

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan
(ALWTRP)

ERRATA

1. Column text may be missing due to an alignment error during the printing process.

August 13, 2007

NOAA Fisheries has found that some of the bound versions of the FEIS may be missing text in the left columns for the tables found in Exhibit 1-3, Exhibit 3-2, and/or Exhibit 10-3 (please note: the layout and content of these tables are the same for all three chapters, and the title is consistent- “Proposed ALWTRP Management Alternatives 2 Through 6 Final [Preferred]”).

Exhibit 1-3, Exhibit 3-2, Exhibit 10-3

PROPOSED ALWTRP MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES 2 THROUGH 6 FINAL (PREFERRED)¹
(Requirements in Addition to Current ALWTRP Requirements)²

Fishery/Region	Component	Alternative 2	Alternative 3*	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6 Draft*	Alternative 6 Final (Preferred)
Lobster – Northern Inshore and Nearshore Waters; Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area; and Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area (5/16 – 12/31) ³	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak links on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line Eliminates existing take reduction technology list; 600-lb weak links on all flotation devices or devices attached to buoy line; applies only to Northern Inshore lobster waters and state portion of Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area (May 16 to December 31) 	= Alt. 2	= Alt. 2	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3 but with expanded SAM introduced 6 mos. after publication; SAM effective for 6 mos., then eliminated; DAM eliminated six mos. after publication	= Alt. 6 Draft* but with trawls of five or fewer traps allowed only one buoy line in certain areas (see text)
	Groundline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline year-round (within 12 mos. of rule) 					
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trawls of four or fewer traps allowed only one buoy line; applies only to Northern Nearshore lobster waters, Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area, and Federal portions of Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area (May 16 to December 31) SAM/DAM eliminated 12 mos. after publication of final rule 					
Lobster – Offshore	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak links on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line Buoy line weak link strength of 1,500 lbs 	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal for mid- and South Atlantic (see text)	= Alt. 2	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3 but with expanded SAM introduced 6 mos. after publication; SAM effective for 6 mos., then eliminated; DAM eliminated six mos. after publication	= Alt. 6 Draft*
	Groundline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline year-round (within 12 mos. of rule) 					
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAM/DAM eliminated 12 mos. after publication of final rule Extend southern boundary by following the 100 fa line from 35°30'N to 27°51'N, and then extend out to EEZ 					
Lobster – Great South Channel Restricted Lobster Area (7/1 – 3/31) ³	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak links on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line Buoy line weak link strength of 1,500 lbs in Great South Channel area that overlaps the LMA 2/3 overlap and LMA 3 (July 1 to March 31); 600-lb weak links for other areas 	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal for mid- and South Atlantic (see text)	= Alt. 2	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3 but with expanded SAM introduced 6 mos. after publication; SAM effective for 6 mos., then eliminated; DAM eliminated six mos. after publication	= Alt. 6 Draft*
	Groundline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline year-round (within 12 mos. of rule) 					
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAM/DAM eliminated 12 mos. after publication of final rule 					
Lobster – Southern Nearshore ³	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak links on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line 	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal for mid- and South Atlantic (see text)	= Alt. 2	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3 but with expanded SAM introduced 6 mos. after publication; SAM effective for 6 mos., then eliminated; DAM eliminated six mos. after publication	= Alt. 6 Draft*
	Groundline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline year-round (within 12 mos. of rule) 					
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply all requirements to currently unregulated portion of Lobster Management Area 6 that is not included in exempted waters DAM eliminated 12 months after publication of final rule Extend southern boundary by following the 100 fa line from 35°30'N to 27°51'N, and then extend inshore to coast or exemption line; area south of 35°30'N would use the 100 fa line to define Southern Nearshore Lobster Waters 					

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PROPOSED ALWTRP MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES 2 THROUGH 6 FINAL (PREFERRED)¹
(Requirements in Addition to Current ALWTRP Requirements)²

