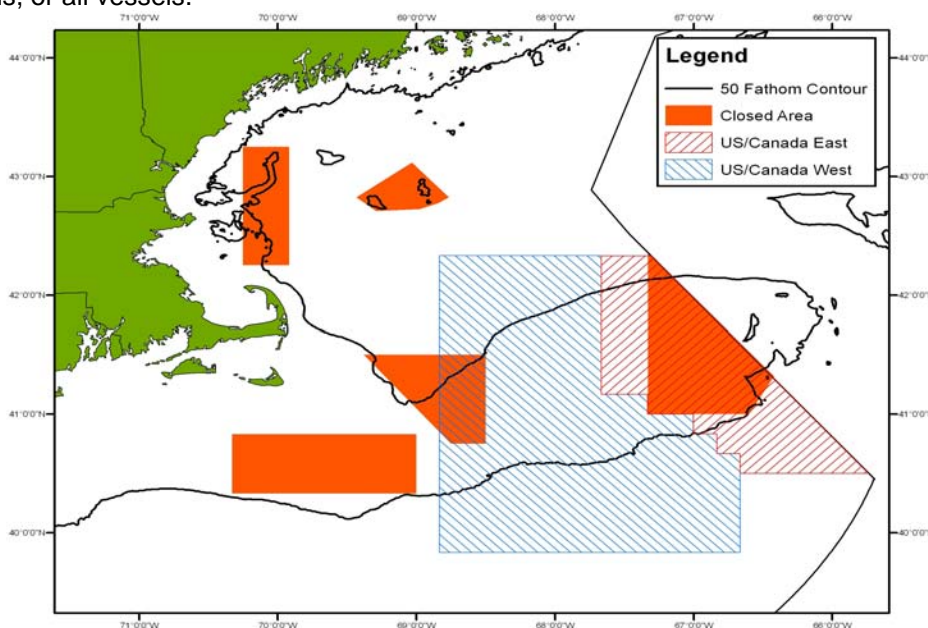
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U.S./Canada Management Area

Introduction

Management of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder within the U.S./Canada Management Area (composed of the Western U.S./Canada Area and the Eastern U.S./Canada Area) is based hard Total Allowable Catches (TACs) developed with Canada under the U.S./Canada Resource Sharing Understanding. The Eastern U.S./Canada Area encompasses the area specific to the U.S. portion of the U.S./Canada shared stock of GB cod and GB haddock, as well as a portion of GB yellowtail flounder stock. The Western U.S./Canada Area encompasses the remaining area attributed to the U.S./Canada GB yellowtail flounder stock area.

The regulations, as described below, apply to fishing vessels issued valid Federal fishing permits or vessels fishing in Federal waters (see § 648.4 for Federal fishing permit requirements). There are certain regulations that apply to all such vessels, other regulations that apply only to vessels fishing in the common pool under a Northeast (NE) multispecies day-at-sea (DAS), and still other regulations that apply only to vessels that are on a sector trip. Vessel owners should carefully review each section of the U.S./Canada Management Area information to determine whether it applies to common pool vessels, sector vessels, or all vessels.



The Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas are defined by straight lines connecting the following points, in order:

Western U.S./Canada Area

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
USCA 1	42° 20'	68° 50'
USCA 2	39° 50'	68° 50'
USCA 3	39° 50'	66° 40'
USCA 4	40° 40'	66° 40'
USCA 5	40° 40'	66° 50'
USCA 6	40° 50'	66° 50'
USCA 7	40° 50'	67° 00'
USCA 8	41° 00'	67° 00'
USCA 9	41° 00'	67° 20'
USCA 10	41° 10'	67° 20'
USCA 11	41° 10'	67° 40'
USCA 12	42° 20'	67° 40'
USCA 1	42° 20'	68° 50'

Eastern U.S./Canada Area

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
USCA 12	42° 20'	67° 40'
USCA 11	41° 10'	67° 40'
USCA 10	41° 10'	67° 20'
USCA 9	41° 00'	67° 20'
USCA 8	41° 00'	67° 00'
USCA 7	40° 50'	67° 00'
USCA 6	40° 50'	66° 50'
USCA 5	40° 40'	66° 50'
USCA 4	40° 40'	66° 40'
USCA 15	40° 30'	66° 40'
USCA 14	40° 30'	65° 44.3'
USCA 13	42° 20'	67° 18.4'
USCA 12	42° 20'	67° 40'

General Provisions

Observer notification: See description on page 16.

Vessel monitoring system (VMS) declaration: Any NE multispecies DAS or sector vessel that intends to fish within the U.S./Canada Management Area must declare into one or more broad stock area (BSA) and one or more of the defined sub-areas of the U.S./Canada Management Area via VMS prior to leaving the dock (see Figures 1–8). Because of the numerous codes and rules associated with fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area, a vessel must carefully select the appropriate activity/program code, area, DAS type, and gear type from among many options. If necessary, call NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) VMS team at 978-281-9213 for assistance with your VMS codes.

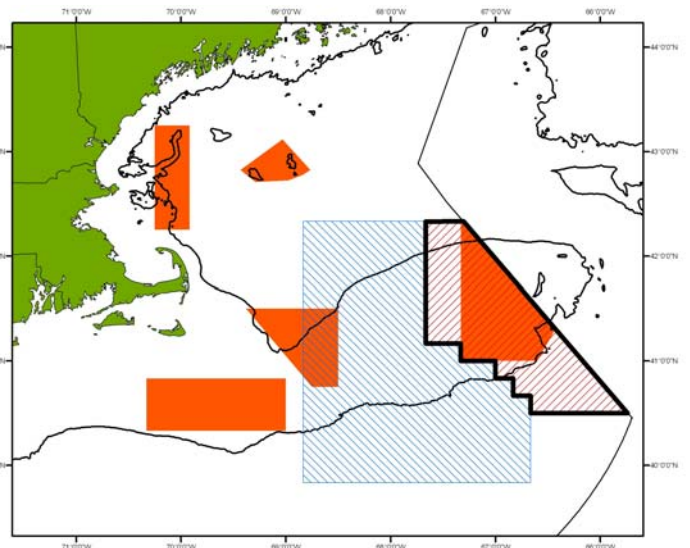
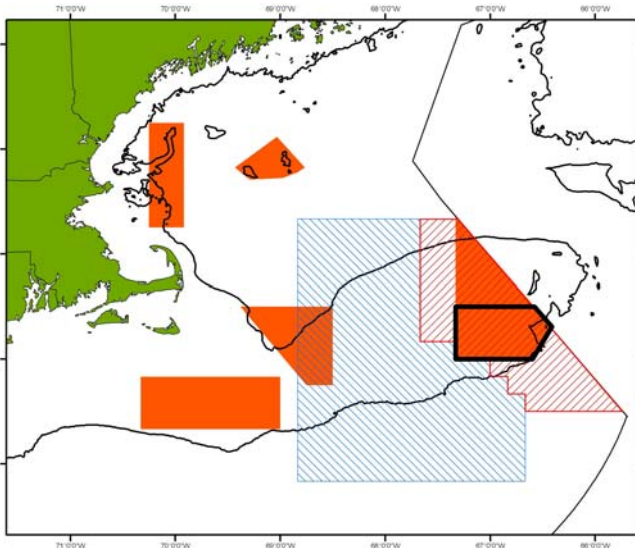
<u>Sub-Area</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP
2	Eastern U.S./Canada Area outside of CA II
3	CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP and the Eastern U.S./Canada Area
4	Western U.S./Canada Area Only
4+Open	Western U.S./Canada Area and outside of the U.S./Canada Management Area on the same trip
5	Eastern U.S./Canada Area Haddock SAP
6	Eastern U.S./Canada Area and the Eastern U.S./Canada Area Haddock SAP
7	Eastern U.S./Canada Area Haddock SAP and the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP
8	Eastern U.S./Canada Area Haddock SAP, the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP, and the rest of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area

