



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

JUN 03 2010

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter clarifies several provisions of the regulations implementing Amendment 16 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, including vessel monitoring system (VMS) activity declaration requirements for sector and common pool vessels. Also, please find attached a comprehensive list of NE multispecies stock areas with maps and coordinates.

**MEASURES THAT APPLY TO COMMON POOL AND SECTOR VESSELS:**

**VMS Activity Declarations**

Prior to leaving port, a vessel with a NE multispecies limited access permit that is fishing on a NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS), on a sector trip, or in multiple broad stock areas (BSAs) on the same trip must send an activity declaration through its VMS unit and must specify several pieces of information in this VMS declaration. Each portion of the declaration is independent and must be filled out in order for the declaration to be complete and to have it accepted. Please note that the VMS activity declaration is separate from the trip start hail requirement that a sector vessel makes to its dockside monitoring provider.

**NE Multispecies VMS Declaration Screen.** When a NE multispecies limited access permitted vessel (sector and common pool) intending to fish for or fishing for, possessing, or landing groundfish makes a VMS declaration into the NE multispecies fishery, it must, at a minimum, complete these required sections: (1) Gear type; (2) all BSAs in which the vessel may fish on that trip (see Attachment 1 for a map of these areas); (3) whether it will fish on a NE multispecies DAS, or on a sector trip not using DAS; and (4) and the “Fisheries Program” that the vessel intends to fish in - see below for further explanation of these entries. A sector vessel not fishing on a NE multispecies DAS must still make an area selection under “Fisheries Program” even though the software screen may indicate the use of DAS (the vessel will not be charged DAS). A sector vessel may not declare in the B Regular DAS Program.

**(1) Gear Type:** Select only one of the following: Trawl, hook, Day gillnet, or Trip gillnet.

**(2) Broad Stock Area (BSA):** Select all groundfish BSAs that may be fished on that trip. Declared BSAs are used to attribute vessel catch to stock areas to determine real-time catch information, until the vessel trip report (VTR) is received. At least a portion of the BSAs declared into for a specific trip must overlap the area(s) declared under the “Fisheries Program” (see paragraph 4 below).



Note: VMS Catch Reports – If the vessel selects more than one BSA, prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line upon returning to port, it must complete one trip-level VMS catch report, attributing catch to each BSA fished regardless of how many BSAs are actually fished. If the vessel selects a single BSA, it must complete the VMS catch report prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line with only the VTR serial number filled in. Common Pool vessels must send a daily VMS catch report if declared into the U.S./Canada Management Area, the Regular B DAS Program, or a special access program (SAP). Sector vessels are exempt from daily VMS catch reporting when participating in these programs. Attached to this letter is a list of the four BSAs with maps and coordinates.

**(3) Sector or Common Pool Trip:** This section requires that a vessel select either a DAS or non-DAS trip. A vessel fishing in the common pool must select a "common pool or sector trip on a multis DAS". A sector vessel has two options - select either a "common pool or sector trip on a multis DAS," or "sector trip when not on a multis DAS."

For a sector vessel, this portion of the declaration determines if the vessel will be charged NE multispecies DAS for that trip, and establishes possession limits for additional species. If a sector vessel intends to fish for, or does fish for, possess, or land species for which a DAS is required (e.g., monkfish Category C or D vessels, and vessels fishing for or landing dogfish or skate wings), it must select "common pool or sector trip on a multis DAS". A declaration of a "sector trip not on a multis DAS" will result in no DAS being charged, regardless of the information displayed alongside the programs listed in Fisheries Programs identified below. A sector vessel declaring into the monkfish fishery will automatically be charged groundfish DAS in accordance with the monkfish regulations. A vessel will not be allocated B DAS while participating in a sector.

**(4) Fisheries Program:** Select the intended Fisheries Program (either regular access or the appropriate special management program). A common pool vessel must select the appropriate DAS if there is a separate selection for A or B-DAS below the area. A sector vessel not on a DAS is reminded to select the area only, without making additional selections for DAS; for example, if a vessel declares a "sector trip not on a multis DAS" and the Eastern US/CA "Area 5" as its Fisheries Program, the vessel should ignore the associated DAS selections below the Area 5 selection. Additionally, if the vessel in the above example selects the Eastern US/CA "Area 2 (A DAS)," no DAS will be charged.

