



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT

14024

Principal Investigator: Jim Odlin
Atlantic Trawlers Fishing, Inc.
2 Portland Fish Pier
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 871-8050

Permit Issued Date: **May 23, 2014**
Permit Effective Date: **May 27, 2014**
Permit Expiration Date: **April 30, 2015**

Vessel Owner or Operator	Vessel Name	Hull Number	Federal Permit Number
New England Trawlers, Inc.	<i>Nobska</i>	932694	410452
New England Trawlers, Inc.	<i>Morue</i>	963865	410522
F A J LLC	<i>Harmony</i>	930191	410457

In accordance with Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) provisions (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), 50 CFR 600.745, and 50 CFR 648.12, the above-named sector vessels are exempt from the following regulations while conducting experimental fishing activities in accordance with the specified conditions and requirements. The vessels are participating in an experiment being conducted by Atlantic Trawlers Fishing, Inc., and will be conducting exploratory fishing and comparative data collection in portions of the Georges Bank year-round groundfish closed areas (Closed Areas I and II). The EFP will exempt the vessels from the prohibition from commercially fishing in Closed Areas I and II, the groundfish minimum mesh size requirement in the Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Area, and groundfish minimum fish sizes and possession limits (for sampling purposes only).

EXEMPTIONS

1. Prohibition from fishing in Closed Areas I and II at § 648.81(a) and (b), as specified below in the Conditions and Requirements;
2. Minimum mesh size of 6.5 inches for multispecies vessels fishing in the Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Area specified at § 648.80(a)(4)(i); and
3. For sampling purposes only: The minimum groundfish size restrictions; groundfish possession limits; prohibited possession of non-allocated groundfish stocks; and gear-specific fish possession restrictions.

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CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Exemptions are valid provided the above listed vessels comply with the following conditions and requirements:

1. This EFP must be carried aboard the vessel and accompany valid Federal fishery permits for any species which is landed;
2. All undersized fish must be discarded as soon as practicable following data collection and may not be landed;
3. Participating vessels should contact the Northeast Fishery Observer Program Pre-Trip Notification System coordinator directly (508-495-2377), at which time they should reference the EFP, rather than the vessel, going through the automated selection process;
4. The vessel is exempt from the prohibition from fishing in certain portions of Closed Areas I and II during certain time periods and under specific conditions. All trips into closed areas must be accompanied by an industry-funded certified at-sea monitor.

Closed Area I - The central portion of Closed Area I is open through February 15, 2015. The vessel must use selective trawl gear (haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl) when fishing in the Closed Area I access area, defined by straight lines connecting the following points:

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
A	41°04'	69°01'
B	41°26'	68°30'
C	40°58'	68°30'
D	40°55'	68°53'
A	41°04'	69°01'

Closed Area II - The central portion of Closed Area II is open through June 15, 2014, and from November 1, 2014, through February 15, 2015. The vessel must use selective trawl gear (haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl) when fishing in the Closed Area II access area, defined by straight lines connecting the following points:

Point	N. lat.	W. long.	Note
A	41°30'	(66°34.8')	(1)
B	41°30'	67°20'	
C	41°50'	67°20'	
D	41°50'	67°10'	
E	42°00'	67°10'	
F	42°00'	(67°00.63')	(2), (3)
A	41°30'	(66°34.8')	(1)

¹ The intersection of 41°30' N. latitude and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, approximate longitude in parentheses.

² The intersection of 42°00' N. latitude and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, approximate longitude in parentheses.

³ From POINT F back to POINT A along the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.



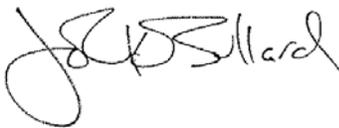
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5. The vessel is exempt from the regulated mesh requirements in the Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Area, and is authorized to use a 6.0-inch diamond mesh codend or a 5.1-inch (130-mm) square mesh codend net, on either a haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl. The EFP does not authorize the use of a smaller mesh codend within the Gulf of Maine Regulated Mesh Area with
6. The vessel must make a series of comparative tows on every trip, according to the description and instructions for the EFP (attachment 1).
7. In accordance with the vessel monitoring system (VMS) instructions issued for this project (attachment 2), the vessels must notify NMFS prior to the start and at the end of each designated EFP trip via their VMS. The vessels must also comply with any other reporting requirements associated with taking a commercial groundfish trip as a sector vessel.
8. The vessels must comply with all other applicable requirements and restrictions specified at 50 CFR part 648, unless specifically exempted in this EFP or a separate permit. The vessels fishing under this EFP remains subject to permit conditions at § 648.4(b);
9. This EFP does not exempt the vessel from any requirements imposed by any state, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, or any other applicable laws.

Activities that do not comply with these provisions automatically render this EFP null and void as of the date of the violation and may subject the violator to fines and/or permit sanctions.

Authorized by:



John K. Bullard
Regional Administrator

I agree to comply with the conditions of this permit.

Signature of Principal Investigator
(permit not valid until signed)

Date

Signature of vessel owner or operator
(permit not valid until signed)

Date

