

Science, Service, Stewardship



Vertical Line Risk Reduction Proposals

2012 ALWTRT Meeting

January 9, 2012

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Proposal Criteria

- Location
- Baseline
- Proposed Management Approach
 - latent effort
 - new technology
- Monitoring
- Enforcement
- How does the proposal reduce risk?



Proposals by Region

1. Mid-Atlantic

- NMFS

2. Southeast

- NMFS

3. Northeast

- New Hampshire Dept. of Fish and Game
- Maine District C-9
- Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
- NMFS

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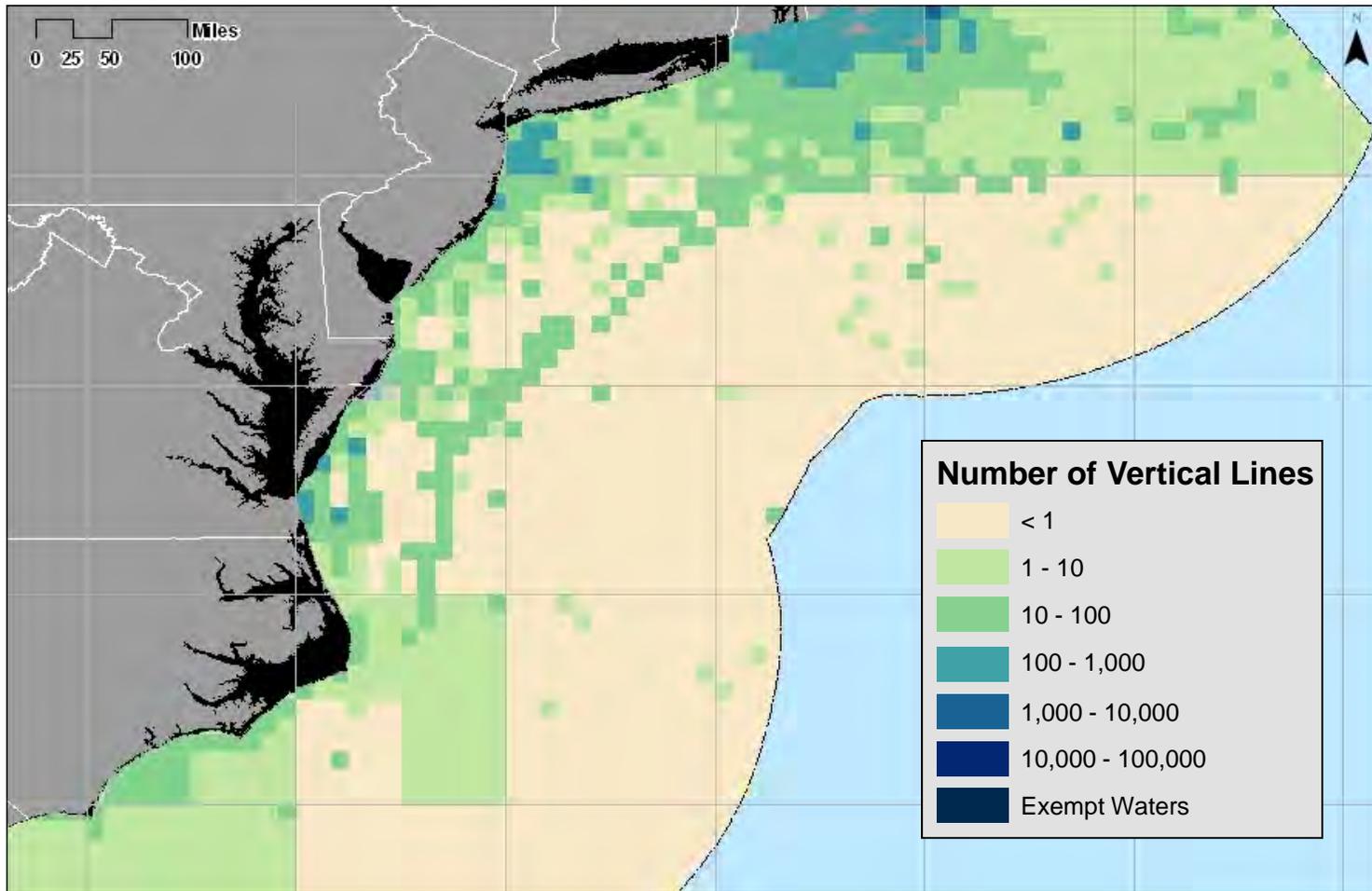