Note: There are also two optional sections, which include the "Add Monkfish Option" and "Add Concurrent Scallop DAS Trip." Select the monkfish option as a part of your normal declaration prior to leaving port IF you may exceed the monkfish incidental catch limit and want to land the additional monkfish. By selecting the monkfish option, you preserve the opportunity to change your VMS declaration while at sea to a monkfish DAS trip. To change your declaration to a monkfish DAS trip at sea, you must fish within the monkfish Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA). If you fish any part of your trip in the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA), you forfeit the opportunity to change to a monkfish DAS trip while at sea. If you declare the

monkfish option, but find that you do not need to change to a monkfish DAS trip, no further action is needed (simply end your trip on the declaration (with the monkfish option) sent prior to leaving port) and you will not be charged any monkfish DAS for that trip. Select "Add Concurrent Scallop DAS Trip" if you are a limited access scallop DAS vessel fishing with trawl gear and intend to land or land your allowance of scallops for that trip by calling the interactive voice response (IVR) call-in system (1-888-284-4904) to report your scallop DAS trip after sending your groundfish VMS declaration

**VMS Declaration for a Sector Vessel While Transiting Between Dealers.** A sector vessel that has declared a "sector trip when not on a multis day," and that intends to offload or offloads catch in more than one location for that trip, as indicated in its Trip End Hail report, should declare DOF (declared out of fishery) via the VMS unit prior to leaving the first port to steam to the second port. For such trips, all gear must be stowed properly while transiting under this declaration to the second port of landing.

**When to Use the IVR Call-in System.** For all groundfish trips, or other trips that require the use of a NE multispecies DAS, if you intend to fish or fish completely inside the VMS demarcation line, or fish both inside and outside the demarcation line on the same trip, you must: (1) Declare the trip through the IVR call-in system (1-888-284-4904); and (2) for a vessel that has an operational VMS unit onboard the vessel, declare the activity code "DOF" (Declare Out of Fishery) on your VMS unit. The IVR call-in is necessary because the VMS starts and ends trips as the vessel crosses the VMS demarcation line to and from port and could capture multiple separate trips. Declaring DOF through the VMS ensures that the trip dates have only one associated fishing declaration. Similar to declaring a trip via the VMS unit, a vessel fishing inside, or both inside and outside of the VMS demarcation line on a single trip, and that is, therefore, required to use the IVR call-in system, must specify gear type, BSA, and common pool or sector trip through the IVR system, as explained above.

A vessel issued a limited access NE multispecies Handgear A or Small Vessel permit and intending to fish or fishing exclusively in one BSA, that does not have, and is not required to use an operational VMS, must utilize the IVR system. A vessel issued either of these permit categories may not fish in multiple BSAs without an operational VMS unit.

Note: If you are unable to reach or complete your call into the IVR system, you may call the IVR back-up message line in the Office of Law Enforcement at 1-888-487-9994. Leave all the required information, including your name and a contact telephone number, and a VMS team member will provide the requested service and call you back.

**Monkfish VMS Declaration Screen.** A vessel with a limited access NE multispecies permit intending to fish for, or fishing for, possessing, or landing monkfish must declare into the monkfish fishery using the monkfish VMS declaration screen in VMS or the IVR call-in system. Similar to activity declarations for the NE multispecies fishery, the monkfish activity declaration must specify gear type, NE multispecies BSA, and, for vessels using VMS, the fisheries program. In addition, monkfish activity declarations

must also specify the monkfish management area (NFMA exclusively, or any part of trip in the SFMA) to be fished.

Note: BSA selection - If a vessel has an allocation of multispecies DAS (Monkfish Category C or D vessel), then both monkfish and multispecies DAS will be charged during the trip; in this situation you must declare all groundfish BSA(s) to be fished. Once your multispecies DAS are exhausted, you will be charged only monkfish DAS and therefore, no longer need to declare the groundfish BSA(s); in this situation you may select "Monk DAS-only – No BSA required".

Note: Observer Program Requirement – If you declare a monkfish trip and use your allocation of multispecies DAS, then you have an observer requirement and must provide advanced notice of the trip start to the Observer Program (see below).