Sub-Areas of the U.S./Canada Management Area Open for Fishing Year 2011

(coordinates are available from the NE Regional Office)

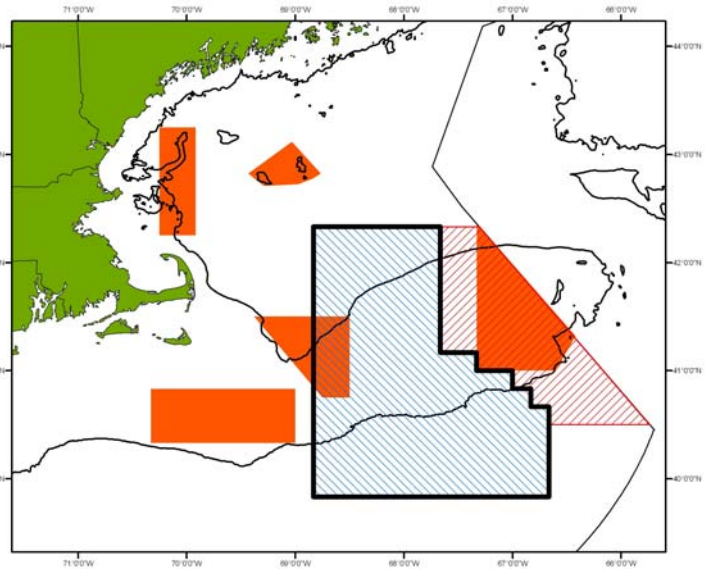
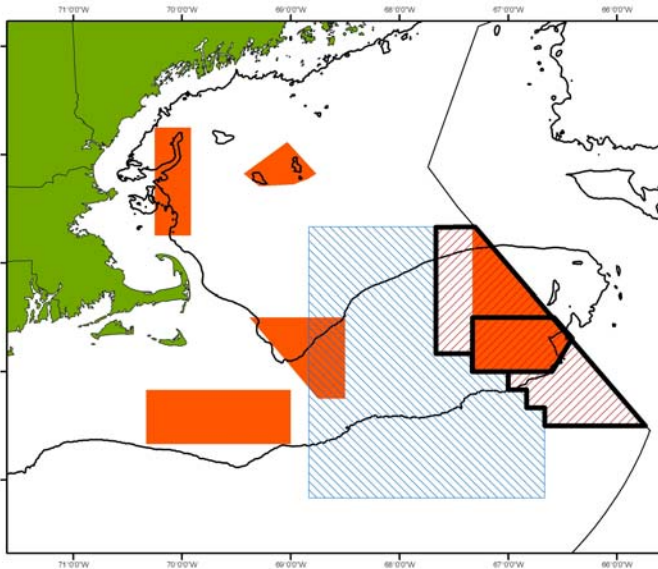
Sub-Area 1 – CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP

Sub-Area 2 – Eastern U.S./Canada Area

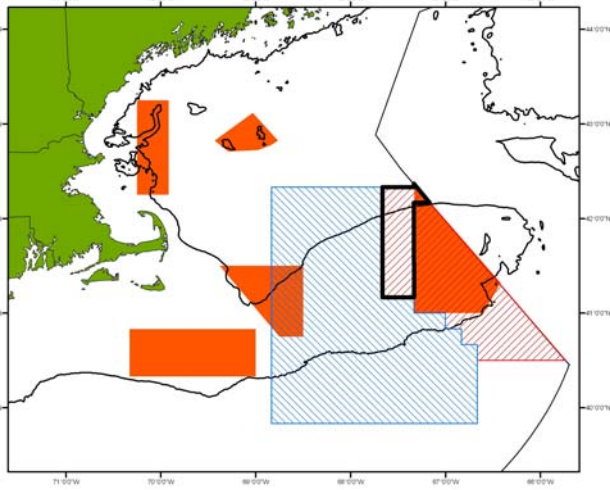


Sub-Area 3 – Eastern U.S./Canada Area & CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP

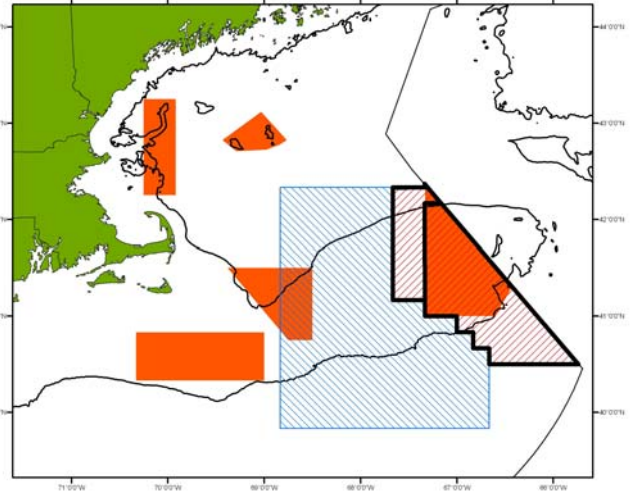
Sub-Area 4 – Western U.S./Canada Area



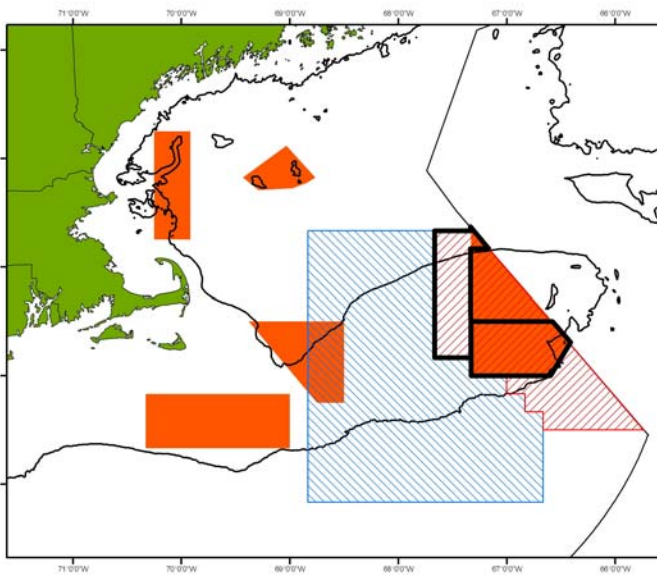
Sub-Area 5 – Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP



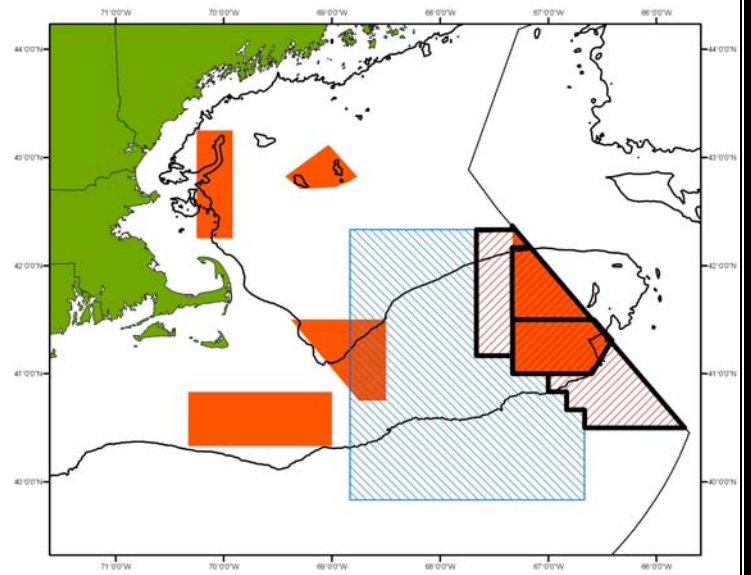
Sub-Area 6 – Eastern U.S./Canada Area & Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP



Sub-Area 7 - Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP & CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP



Sub-Area 8 - Eastern U.S./Canada Area & Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP & CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP



Flex options: Common pool and sector vessel operators have the flexibility to fish both inside and outside of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, including associated SAPs, on the same trip by declaring the intent to do so via VMS either prior to leaving the dock, or prior to leaving the Eastern U.S./Canada Area. However, a vessel operator can only fish in the BSAs that were declared prior to leaving the dock. Therefore, to maintain flexibility, a vessel operator should declare any BSA in which the vessel may fish. There are two options available on VMS menus to enable a vessel operator to fish inside/outside of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area on the same trip:

Flex West: Allows a vessel to fish in the Eastern and Western U.S./Canada Areas on the same trip.

Flex Open: Allows a vessel to fish in the Eastern and Western U.S./Canada Areas, as well as outside of the entire U.S./Canada Management Area on the same trip.

A vessel operator fishing inside and outside the U.S./Canada Management Area on the same trip must declare his/her intent to do so via VMS either prior to leaving port or prior to leaving the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, and must abide by the most restrictive regulations (i.e., DAS counting, trip limits, gear restrictions and submission of daily catch reports via VMS) in either area.

Examples of Flex Trip Scenarios When Fishing Under a Category B DAS (common pool only):

If a vessel operator declares an intent to fish under a Category B DAS in the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP, but also wants to or fishes in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) on the same trip, the operator must have first declared "Flex Open" and both the Offshore GB BSA and GOM BSA prior to leaving the dock.

If a vessel operator declares an intent to fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area on a Regular B DAS under the Regular B DAS Program, but also wants to or fishes in either the Western U.S./Canada Area or outside of the U.S./Canada Management Area, the operator must select the "Flex West" or the "Flex Open" option, respectively, and may continue to fish under a Regular B DAS once the vessel leaves the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, provided the appropriate BSAs were declared at the start of the trip. However, a vessel operator must "flip" its DAS to a Category A DAS, should it exceed the Regular B DAS Program trip limits (See summary beginning on page 13).

TAC counting: On a trip when the vessel operator fishes both inside and outside of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area on the same trip, all cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder caught on the trip shall count toward the applicable hard TAC specified for the U.S./Canada Management Area.

Common pool reporting requirements: A vessel operator declared into the U.S./Canada Management Area must submit reports via VMS for each day fished in 24-hr intervals, measured from 0000 hr to 2400 hr. The reports must be submitted by 0900 hr of the day following fishing. For example, all fish caught between 12:00 AM and 11:59 PM on Monday must be reported by 9:00 AM on Tuesday. Days without catch, such as when steaming to or from the area, may be reported as zero catch, but they must still be reported. The report must include all fields except "statistical area" when the trip is fished in more than one statistical area

Sector reporting requirements: A vessel operator declared into the U.S./Canada Management Area must submit trip level reports via VMS. The report must include all fields except "date fish caught" and "statistical area" when the trip is fished in more than one statistical area.

Landing/Possession Limits:

In addition to the landing/possession limits applicable to any NE multispecies DAS vessel, any common pool vessel fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area is subject to the following restrictions (the following landing/possession limits do not apply to sector vessels):

- *GB cod:* Possession limit for a common pool vessel fishing under a NE multispecies DAS in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area is 500 lb of cod per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 5,000 lb per trip. Possession limit for a common pool vessel fishing under a NE multispecies DAS in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area and participating in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area Haddock SAP is 1,000 lb per trip.

- *GB yellowtail flounder:* For the start of fishing year (FY) 2011, the initial yellowtail flounder landing/possession limit for common pool vessels is 1,500 lb per trip, until further notice (see below). When NMFS projects that 100 percent of the TAC allocation for yellowtail flounder will be harvested, NMFS will close the Eastern U.S./Canada Area to any groundfish DAS vessel, and will prohibit any other vessel from harvesting, possessing, or landing yellowtail flounder from the U.S./Canada Management Area.

Other restrictions or in-season adjustments: The Regional Administrator may modify the gear requirements, modify or close access to the U.S./Canada Management Area, modify the trip limits specified, or modify the total number of trips into the area to prevent over-harvesting or to facilitate achieving the TACs for GB yellowtail or Eastern GB cod and haddock. In addition, the Regional Administrator may implement different measures for a vessel using A or B DAS. If the Regional Administrator requires use of a particular gear type in order to reduce catches of stocks of concern, gear performance incentives will apply (see gear restrictions below). All in-season adjustments for a particular fishing year are available on the Northeast Regional Office website (www.nero.noaa.gov), or by contacting NMFS at (978) 281-9315.

Eastern U.S./Canada Area

Trawl gear restrictions: A NE multispecies vessel fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area using trawl gear must use either a haddock separator trawl, a Ruhle trawl, or flounder trawl, as described on page 15. Other types of trawl gear may be on the vessel when on a trip in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, provided the other gear is stowed in accordance with regulations. In FY 2011, the opening of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area for common pool vessel using trawl gear is delayed until August 1, 2011; sector vessels are eligible to use trawl gear on May 1, 2011. If you have questions about current gear restrictions for the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at: (978) 281-9315.

Closure of Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area: When the Regional Administrator projects that any of the U.S./Canada Management Area TAC allocations of GB yellowtail flounder, Eastern GB cod, or Eastern GB haddock to either the common pool or an individual sector will be caught, NMFS will close the Eastern U.S./Canada Area to either common pool vessels or an individual sector, as appropriate, for the remainder of the FY. Should NMFS close the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, any common pool vessel fishing under a NE multispecies DAS, or a sector vessel, may continue to fish in a SAP within the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, provided that the TAC for the available stock identified for that particular SAP has not been fully harvested. For example, should the Eastern GB cod TAC specified for common pool vessels be caught, and the Eastern U.S./Canada Area closure implemented, a vessel could continue to fish for haddock within the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP. A vessel fishing on a sector trip may only continue to fish in a SAP if that vessel's sector has annual catch entitlement (ACE) available for all stocks caught in the SAP, or may fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area if that vessel's sector has ACE available for all stocks caught in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.