Mid-Atlantic



Mid-Atlantic

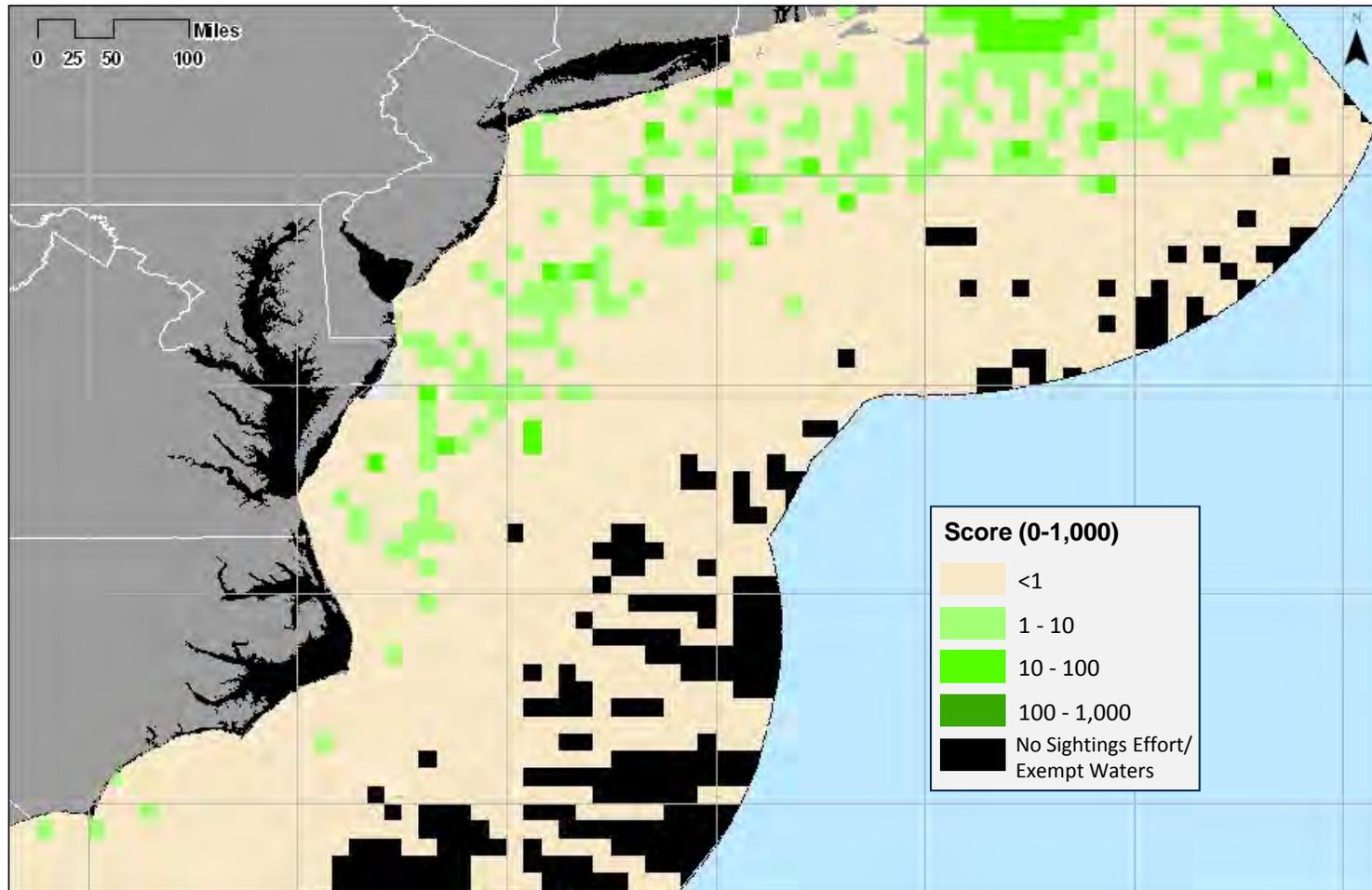
Average Number of Vertical Lines ~ All Fisheries