For additional Northeast VMS Program information, including Amendment 16 VMS requirements, how to contact the NE VMS Team, listing of all valid VMS codes and their definitions, DAS charging rules, and images of the VMS declaration screens, please log into the NE VMS website at:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/fishermen/multispecies/gom/VMSRegs.htm>

The website also includes a helpful VMS User Instruction for vessel owners and operators at:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/fishermen/multispecies/gom/vms/VMS.INSTRUCTIONS.pdf>.

#### **Requirements to Utilize the 48-hour Pre-Trip Notification System**

A vessel issued a limited access NE multispecies permit, whether fishing on a sector trip or under a NE multispecies DAS in the common pool, must notify NMFS's Northeast Fishery Observer Program at least 48 hours before leaving port on a groundfish trip (under a NE multispecies DAS or on a sector trip). For a vessel on trips shorter than 48 hours, the vessel owner may provide notification for multiple trips up to 9 days in advance. For a trip on which monkfish DAS is declared, if the vessel has an allocation of NE multispecies that must be used concurrently, the vessel must also notify the Northeast Fishery Observer Program at least 48 hours before leaving port. A vessel fishing on a monkfish-only trip is not subject to the notification requirement under the NE Multispecies FMP. To provide this notification, please visit <https://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS>, submit an email to [NEFSC.PTNS@noaa.gov](mailto:NEFSC.PTNS@noaa.gov) or call 508-681-9104.

#### **Vessel Trip Reports (VTR)**

**Availability of New VTR Logbooks.** In March 2010, NMFS began issuing new VTR logbooks. These new logbooks have a sixth copy for use by dockside monitors. The new VTR logbooks are available from your local port agents and from NMFS's Fishery Statistics Office in Gloucester, MA. You may either pick up a new VTR logbook in person, or request that one be mailed to you by calling 978-281-9246.

**How to Use Existing VTR Logbooks for Sector Trips.** Although new VTR logbooks are available, you may be able to continue using your existing logbooks. For a sector vessel, if your state does not require a copy of your VTRs you may use the blue state copy for your dockside monitor or sector manager. If your current VTR logbook does not have enough copies for you to provide one to your dockside monitor or sector manager, you must obtain the new version by contacting the Fishery Statistics Office or your local port agent.

#### **Office of Law Enforcement Duty Agents**

For your information, should you have any enforcement emergencies, you may contact the Office of Law Enforcement at: 1-800-853-1964. For general enforcement questions, you can reach your local duty agent 24 hours/day at the phone numbers listed below.

<b>District</b>	<b>Region Covered</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
1	Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts North of Green Harbor	617-892-0265
2	Massachusetts from Green Harbor South, Rhode Island, and Connecticut	508-989-4975
3	New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia	908-339-1148

#### **MEASURES THAT APPLY ONLY TO SECTOR VESSELS:**

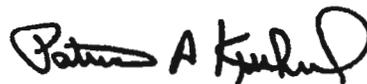
##### **NE Multispecies Stock Areas**

On March 30, 2010, a permit holder letter was sent out on Amendment 16 and Framework Adjustment 44 regulations explaining that sector vessels are prohibited from fishing in a particular stock area unless that sector is allocated, or acquires through an ACE transfer, ACE for all allocated groundfish stocks caught in that stock area. However, that letter did not clearly specify a consolidated list of applicable sector stock areas. Attachment 2 to this letter provides a consolidated list of all NE multispecies stock areas with maps and coordinates.

##### **Prohibition on Discarding of Legal-Sized Allocated Fish**

A sector vessel is prohibited from discarding legal-sized fish, or pieces of fish, of any stock allocated to sectors. Therefore, unmarketable fish or pieces of fish that are brought into port cannot be later taken out to sea by a NE multispecies vessel and discarded.