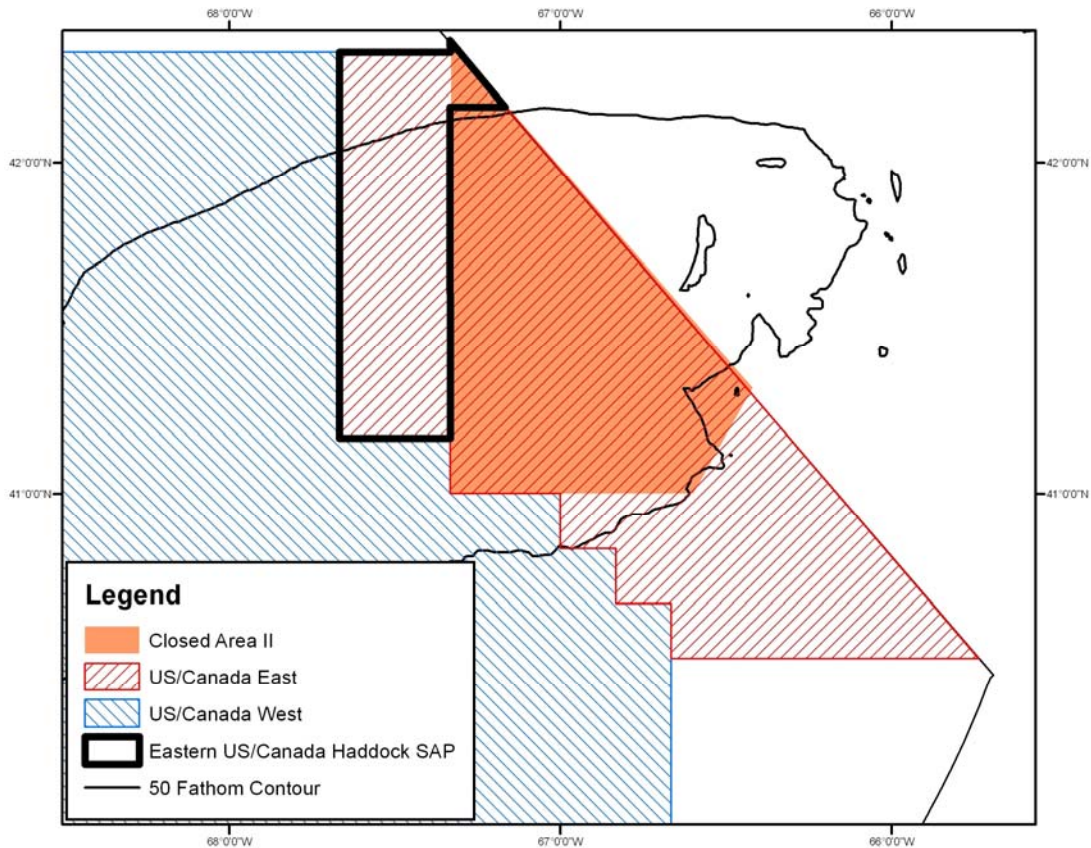
Transiting: Upon closure of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, a vessel may transit through this area, provided that gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations (See page 16 for summary).

Steaming credit: A NE multispecies DAS vessel that declares and fishes exclusively in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area will be charged DAS only for its time inside the Eastern U.S./Canada Area. A vessel fishing both inside and outside of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area on the same trip will be charged DAS for its time seaward of the VMS demarcation line (i.e., outside of port).

Eastern U.S./Canada Area Haddock SAP

Introduction

A SAP is a narrowly defined program under the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that allows fishing for certain stocks in order to provide an increased yield of those stocks that can support additional fishing effort without undermining the goals of the FMP. Vessels issued a valid limited access NE multispecies DAS permit, whether fishing in the common pool fishery or as a sector vessel, are eligible to fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP, provided such vessels comply with the requirements of this SAP.



The Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points, in order:

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CA II 3	42° 22'	67° 20'
SAP 1	42° 20'	67° 20'
SAP 2	42° 20'	67° 40'
SAP 3	41° 10'	67° 40'
SAP 4	41° 10'	67° 20'
SAP 5	42° 10'	67° 20'
SAP 6	42° 10'	67° 10'
CA II 3	42° 22'	67° 20'

Program Restrictions

Season: The Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP is open from August 1 through December 31, unless modified by the Regional Administrator.

Observer notification: See description on page 16.

Gear restrictions: A common pool vessel participating in the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP must use either a haddock separator trawl or a Ruhle trawl (see page 15 for a description). A sector vessel is not subject to the gear requirements for this SAP, and may use any gear allowed in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area when fishing in this SAP (haddock separator trawl, Ruhle trawl, a flounder trawl, hook gear, or gillnet gear).

Mesh size: A groundfish vessel using haddock separator or Ruhle trawl gear in the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP must use codends with a minimum mesh size of 6-inch diamond or square mesh. Sector vessels using a flounder trawl must use a codend with a minimum of 6.5-inch diamond or square mesh. If the vessel fishes in this SAP and outside of GB on the same trip by selecting "Flex Open" via VMS (prior to leaving the dock), the vessel must use codends with a minimum mesh size of 6.5-inch mesh, consistent with the mesh size regulation of other areas.

DAS use: Common pool Vessels fishing in this SAP may fish under either a Category A, Category B-Regular, or Category B-Reserve DAS. Sector vessels may not use Category B DAS, but may choose to use Category A DAS in this SAP to take advantage of increased possession limits for other species (e.g., monkfish or skates).

No discard provision: No vessel may discard legal-sized regulated NE multispecies (American plaice, cod, Atlantic halibut, haddock, pollock, redfish, white hake, winter flounder, witch flounder, and yellowtail flounder) when fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP. This does not apply to species that a vessel is prohibited from possessing (ocean pout, windowpane flounder, Southern New England/Mid Atlantic (SNE/MA) winter flounder, and Atlantic wolffish) or to the one fish per trip limit on Atlantic halibut.

Landing limits: Unless otherwise restricted, a common pool vessel fishing any portion of a trip in this SAP may not possess more than 1,000 lb of cod per trip, regardless of trip length. A common pool vessel fishing in this SAP may not possess more than 100 lb per DAS of GB yellowtail flounder or 100 lb per trip of GB winter flounder, and no more than 500 lb of all flounder species, combined. Possession of monkfish (whole weight) and skates is limited to 500 lb each, and possession of lobsters is prohibited. Sector vessels are currently exempt from possession limits when fishing in this SAP.

Catch attribution: All catch by sector vessels in the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP counts against the applicable sector's allocation for each stock, including the sector's allocation of Eastern GB cod and Eastern GB haddock. Catch by common pool vessels counts against the annual catch limit (ACL) available to the common pool, including the common pool allocation of Eastern GB cod and Eastern GB haddock.

Common pool reporting requirements: A vessel operator declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP must submit reports via VMS for each day fished in 24-hr intervals, measured from 0000 hr to 2400 hr. The reports must be submitted by 0900 hr of the day following fishing. For example, all fish caught between 12:00 AM and 11:59 PM on Monday must be reported by 9:00 AM on Tuesday. Days without catch, such as when steaming to or from the area, may be reported as zero catch, but they must still be reported. The report must include all fields except "statistical area" when the trip is fished in more than one statistical area.

Sector reporting requirements: A vessel operator declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP must submit trip level reports via VMS. The report must include all fields except "date fish caught" and "statistical area" when the trip is fished in more than one statistical area.