Mid-Atlantic

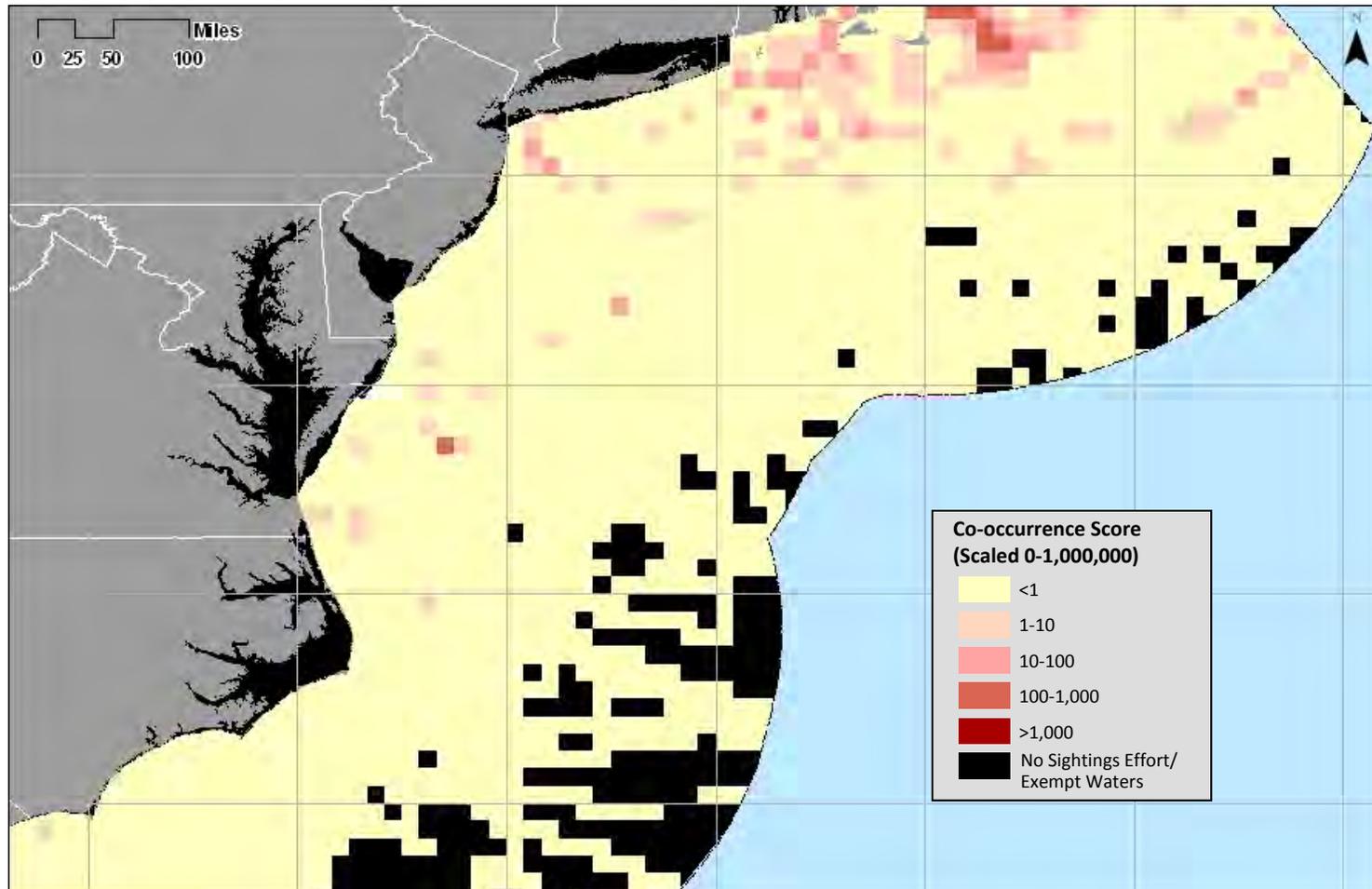
Average SPUE ~ All Fisheries, All Whales





Mid-Atlantic

Average Co-Occurrence ~ All Fisheries, All Whales





NMFS Mid-Atlantic Proposal

- No areas are identified as high “risk” due to density of lines, density of whales and/or co-occurrence index
- Recommend:
 - Gear marking
 - Reporting on effort, location, season, gear configuration

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Southeast

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Northeast

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NH Dept. of Fish and Game



Current State Lobster Fishery

1. Limited access commercial license holders
 - Avg 30 people
 - Max 1200 traps
 - 10 traps/trawl
2. Limited commercial license holders
 - Avg 181 people
 - Max 600 traps
 - 6 traps/trawl
3. Part-time commercial license holders
 - Avg 153 People
 - Max 100 traps
 - 3 traps/trawl



Current Federal Lobster Fishery

Most effort is in LMA 1

- 75 federally permitted in 2010
- Max 800 traps
- 14 traps/trawl



Current Gillnet Fishery

State

- Small fishery for bait in spring/summer
- Dogfish in summer

Federal

- 32 federally permitted
- Avg 21 nets monthly



NH DF&G Proposal

Exempt all state waters from VL regs because of:

- Prior conservation actions
- Co-occurrence model
- State waters are restricted
- Latent effort will be addressed

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Maine District C-9



Current Lobster/Crab fishery

- Matinicus and Criehaven Islands
- 40 vessels, 30-44 ft
- 12,000 endlines
- About 30% latent effort



Maine District C-9 Proposal

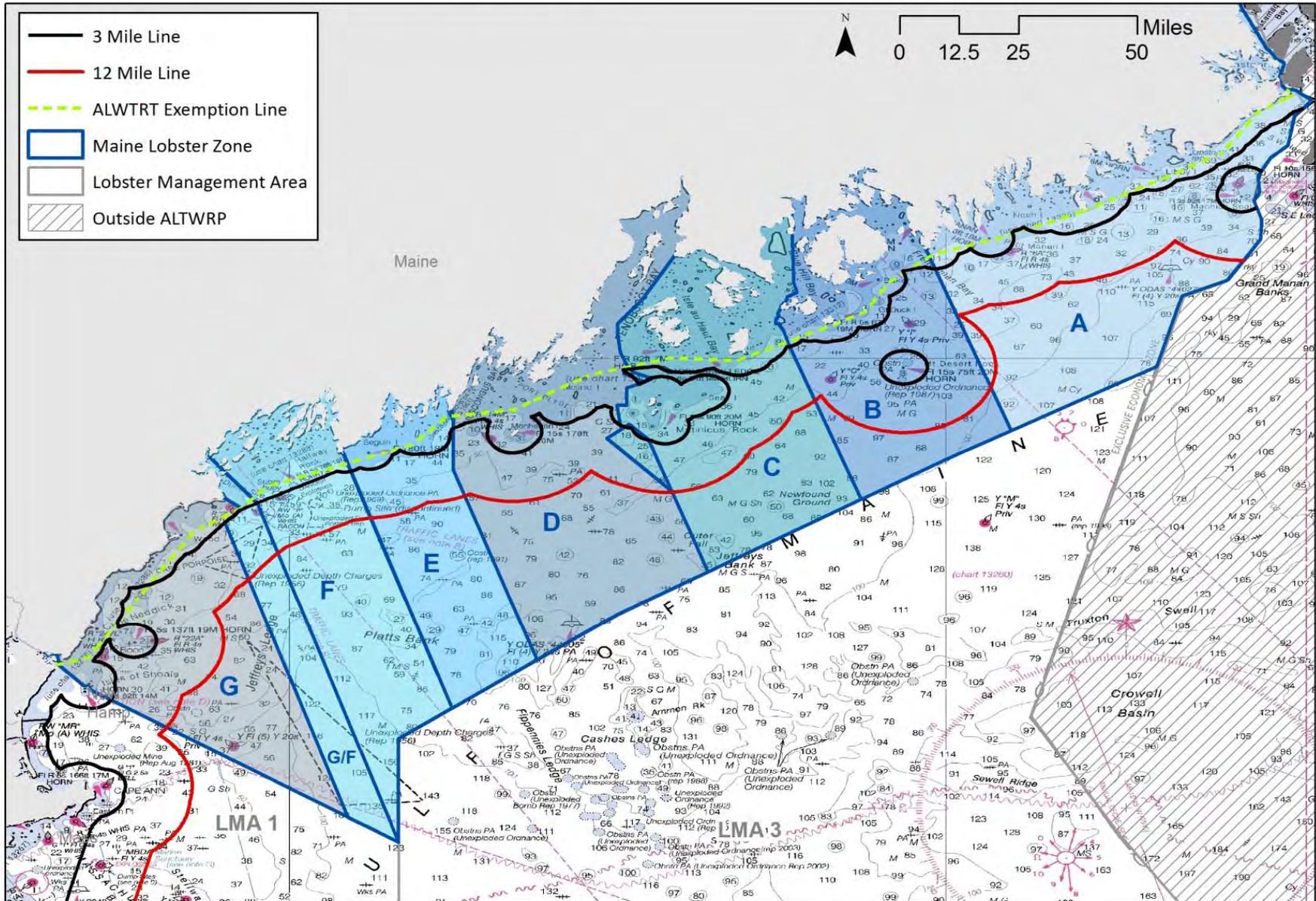
- No fishing outside 3 mile line from June 15-Sept 15 based on Co-occurrence.
- Monthly reporting
- Pairs/triples from 10f curve to 3 mile line
- Exemption area to include traditional fishing area
- Request no additional restriction on gear

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Maine DMR

Maine State and Federal Nearshore Waters





Current Trap/pot and gillnet fishery

State and federal nearshore waters (including exempt)