Sincerely,

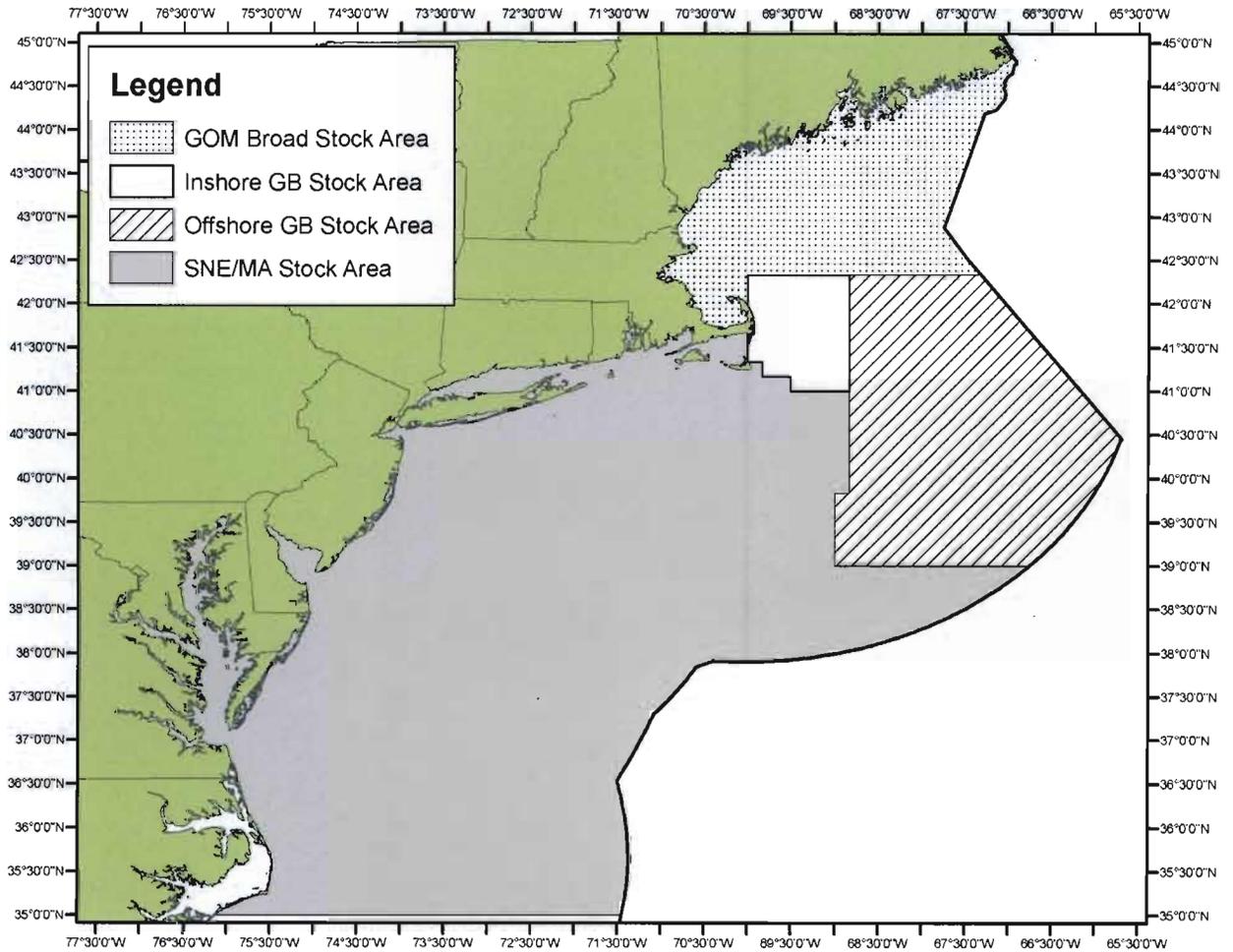


Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

cc: New England Fishery Management Council

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Amendment 16 Broad Stock Reporting Areas (BSAs)**