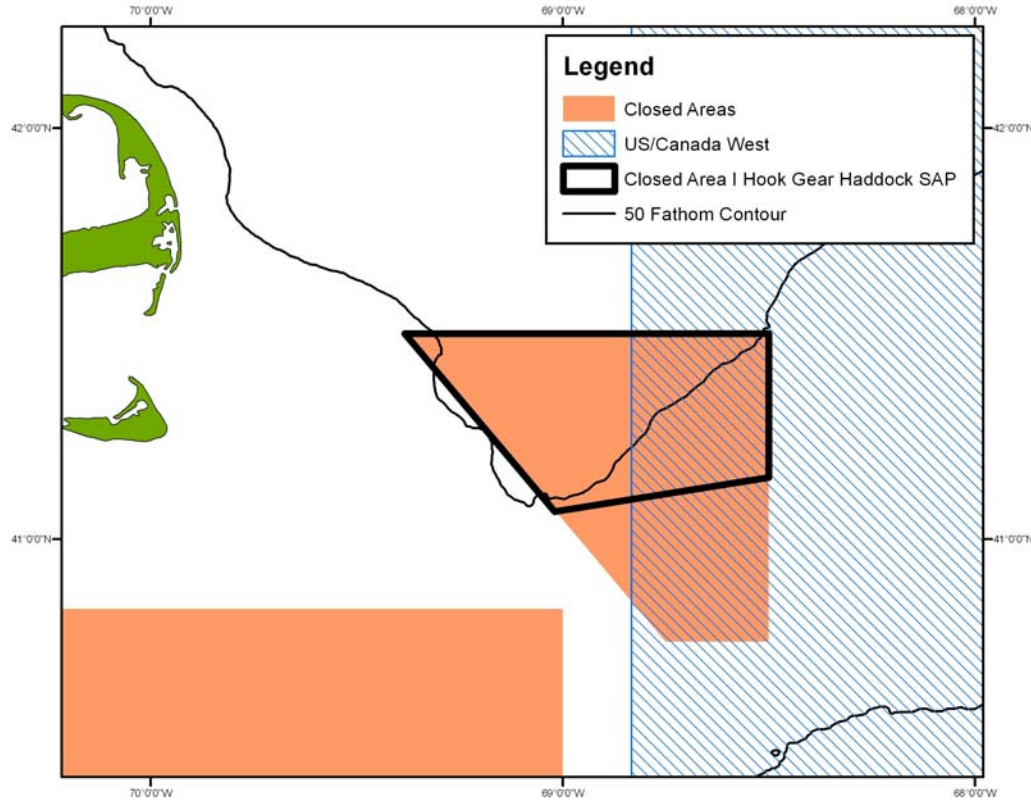
General closure of the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP Area: The Regional Administrator, based upon VMS, VTR, or DAS information; or any other relevant information, may close the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP for the duration of the season, if it is determined that continuation of the SAP would undermine the achievement of the objectives of the FMP or the SAP.

Sector access: A sector vessel can fish in this SAP throughout the season specified above, even if the SAP is closed to common pool vessels, provided the applicable sector has enough ACE remaining for all allocated groundfish stocks caught in this SAP.

Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP

Introduction

A vessel issued a valid limited access NE multispecies DAS permit is eligible to participate in the CA I Hook Gear Haddock SAP, and may fish in the CA I Hook Gear Haddock (HGH) Access Area (see below), provided such vessel complies with the requirements of this SAP, and the SAP is not closed by the Regional Administrator. A vessel fishing on a sector trip may only continue to fish in this SAP if that vessel's sector has ACE available for all stocks caught in the SAP.



The CA I HGH Access Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points:

Point	North Latitude	West Longitude
Hook 1	41° 09'	68° 30'
Hook 2	41° 30'	68° 30'
Hook 3	41° 30'	69° 23'
Hook 4	41° 04'	69° 01'

Season: The time period for the CA I HGH SAP is May 1 through January 31. All limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing with hook gear may fish in the SAP at any time, provided the SAP is open, regardless of whether the vessel is enrolled in a sector or is in the common pool.

Program Restrictions

All Vessels

Observer notification: See description on page 16.

Gear restrictions: A vessel declared into and fishing in the CA I HGH SAP may fish with and possess on board, only demersal longline gear or tub trawl gear. A vessel is prohibited from deploying fishing gear outside of the CA I HGH SAP Area on the same fishing trip on which it is declared into the CA I HGH SAP.

Bait restrictions: All NE multispecies vessels fishing in the CA I HGH SAP are prohibited from possessing squid or mackerel on board, or using it for bait. Some sectors are exempt from this prohibition; sector vessels should examine their Letter of Authorization (LOA) for a list of their exemptions.

VMS requirement: Prior to leaving the dock, an eligible vessel intending to participate in the CA I HGH SAP must declare into the Inshore GB BSA, Offshore GB BSA, or both BSA's, and into the SAP via VMS, and indicate the type of DAS that it intends to fish, unless fishing in a sector and not using a NE multispecies DAS on that trip.

Overall haddock TAC: Sector and common pool haddock TACs have been eliminated. For FY 2011, the overall haddock TAC for the CA I Hook Gear Haddock SAP applicable to both common pool and sector vessels participating in this SAP is 6,961,096 lb. Once this overall haddock TAC is caught, the CA I HGH SAP shall be closed to all NE multispecies vessels.

Discards: While participating in this SAP, a vessel may not discard any legal-sized regulated NE multispecies. This does not apply to species that a vessel is prohibited from possessing (ocean pout, windowpane flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, and Atlantic wolffish), or to the one fish per trip limit on Atlantic halibut. Common pool vessels must immediately exit the SAP and stop fishing if any trip limit is reached.

Common Pool Vessels

In addition to the general restrictions specified above under "All Vessels," the restrictions specified in this section apply only to common pool vessels declared into the CA I HGH SAP.

DAS use restriction: A common pool vessel fishing in the CA I HGH SAP may use Regular B or Reserve B DAS, but cannot use Category A DAS. In addition, a common pool vessel may not flip its DAS to category A DAS if it exceeds the GB cod trip limit, but must immediately exit the SAP and end its trip.

Gear restrictions: A common pool vessel declared into the CA I HGH SAP must use demersal longline or tub-trawl gear, but is not limited to a specific number of hooks.

Landing limits: A common pool vessel declared into the CA I HGH SAP may not land, fish for, or possess on board more than 1,000 lb of cod per trip. A common pool vessel is not permitted to discard legal-sized cod prior to reaching the landing limit, and is required to end its trip if the cod trip limit is achieved or exceeded. A vessel declared into the CA I HGH SAP must follow the specified landing limits for all NE multispecies other than cod, as specified at § 648.86, including zero possession of Atlantic wolffish, SNE/MA winter flounder, ocean pout, and windowpane flounder.

Reporting requirements: A vessel operator declared into the CA I HGH SAP must submit reports via VMS for each day fished in 24-hr intervals, measured from 0000 hr to 2400 hr. The reports must be submitted by 0900 hr of the day following fishing. For example, all fish caught between 12:00 AM and 11:59 PM on Monday must be reported by 9:00 AM on Tuesday. Days without catch, such as when steaming to or from the area, may be reported as zero catch, but they must still be reported. The report must include all fields except "statistical area" when the trip is fished in more than one statistical area

Incidental catch TACs: The maximum amount of GB cod (landings and discards) that may be caught by a common pool vessel from the SAP will be set annually. For FY 2011, the GB cod incidental catch is 656 lb (subject to change). When the Regional Administrator determines that the incidental catch TAC has been caught, the CA I HGH Access Area will be closed to all common pool fishing vessels.

Sector Vessels

In addition to the general restrictions specified above under "All Vessels," the restrictions specified in this section apply only to sector vessels declared into the CA I HGH SAP.

Gear restrictions: A vessel enrolled in a sector is subject to any additional gear requirements of the sector operations plan.

Landing limits: A sector vessel declared into the CA I HGH SAP is subject to the limit in effect under the sector's operations plan, including zero possession of Atlantic wolffish, SNE/MA winter flounder, ocean pout, and windowpane flounder.

Sector access: A sector vessel can fish in this SAP throughout the season specified above, even if the SAP is closed to common pool vessels, provided the applicable sector has enough ACE remaining for all allocated groundfish stocks caught in this SAP.

