



Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
Date Issued: 6/29/2012

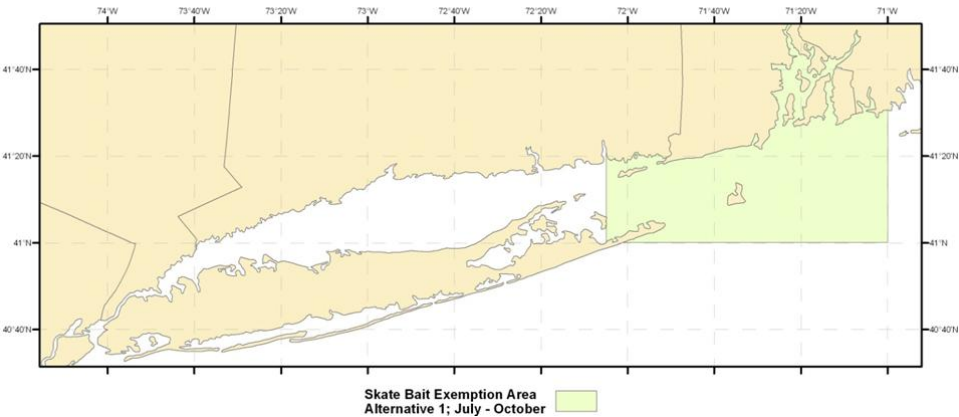
Skate Permit Holders

Southern New England Skate Bait Trawl Exempted Fishery

Effective Date: July 1, 2012

NMFS has modified the regulations to allow vessels issued a Federal skate permit and a Skate Bait Letter of Authorization (LOA) to fish for skates in a portion of Southern New England (SNE) from July through October of each year, outside of the Northeast (NE) multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) program.

Frequently Asked Questions

<p>When and where is the exemption?</p>	<p>The exemption occurs in a portion of SNE (see below) from July through October of each year.</p> <p>SNE Skate Bait Trawl Exemption Area, July - October</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="406 1407 1453 1638"> <thead> <tr> <th>Point</th> <th>N. lat.</th> <th>W. long.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SBT 1.....</td> <td>Southeastern MA</td> <td>71° 00'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SBT 2.....</td> <td>41° 00'</td> <td>71° 00'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SBT 3.....</td> <td>41° 00'</td> <td>72° 05'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SBT 4.....</td> <td>Southern CT</td> <td>72° 05'</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Point	N. lat.	W. long.	SBT 1.....	Southeastern MA	71° 00'	SBT 2.....	41° 00'	71° 00'	SBT 3.....	41° 00'	72° 05'	SBT 4.....	Southern CT	72° 05'
Point	N. lat.	W. long.														
SBT 1.....	Southeastern MA	71° 00'														
SBT 2.....	41° 00'	71° 00'														
SBT 3.....	41° 00'	72° 05'														
SBT 4.....	Southern CT	72° 05'														
<p>What permits do I need to participate?</p>	<p>You will need a Federal skate permit and a valid Skate Bait LOA from the Regional Administrator with an exemption from the skate wing possession limits. This allows you to land whole skates for use as bait. Currently, you may possess and land up to 25,000 lb of skates of less than 23 inches total length.</p>															

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

What gear must I use in this exemption?	You must use legal NE multispecies trawl gear (6.5-inch mesh codend or larger).
What declaration should I make?	If you have a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) unit, you should declare out-of-fishery (DOF). Trips that qualify under this exemption are not part of the NE multispecies fishery. If you do not have a VMS unit, no declaration is necessary.
Do I need to use DAS when participating in this exemption?	No. If you are participating in this exemption, you are exempt from the requirements of the NE multispecies regulations. This includes the requirement to use DAS while targeting skates.
Can I participate if I am in a sector?	Yes, simply declare DOF on your VMS unit. You will not be required to use DAS on this trip, and you will not have groundfish discards counted against your sector's Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE).
Can I keep groundfish caught as bycatch?	No, you may not retain any groundfish on these trips. If you would like to retain groundfish in addition to skate bait, you must declare into the groundfish fishery at the beginning of the trip.
Do I still need to call in for an observer?	No, you do not need to notify the Pre-Trip Notification System prior to your trip. However, your trip may still be selected for observer coverage.