BSA 1 – Gulf of Maine

BSA 2 – Inshore Georges Bank

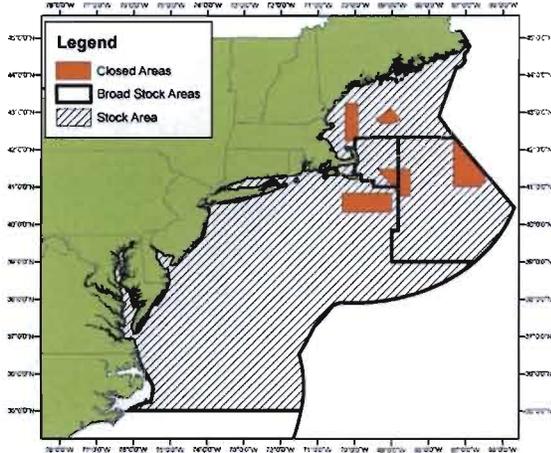
BSA 3 – Offshore Georges Bank

BSA 4 – Southern New England

## ATTACHMENT 2

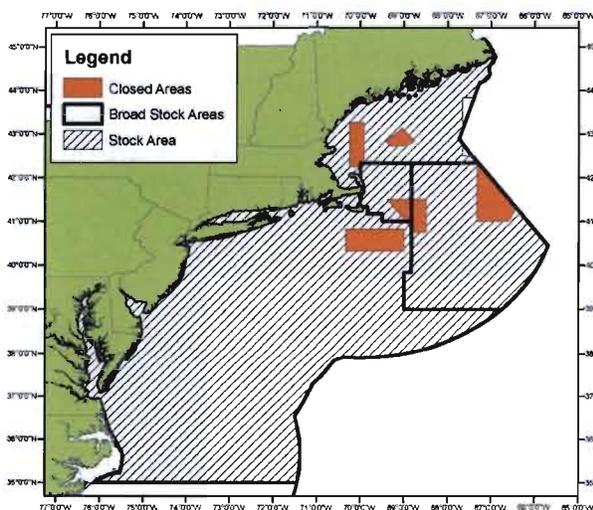
### NE Multispecies Stock Areas

#### White Hake, Witch Flounder, and Redfish Stock Area



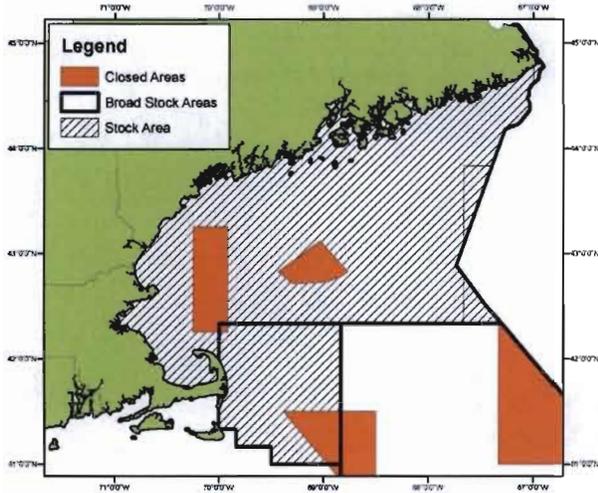
This stock area is bounded on the north and west by the coastline of the United States, bounded on the south and east by a line running east from the intersection of the east-facing coastline of Outer Banks, NC, at 35° 00' N. lat. to the boundary of the EEZ, and running northward to the U.S.-Canada border.

#### American Plaice and Pollock Stock Area



Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
AMP1	(1)	67° 00'
AMP2	(2)	67° 00'
AMP3	43° 50'	(2)
AMP4	43° 50'	67° 40'
AMP5	(3)	67° 40'
AMP6	(4)	67° 40'
AMP7	42° 30'	67° 40'
AMP8	42° 30'	(2)
AMP9	35° 00'	(2)
AMP10	35°	(5)
<sup>1</sup> Intersection of south-facing ME coastline and 67° 00' W. long.		
<sup>2</sup> U.S./Canada maritime boundary.		
<sup>3</sup> U.S./Canada maritime boundary (northern intersection with 67° 40' N. lat.).		
<sup>4</sup> U.S./Canada maritime boundary (southern intersection with 67° 40' N. lat.).		
<sup>5</sup> Intersection of east-facing coastline of Outer Banks, NC, and 35° 00' N. lat.		

### CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder Stock Area



Point	N. Lat.	W. Long
1	(1)	70 00
2	(2)	70 00
3	41 20	(3)
4	41 20	69 50
5	41 10	69 50
6	41 10	69 30
7	41 00	69 30
8	41 00	68 50
9	42 20	68 50
10	42 20	(4)