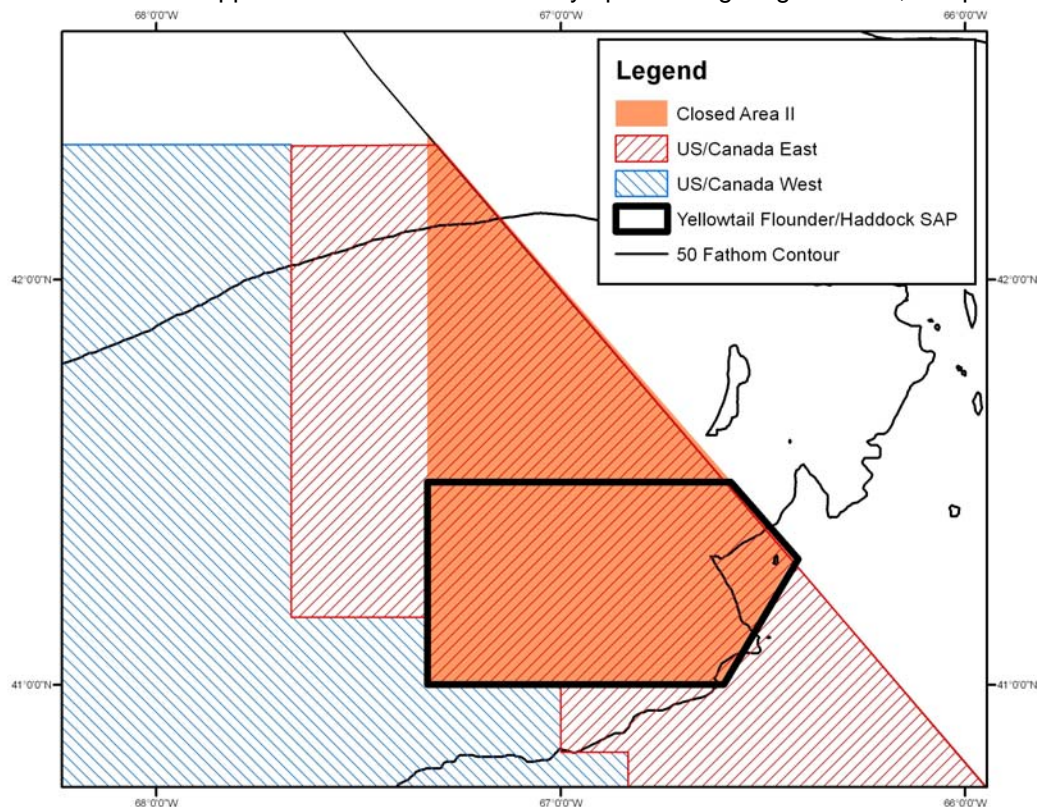
Reporting requirement: A vessel operator declared into the CA I HGH SAP must submit reports to the sector manager for each day fished in the CA I HGH SAP Area in 24-hr intervals, measured from 0000 hr to 2400 hr. The sector manager must submit daily reports to NMFS summarizing the sector's: Total pounds of haddock, cod, yellowtail flounder, winter flounder, witch flounder, American plaice, and white hake kept; total pounds of haddock, cod, yellowtail flounder, winter flounder, witch flounder, American plaice, and white hake discarded; date fish were caught; and VTR serial numbers of each trip, as instructed by the Regional Administrator.

GB cod incidental catch TAC: There is no GB cod incidental catch TAC specified for sector vessels declared into the CA I HGH SAP. All cod caught by sector vessels fishing in the SAP counts toward the sector's annual GB cod ACE.

Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP

Introduction

A vessel issued a valid limited access NE multispecies DAS permit (both sector and common pool vessels) is eligible to participate in the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP, and may fish in the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock Access Area (see below), provided such vessels comply with the requirements of this SAP and the SAP is not closed by the Regional Administrator. For FY 2011, this SAP is only open to targeting haddock, the CA II Yellowtail Flounder SAP will not open in FY 2011. Therefore, all vessels must comply with the measures applicable when the SAP is only open to targeting haddock, as specified.



The CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
Ytail 1	41° 30'	67° 20'
Ytail 2	41° 30'	66° 34.8'
G 5	41° 18.6'	66° 24.8'
CII 2	41° 00'	66° 35.8'
CII 1	41° 00'	67° 20'
Ytail 1	41° 30'	67° 20'

All Vessels

Season: The FY 2011 season for the CA II Haddock SAP is August 1 through January 31.

Observer Notification: See description on page 16.

Common pool reporting requirements: A vessel operator declared into the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP must submit reports via VMS for each day fished in 24-hr intervals, measured from 0000 hr to 2400 hr. The reports must be submitted by 0900 hr of the day following fishing. For example, all fish caught between 12:00 AM and 11:59 PM on Monday must be reported by 9:00 AM on Tuesday. Days without catch, such as when steaming to or from the area, may be reported as zero catch, but they must still be reported. The report must include all fields except "statistical area" when the trip is fished in more than one statistical area

Sector reporting requirements: A vessel operator declared into the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP must submit trip level reports via VMS. The report must include all fields except "date fish caught" and "statistical area" when the trip is fished in more than one statistical area.

Gear requirements: Haddock separator trawl, Ruhle trawl (see page 15), or hook gear are the only gears that may be used; a flounder trawl net or gillnets may not be used during FY 2011. Other gear may be on board when in this SAP, provided it's properly stowed (see page 16).

Number of trips per vessel: For FY 2011, there is no limit on the number of trips that each vessel may take into the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP on a monthly, or yearly, basis.

Catch attribution: All catch by sector vessels in the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP counts against the applicable sector's allocation for each stock, including the sector's allocation of Eastern GB cod and Eastern GB haddock. Catch by common pool vessels counts against the applicable ACL available to the common pool, including the common pool allocation of Eastern GB cod and Eastern GB haddock.

Common pool vessels

Landing/possession limits: See the separate information sheet on landing/possession limits.

-If fishing with trawl gear:

- Flatfish species (all species combined): 500 lb/trip, unless otherwise prohibited
- Monkfish: 500 lb/trip (whole weight), unless otherwise restricted by the Monkfish FMP
- Skates: 500 lb/trip (whole weight), unless otherwise restricted by the Skate FMP
- Lobsters: Zero lobsters

-All other applicable trip limits at § 648.86, including zero possession of Atlantic wolffish, SNE/MA winter flounder, ocean pout, and windowpane flounder.

Discards: A common pool vessel may not discard legal-sized regulated NE multispecies when fishing in the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP. This does not apply to species that vessels are prohibited from possessing (ocean pout, windowpane flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, and Atlantic wolffish) or to the one fish per trip limit on Atlantic halibut.

Area fished: Eligible vessels that have declared a trip into the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP have the flexibility to fish both inside and outside of the area on the same trip by declaring the intent to do so via VMS either prior to leaving the dock, or prior to leaving the CA II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP. However, a vessel operator can only fish in the BSAs that were declared prior to leaving the dock. Therefore, to maintain flexibility, a vessel operator should declare any BSA he/she anticipates fishing in. See the flex options on page 5 under the U.S./Canada Management Area.

Sector vessels

Trip limits: A sector vessel is not limited in the amount of NE multispecies that can be caught in this SAP, unless otherwise restricted by an individual sector's measures.

Sector access: A sector vessel can fish in this SAP throughout the season specified above, even if the SAP is closed to common pool vessels, provided the applicable sector has enough ACE remaining for all groundfish stocks caught in this SAP.

Regular B DAS Program

Introduction

Purpose: The Regular B DAS Program allows any eligible common pool vessel to harvest certain healthy groundfish stocks under a NE multispecies Regular B DAS while minimizing bycatch of less healthy NE multispecies stocks.

Eligibility: A common pool vessel issued a valid limited access NE multispecies DAS permit and allocated Regular B DAS is eligible to participate. A sector vessel may not participate in the Regular B DAS Program. A common pool vessel issued a valid limited access monkfish Category C, D, or F permit may not use both a NE multispecies Regular B DAS and a monkfish DAS on the same trip. Such vessel may still participate in the program, but is subject to the incidental catch limits for monkfish when fishing under a Regular B DAS.