Fishery/Region	Component	Alternative 2	Alternative 3*	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6 Draft*	Alternative 6 Final (Preferred)
Black Sea Bass, Scup, Conch/Whelk, Shrimp, Hagfish, and Jonah Crab (trap/pot fisheries) ⁴	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak links on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line Buoy line weak link strength of 1,500 lbs for fisheries in Offshore lobster waters and Great South Channel that overlaps the LMA 2/3 Overlap and LMA 3 (July 1 to March 31); 600-lb weak links for fisheries in other areas 	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal for mid- and South Atlantic (see text)	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal for South Atlantic (see text)	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3 but with expanded SAM introduced 6 mos. after publication; SAM effective for 6 mos., then eliminated; DAM eliminated six mos. after publication	= Alt. 6 Draft* but with trawls of five or fewer traps allowed only one buoy line in certain areas (see text)
	Groundline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline year-round within 12 mos. of rule's publication; effective six months after publication in SAM waters and in Cape Cod Bay between January 1 and May 15. 					
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fold in under existing ALWTRP regulations (e.g., trawls of four or fewer traps allowed only one buoy line in Northern Nearshore lobster waters, Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area and Federal portions of Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area from May 16 to December 31) Define southern boundary using definitions discussed under Southern Nearshore Lobster Waters and Offshore Lobster Waters Apply all requirements to currently unregulated portion of Lobster Management Area 6 that is not included in exempted waters SAM/DAM eliminated 12 mos. after publication of final rule 					
Red Crab (trap/pot) ⁴	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak links on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line Buoy line weak link breaking strength of 2,000 lbs for operations in offshore lobster waters 	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal for mid- and South Atlantic (see text)	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal for South Atlantic (see text)	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3 but with expanded SAM introduced 6 mos. after publication; SAM effective for 6 mos., then eliminated; DAM eliminated six mos. after publication	= Alt. 6 Draft*
	Groundline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline year-round (within 12 mos. of rule) 					
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fold in under existing ALWTRP regulations Define southern boundary using definitions discussed under Southern Nearshore Lobster Waters and Offshore Lobster Waters Apply all requirements to currently unregulated portion of Lobster Management Area 6 that is not included in exempted waters SAM/DAM eliminated 12 mos. after publication of final rule 					
Gillnet – Northeast, Anchored ⁵	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak links on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line Increase number of 1,100-lb weak links per panel from one to five or more, depending on net size, year-round 	= Alt. 2 (but requirements are seasonal south of 40°N)	= Alt. 2	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3 but with expanded SAM introduced 6 mos. after publication; SAM effective for 6 mos., then eliminated; DAM eliminated six mos. after publication	= Alt. 6 Draft* with additional option for net panel weak link configuration (see text)
	Groundline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline year-round (within 12 mos. of rule) 					
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAM/DAM eliminated 12 mos. after publication of final rule All anchored gillnets must be anchored with the holding power of at least a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor at each end of net string Fold in Northeast anchored float gillnet fishery under existing ALWTRP regulations 					

Exhibit 1-3, Exhibit 3-2, Exhibit 10-3

PROPOSED ALWTRP MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES 2 THROUGH 6 FINAL (PREFERRED)¹
(Requirements in Addition to Current ALWTRP Requirements)²

Fishery/Region	Component	Alternative 2	Alternative 3*	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6 Draft*	Alternative 6 Final (Preferred)
Gillnet – Northeast, Driftnet ⁶	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One 1,100-lb weak link per panel when fishing tended gear at night 	= Alt. 2 (but requirements are seasonal south of 40°N)	= Alt. 2	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3 but with expanded SAM introduced 6 mos. after publication; SAM effective for 6 mos., then eliminated; DAM eliminated six mos. after publication	= Alt. 6 Draft* but without weak link requirement
	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fold in and regulate same as Mid-Atlantic driftnet Seasonal closures in Cape Cod Bay (Jan. 1 to May 15) and Great South Channel (April 1-June 30) 					
Gillnet – Mid-Atlantic, Anchored ⁷	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak links on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line All nets must return to port with the vessel <i>or</i> contain five or more (rather than one) 1,100-lb. weak links per net panel, depending on size (and be anchored at each end of net string with an anchor having the holding power of a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor, as previously required) 	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal (see text)	= Alt. 2	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3 but with expanded SAM introduced 6 mos. after publication; SAM effective for 6 mos., then eliminated; DAM eliminated six mos. after publication	= Alt. 6 Draft* but with (1) option for net panel weak link configuration; and (2) alternative weak link and anchoring option for vessels within 300 yds. of NC shoreline (see text)
	Groundline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline year-round (within 12 mos. of rule) 					
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time period for all requirements expanded to year-round (vs. current period of Dec. 1 to March 31) Includes gillnets that are weighted to bottom but do not have an anchor on either end and gillnets that are anchored at each end but not weighted to the bottom DAM eliminated 12 months after publication of rule Waters between 72°30'W and EEZ that are south of VA/NC border and north of SC/GA border folded into Mid-Atlantic anchored gillnet regulations 					
Gillnet – Mid-Atlantic, Driftnet ⁷	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One 1,100-lb weak link per panel when fishing tended gear at night 	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal (see text)	= Alt. 2	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3	= Alt. 6 Draft* but without weak link requirement
	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time period for all requirements expanded to year-round (vs. current period of Dec. 1 to March 31) Waters between 72°30'W and EEZ that are south of VA/NC border and north of SC/GA border folded into Mid-Atlantic drift gillnet regulations 					

Exhibit 1-3, Exhibit 3-2, Exhibit 10-3

PROPOSED ALWTRP MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES 2 THROUGH 6 FINAL (PREFERRED)¹
(Requirements in Addition to Current ALWTRP Requirements)²