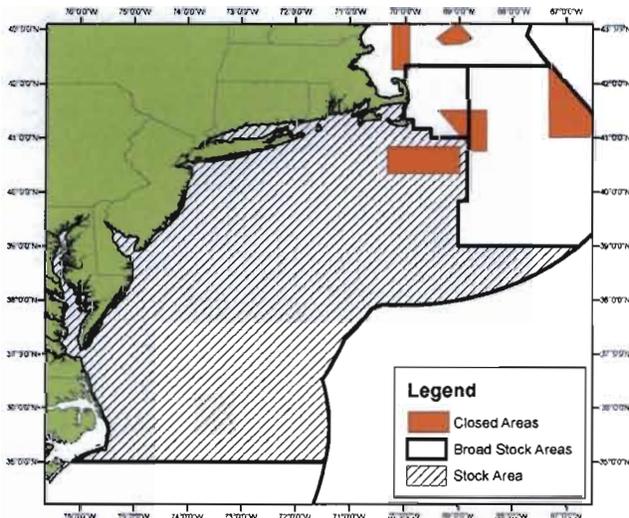
<sup>1</sup>Intersection of south-facing coastline of Cape Cod, MA, and 70° 00' W. long.

<sup>2</sup>Intersection of north-facing coastline of Nantucket, MA, and 70° 00' W. long.

<sup>3</sup>Intersection of east-facing coastline of Nantucket, MA, and 41° 20' N. lat.

<sup>4</sup>U.S./Canada maritime boundary.

### SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder Stock Area



Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
SNE1	35° 00'	(1)
SNE2	35° 00'	(2)
SNE3	39° 00'	(2)
SNE4	39° 00'	69° 00'
SNE5	39° 50'	69° 00'
SNE7	39° 50'	68° 50'
SNE8	41° 00'	68° 50'
SNE9	41° 00'	69° 30'
SNE10	41° 10'	69° 30'
SNE11	41° 10'	69° 50'
SNE12	41° 20'	69° 50'
SNE13	41° 20'	(3)
SNE14	(4)	70° 00'
SNE15	(5)	70° 00'

<sup>1</sup>Intersection of east-facing coastline of Outer Banks, NC, and 35° 00' N. lat.

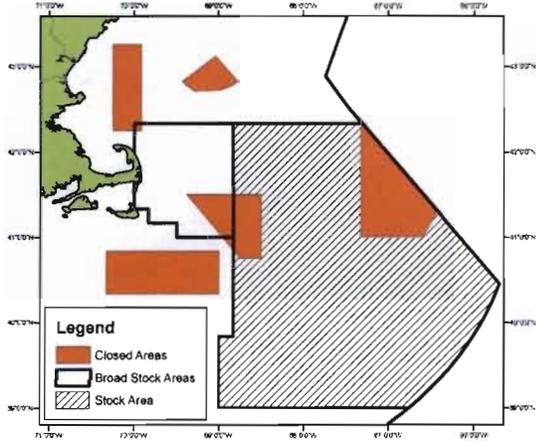
<sup>2</sup>U.S./Canada maritime boundary.

<sup>3</sup>Intersection of east-facing coastline of Nantucket, MA, and 41° 20' N. lat.

<sup>4</sup>Intersection of north-facing coastline of Nantucket, MA, and 70° 00' W. long.

<sup>5</sup>Intersection of south-facing coastline of Cape Cod, MA, and 70° 00' W. long.

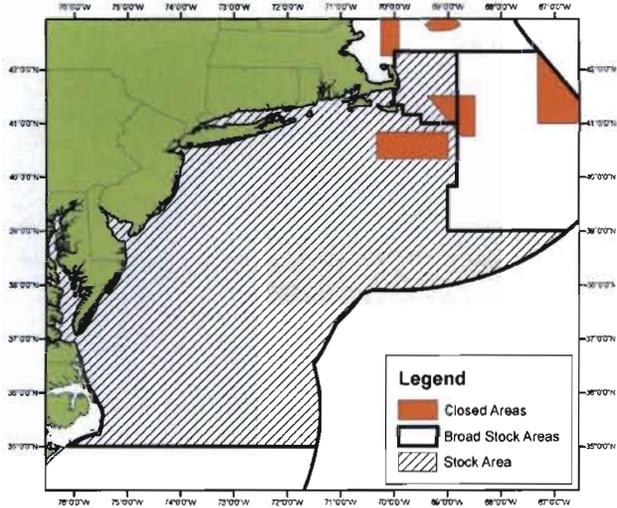
**GB Yellowtail Flounder and GB Winter Flounder Stock Area**



Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
1	(1)	70° 00'
2	42° 20'	70° 00'
3	42° 20'	(2)
4	35° 00'	(2)
5	35° 00'	(3)

<sup>1</sup>Intersection of the north-facing coastline of Cape Cod, MA, and 70° 00' W. long.  
<sup>2</sup>U.S./Canada maritime boundary.  
<sup>3</sup>Intersection of the east-facing coastline of Outer Banks, NC, and 35° 00' N. lat.