Area restrictions: A common pool vessel participating in the Regular B DAS Program may fish either in the U.S./Canada Management Area or outside the U.S./Canada Management Area, but it may not fish in the Regular B DAS Program and in a SAP on the same trip.

Program Restrictions

Observer notification: See description on page 16.

VMS requirements: Prior to departing on a trip, a vessel owner or operator must notify NMFS via VMS that the vessel intends to participate in the Regular B DAS Program, the gear type to be used, and BSA to be fished. Currently, there are six options of geographic area that may be declared through VMS, as detailed on pages 2-4 of this information sheet (Open, Area 4, Area 4 plus Open, Area 2, Area 2 flex West, and Area 2 flex Open).

Gear restrictions: A NE multispecies trawl vessel fishing in the Regular B DAS Program must use either an authorized Ruhle trawl or authorized haddock separator trawl, as described on page 15. Other types of fishing gear may be on the trawl vessel when participating in this program, provided the other gear is stowed in accordance with regulations (see page 16 for a summary)

DAS use restrictions: A common pool vessel may fish in the program under Regular B DAS, but may not use Reserve B DAS. Any participating vessel is required to comply with the discard prohibition, DAS flip, and the minimum DAS requirements specified below.

DAS counting: Regular B DAS are counted at a rate of 1 DAS for each calendar day, or part of any calendar day, fished. As an example, a trip that starts at 6 AM and lands the same day at 6 PM would

count as 24 hours (1 day); a trip that starts at 6 PM one day, and lands at 6 AM the next day, would count as 48 hours (2 days).

Minimum category A DAS: To fish under a Regular B DAS, the number of Regular B DAS that can be used on a trip cannot exceed the number of available Category A DAS that the vessel has at the start of the trip, after factoring differential DAS counting (if implemented by the Regional Administrator inseason to prevent the common pool sub-ACLs from being exceeded or under harvested). For example, to complete a 6-day trip using Regular B DAS, a vessel would need at least 6 Category A DAS in the event of a DAS flip assuming no differential DAS counting is being applied at that time.

DAS flips: If a common pool vessel exceeds the trip limits specified for this program, the vessel operator must flip from a Category B Regular DAS to a Category A DAS and notify NMFS via VMS *immediately* to initiate a DAS flip to Category A DAS. Once the vessel flips to a Category A DAS, the DAS charged for the entire trip will be charged as Category A DAS, and not Category B DAS, the vessel must comply with the landing/possession limits for Category A DAS, and it is no longer restricted to fishing with a Ruhle trawl or haddock separator trawl, and may use other legal fishing gear (unless the U.S./Canada Management Area rules require the use of a Ruhle trawl or haddock separator trawl). A vessel declared into multiple geographic areas is governed by the most restrictive rules (gear, landing/possession limits, DAS charges) of all areas fished when flipping to category A DAS.

Discards: A vessel fishing under a Regular B DAS in the Regular B DAS Program may not discard regulated NE multispecies. This does not apply to species that a vessel is prohibited from possessing (ocean pout, windowpane flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, and Atlantic wolffish), or to the one fish per trip limit on Atlantic halibut.

Discards: A common pool vessel fishing under a Regular B DAS in the Regular B DAS Program is prohibited from discarding legal-sized GOM and GB cod, all stocks of yellowtail flounder, witch flounder, GB winter flounder, white hake, pollock, and Atlantic halibut. Stocks whose possession is prohibited (ocean pout, windowpane flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, and Atlantic wolffish) may be discarded.

Landing/possession limits: See the separate information sheet on landing/possession limits.

Reporting requirements: A vessel operator declared into the Regular B DAS Program must submit reports via VMS for each day fished in 24-hr intervals, measured from 0000 hr to 2400 hr. The reports must be submitted by 0900 hr of the day following fishing. For example, all fish caught between 12:00 AM and 11:59 PM on Monday must be reported by 9:00 AM on Tuesday. Days without catch, such as when steaming to or from the area, may be reported as zero catch, but they must still be reported. The report must include all fields except "statistical area" when the trip is fished in more than one statistical area

Quarterly DAS use limits: To limit the potential biological impacts of the Regular B DAS Program, there is a maximum number of B DAS that may be used in any quarter (Q1 May-July, Q2 August-October, Q3 November-January, Q4 February-April). During the first quarter of the fishing year (May 1 through July 31), only 500 Regular B DAS may be used. During subsequent quarters, 1,000 Regular B DAS may be used in each quarter. Only trips that are completed under a Regular B DAS count toward the quarterly DAS use limit. Quarterly quota status reports are available for the current and prior years at: (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/fso>).

Quarterly incidental TAC: Several NE multispecies stocks receive an annual incidental catch TAC, distributed quarterly within the Regular B DAS Program. The purpose is to limit the potential impact of certain fishing effort on the mortality of stocks of concern. The percentage distributions of annual and quarterly incidental catch TACs vary among species and areas, and are described below.

FY 2011 Incidental Catch TACs by Calendar Quarters for the Regular B DAS Program (lb).

Stock	Quarter 1 (May - July)	Quarter 2 (Aug. - Oct.)	Quarter 3 (Nov. - Jan.)	Quarter 4 (Feb. - Apr.)
GB cod	267	595	595	595
GOM cod	292	652	652	652
GB yellowtail flounder	56	125	125	125
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder	77	173	173	173
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder	343	767	767	767
American plaice (dabs)	1,003	2,238	2,238	2,238
Witch flounder (gray sole)	353	786	786	786
SNE/MA winter flounder*	2,081	4,642	4,642	4,642
GB winter flounder	40	90	90	90
White hake	161	358	358	358

*SNE/MA winter flounder possession is prohibited, but discards still apply to the B DAS Program

Closures: If the quarterly incidental catch TAC for any one of the species listed above is determined to be caught, use of Regular B DAS for the pertinent stock area will be prohibited for the remainder of that quarter and the common pool will be notified by a permit holder letter and/or a radio announcement. The closure will occur even if other quarterly incidental catch TACs in the stock area have not been caught, with the exception of white hake. If the incidental catch TAC for white hake is caught, any vessel fishing in the Regular B DAS Program will be prohibited from possessing white hake, but can still fish for other stocks under the Regular B DAS Program. These quarterly quotas may be monitored on the internet (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/fso>). The Regional Administrator has the authority to prohibit the use of Regular B DAS for the duration of a quarter or fishing year, if it is projected that continuation of the Regular B DAS Program would undermine the achievement of objectives of the FMP, or the Regular B DAS Program.

Gear Definitions

- *Haddock separator trawl:* A haddock separator trawl is defined as a groundfish trawl modified to a vertically oriented trouser trawl configuration, with two extensions arranged one over the other, where a codend is attached only to the upper extension, and the bottom extension is left open and does not have a codend attached. A horizontal large-mesh separating panel constructed with a minimum of 6.0-inch diamond mesh must be installed between the selvages joining the upper and lower panels, extending forward from the front of the trouser junction to the aft edge of the first belly behind the fishing circle. Either a two-seam or a four-seam bottom trawl net may be used, provided they meet the requirements below.

-Two-seam bottom trawl nets: For two-seam nets, the separator panel must be constructed such that the width of the forward edge of the panel is 80-85 percent of the width of the after edge of the first belly of the net where the panel is attached. For example, if the belly is 200 meshes wide (from selvedge to selvedge), the separator panel must be no wider than 160-170 meshes wide.