Fishery/Region	Component	Alternative 2	Alternative 3*	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6 Draft*	Alternative 6 Final (Preferred)
Shark Gillnet – Southeast ⁸	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend 80°00' W longitude boundary and associated requirements to EEZ Replace current time period (November 15 to March 31) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 32° N to 29°00'N: Restrictions apply from November 15 to April 15 From 29°N to 26°46.5'N: Restrictions apply from December 1 to March 31 (keep 27°51'N as southern line of “Restricted Area” during this time period) Strikenet gear in Southeast U.S. Restricted Area must be removed immediately if right, humpback, or fin whale moves within 3 nautical miles (year-round) Require use of vessel monitoring system in lieu of 100% observer coverage 	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal (see text)	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal (see text)	Expanded SAM (see text)	= Alt. 3	= Alt 6 Draft*, but driftnet, night/visibility set and spotter plane restrictions and VMS requirement are removed in waters east of 80°W; current observer requirements retained north of 27°51'N; VMS allowed as a substitute for observer coverage in the waters between 27°51'N and 26°46.5'N ⁹
Gillnet – Southeast ¹⁰	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend 80°00' W longitude boundary and associated requirements to EEZ Replace current area/time management measures as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From SC/GA border to 29°00'N: Restrictions apply from November 15 to April 15 From 29°00'N to 27°51'N: Restrictions apply from December 1 to March 31 Require gear modification similar to Mid-Atlantic anchored gillnets that are weighted to bottom but do not have anchor at either end (e.g., weak links in net panels and on buoys; year-round) 	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal (see text)	= Alt. 2 but requirements are seasonal (see text)	Meet existing requirements for Mid-Atlantic gillnets	= Alt. 3	= Alt 6 Draft*, but with 1) an additional option for net panel weak link configuration (see text); and 2) removal of night set restrictions in waters east of 80°W
	Weak links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak links on all flotation devices and/or weighted devices attached to the buoy line All nets must return to port with the vessel <i>or</i> contain five or more (rather than one) 1,100-lb. weak links per net panel, depending on size (and be anchored at each end of net string with an anchor having the holding power of a 22-lb Danforth-style anchor, as previously required) 					
	Groundline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline year-round (within 12 mos. of rule) 					

Exhibit 1-3, Exhibit 3-2, Exhibit 10-3

PROPOSED ALWTRP MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES 2 THROUGH 6 FINAL (PREFERRED)¹
(Requirements in Addition to Current ALWTRP Requirements)²

Fishery/Region	Component	Alternative 2	Alternative 3*	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6 Draft*	Alternative 6 Final (Preferred)
All Fisheries	Exempted Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas landward of 72 COLREGS line, with exceptions for Boston Harbor, Gardiners Bay (NY), and portions of the Maine coast • No requirement for sinking and/or neutrally buoyant groundline in waters greater than 280 fathoms 	= Alt. 2	= Alt. 2	= Alt. 2	= Alt. 2	= Alt 6 Draft*, but 1) modified exempt areas in Maine, Massachusetts and Long Island Sound; and 2) no net panel weak link or anchoring requirement in waters greater than 280 fathoms
	Gear Marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove current ALWTRP gear marking scheme (except net panel marking for shark gillnet gear) • Mark surface buoys with vessel or permit number • Mark buoy lines with one 4-inch mark every 10 fathoms or one 4-inch mark in the center of buoy lines 10 fathoms or less (shark vessels with buoy lines < 4 feet are exempt) 	= Alt. 2	= Alt. 2	= Alt. 2	= Alt. 2	= Alt 6 Draft*, but one 4-inch mark midway on all buoy lines

Key:

* = Specified as a Preferred Alternative in the DEIS

Notes:

¹ The requirements discussed under each alternative would be effective six months after publication of the final rule, unless otherwise noted.

² See Section 1.2.1 for a description of the current ALWTRP requirements. Note that Alternative One is the No Action Alternative.

³ Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot fishery in the 2003 List of Fisheries.

⁴ Atlantic mixed species trap/pot fishery in the 2003 List of Fisheries. The trap/pot fisheries affected by this action could include other species (e.g., blue crab), although these species are caught primarily in exempt waters.

⁵ Northeast sink gillnet fishery in the 2003 List of Fisheries

⁶ Northeast drift gillnet fishery in the 2003 List of Fisheries

⁷ Mid-Atlantic gillnet fishery in the 2003 List of Fisheries

⁸ Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet fishery in the 2003 List of Fisheries

⁹ VMS substituted for observer requirement south of 27° 51' N. lat. effective thirty days after publication of the final rule.

¹⁰ Southeast Atlantic gillnet fishery in the 2003 List of Fisheries