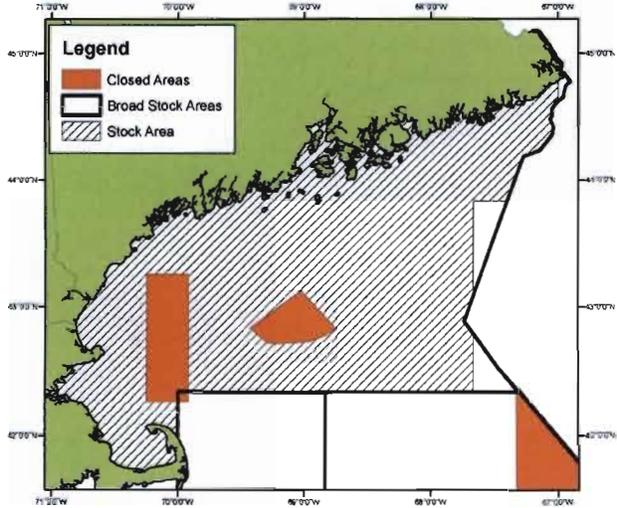
**SNEMA Winter Flounder Stock Area**



Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
1	(1)	70 00
2	42 20	70 00
3	42 20	68 50
4	39 50	68 50
5	39 50	69 00
6	39 00	69 00
7	39 00	(2)
8	35 00	(2)
9	35 00	(3)

<sup>1</sup>Intersection of the north-facing Coastline of Cape Cod, MA, and 70° 00' W. long.  
<sup>2</sup>U.S./Canada maritime boundary.  
<sup>3</sup>The intersection of the east-facing coastline of Outer Banks, NC, and 35° 00' N. lat.

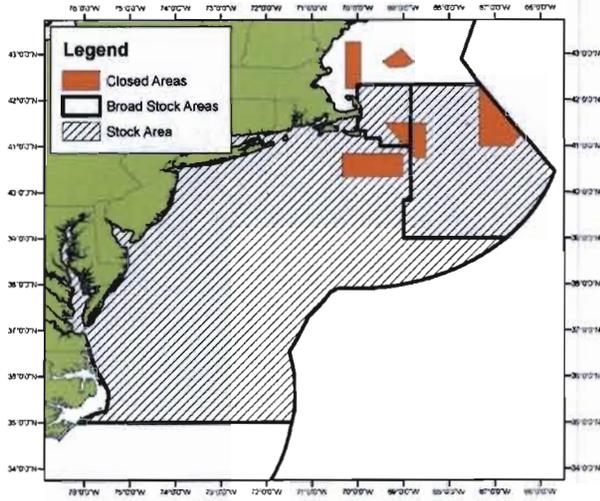
**GOM Cod, GOM Haddock, and GOM Winter Flounder Stock Area**



Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GOM1	(1)	70° 00'
GOM2	42° 20'	70° 00'
GOM3	42° 20'	67° 40'
GOM4	(2)	67° 40'
GOM5	(3)	67° 40'
GOM6	43° 50'	67° 40'
GOM7	43° 50'	(4)
GOM8	(4)	67° 00'
GOM9	(5)	67° 00'

<sup>1</sup>Intersection of the north-facing coastline of Cape Cod, MA, and 70° 00' W. long.  
<sup>2</sup>U.S./Canada maritime boundary (southern intersection with 67° 40' W. long.).  
<sup>3</sup>U.S./Canada maritime boundary (northern intersection with 67° 40' W. long.)  
<sup>4</sup>U.S./Canada maritime boundary  
<sup>5</sup>Intersection of the south-facing ME coastline and 67° 00' W. long.

### GB Cod and GB Haddock Stock Area



Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
USCA1	42° 20'	68° 50'
USCA X1	42° 20'	(1)
USCA5	39° 00'	(1)
USCA X2	39° 00'	69° 00'
USCA X3	39° 50'	69° 00'
USCA2	39° 50'	68° 50'
USCA1	42° 20'	68° 50'

<sup>1</sup>U.S./Canada maritime boundary.