-Four-seam bottom trawl nets: For four-seam nets, the separator panel must be constructed such that the width of the forward edge of the panel is 90-95 percent of the width of the after edge of the first belly of the net where the panel is attached. For example, if the belly is 200 meshes wide (from selvedge to selvedge), the separator panel must be no wider than 180-190 meshes. The separator panel must be attached to both of the side panels of the net along the midpoint of the side panels. For example, if the side panel is 100 meshes tall, the separator panel must be attached at the 50th mesh.

- *Ruhle trawl:* A Ruhle trawl is defined as a four-seam bottom groundfish trawl with large meshes in the forward panels, reducing in size toward the trawl's codend. All meshes in the forward panels, except for the square and square side panels, must measure at least 7.9 ft. The square and square side panel meshes, and those panel meshes immediately aft of the fishing circle, must measure at least 31.5 inches. The first bottom belly must contain meshes measuring at least 7.9 ft. The second bottom belly meshes must measure at least 31.5 inches. All remaining panels must contain meshes measuring at least 7.9-inches. For complete construction parameters, including fishing circle, sweep, and kite requirements, please see § 648.85(b)(6)(iv)(J)(3).

- *Flounder trawl*: For use in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, a flounder trawl net is defined as bottom trawl gear meeting one of the following two net descriptions:

-A two-seam, low-rise net constructed with 6-inch diamond mesh or 6.5-inch square mesh, where the maximum footrope length is not greater than 105 ft and the headrope is at least 30 percent longer than the footrope. The footrope and headrope lengths shall be measured from the forward wing end. The codend must be either 6.5-inch diamond or 6.5-inch square mesh.

-A two-seam, low-rise net constructed with 6-inch diamond mesh or 6.5-inch square mesh, with the exception that the top panel of the net contains a section of mesh at least 10 ft long and stretching from selvedge to selvedge, composed of at least 12-inch mesh that is inserted no farther than 4.5 meshes behind the headrope. The codend must be either 6.5-inch diamond or 6.5-inch square mesh.

Gear Stowage

For gear to be considered legally stowed for the purpose of transiting, a vessel must meet one or more of the following requirements:

- *Trawl gear*:
 - *Stowed below deck*: A trawl net stowed below deck must be located below the main working deck from which the net is deployed and retrieved; the towing wires, including the leg wires, must be detached from the net; and it must be fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference.
 - *Stowed and lashed down on deck*: A trawl net must be fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference; must be securely fastened to the deck or rail of the vessel; and the towing wires, including the leg wires, must be detached from the net.
 - *On-reel stowage*: A trawl net stowed on a reel must be covered entirely with canvas or other similar opaque material that is securely bound; the towing wires must be detached from the net; and the codend must be removed and stored below deck.
- *Scallop dredges*: The towing wire must be detached from the scallop dredge, the towing wire must be reeled up onto the winch, and the dredge must be secured and covered so that it is rendered unusable for fishing.
- *Hook gear*: All anchors and buoys must be secured and all hook gear, including jigging machines, must be covered.
- *Sink gillnet gear*: All nets must be covered with canvas or other similar material and lashed or otherwise securely fastened to the deck or rail, and all buoys larger than 6 inches in diameter, high flyers, and anchors are disconnected.

Observer Notification

The Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) was designed by NMFS to provide a fast, simple, and effective way to ensure fair and adequate coverage of all vessels fishing for northeast groundfish. An algorithm works to determine if each separate trip is selected for coverage. Trips are randomly selected based on the combination of their sector, area, and gear, in order to reach the targeted observer and at-sea monitor coverage rates (i.e. 38% sector trips, 30% common pool).

NOTIFICATIONS FOR MULTISPECIES TRIPS MUST BE MADE A FULL 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE

Notifications received less than 48 hours in advance may be required to delay departure up to 48 hours from the time of initial notification if an observer is not available earlier.

There are 3 different methods available for 48-hour pre-trip notification for multispecies trips:

1. **Internet (preferred method)** - This should be the primary means of trip notification and trip changes. Follow these basic steps to submit your notifications online:

Step 1. Log into your PTNS account

- a. Navigate your browser to <http://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS>
- b. Enter the same username (Permit Number) and password (PIN) as used for Fish-On-Line
- c. Click the "Login" button
- d. After logging into your PTNS account, verify vessel name
- e. Enter/verify contact phone numbers and email addresses under the "Registration" tab

Step 2. Enter a new trip

- a. Click on the "New Trip" tab
- b. Enter sail date and time of planned trip
- c. Select fishery – "Multispecies (MUL)"
- d. Enter estimated trip duration in whole days
- e. Select port of departure
- f. Select gear intending to fish
- g. Select area intending to fish
- h. Select Special Management Program, if applicable (i.e. US/Canada Area)
- i. If making a set-only gillnet trip, check the box next to "Set-Only Trip"
- j. Click on "Submit" once and wait for the site to show your confirmation number and selection status

For trips 1 or 2 days in length: Enter information for *each* potential sail date separately, up to 9 days in advance (48 hours of notification time allows a maximum of 7 sail dates)

2. **Email** – This should be the secondary means of trip notification. The email address to submit trip notifications, trip changes, questions, or problems is nefsc.ptns@noaa.gov.

Include in the email:

1. Vessel permit number
2. Planned sail date and time
3. Fishery: multispecies
4. Estimated trip duration in whole days
5. Port of sail
6. Gear (trawl, longline, handline, gillnet >8", gillnet 8" and larger)
7. Area fishing (Geroges Bank, Gulf of Maine, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic)
8. Special Management Program if applicable (i.e. US/Canada Area)
9. Phone number, if new to using PTNS

There may be a delay in receipt of vessel selection status notification if using email notification.

3. **Telephone** – This is the backup means of notification. The phone number is **1-855-FISHES1**, effective March 11, 2011. At this number, the PTNS coordinator is available from 8:00 AM – 5:00PM on business days. After business hours, and on weekends and holidays, calls will be fielded by an answering service operator who is qualified to enter notifications, to answer frequently asked questions, and to help troubleshoot common PTNS issues. In emergency situations, the operator will immediately contact a NMFS representative for assistance. All notification information listed below should be relayed to the answerer or left in a clear voicemail:

1. Caller's name and phone number
2. Vessel permit number
3. Planned sail date and time
4. Fishery: multispecies
5. Estimated trip duration in whole days
6. Port of sail,
7. Gear (trawl, longline, handline, gillnet >8", gillnet 8" and larger)
8. Area fishing (Geroges Bank, Gulf of Maine, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic)
9. Special Management Program if applicable (i.e. US/Canada Area, Closed Area I Hook Haddock SAP)

There may be a delay in receipt of vessel selection status notification if using email or telephone notification. After a trip is entered, you will be notified of your selection status

Once a trip is entered into the PTNS, either by the vessel or a PTNS administrator, it will be issued a confirmation number and will be either selected for coverage or assigned a waiver. Under the "Pending Trips" tab, the status of each trip is immediately viewable once it is entered. The vessel's VMS and email contacts will receive an automated email upon trip entry indicating coverage selection or issuance of a waiver.

If selected for coverage, await contact from the provider

If your vessel is selected for coverage, a service provider will contact you within 24 hours of receiving the notification. If an observer is not available to cover your trip, the vessel will receive a waiver notification via email within 24 hours of trip entry. Once an observer arrives at the vessel or a waiver is received, the vessel may begin its trip. *A trip may not sail without an observer unless it has been issued a waiver.*

DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS: If a vessel must delay a multi-day trip sail date, it should notify the PTNS coordinator and its observer, if applicable. If a vessel is selected for coverage and must cancel the trip, the vessel will be selected for coverage on its next notified trip. Please notify the PTNS coordinator of any trip cancellations, whether the trip has been selected for coverage or if it has been issued a waiver.

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