~2,000 vessels

~390,000 vertical lines

State and federal nearshore waters (excluding exempt)

~1,000 vessels

~ 150,000 vertical lines



ME DMR Proposal

1) Trawl Minimums

Zone	3-12 miles	12+ miles
A	Triples	Triples
B	Triples	Triples
C	Triples	5's
D	Triples	5's
E	Triples	5's
F	8's	15's
G	Triples/8's	20's



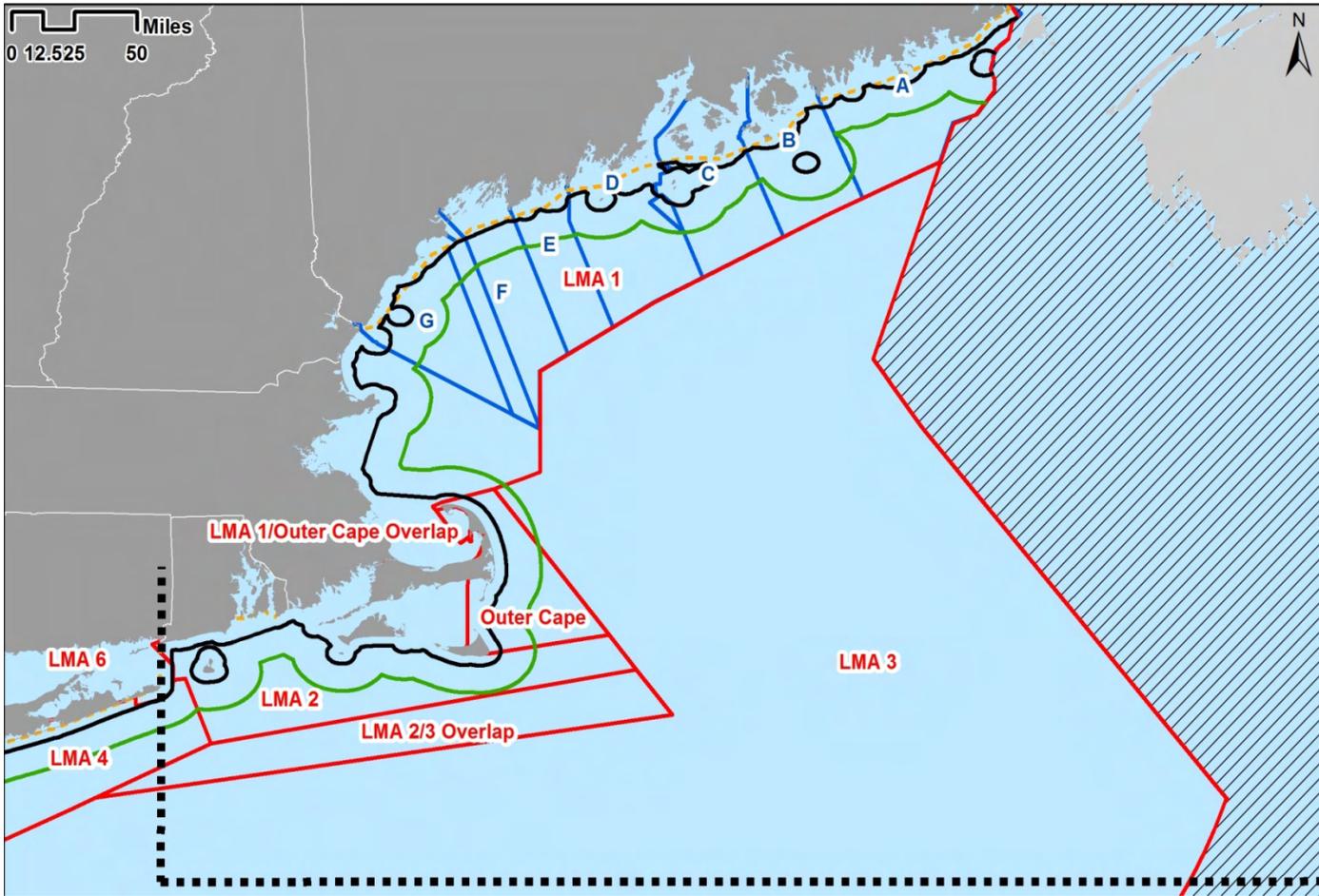
ME DMR Proposal

- 2) Should discuss concept of vertical line cap
- 3) Mandatory annual reporting for federal permit holders
- 4) Unique gear mark for Maine
- 5) Gear best practices
 - weaker top rope
 - mandated maximum length between floats
 - eliminate float rope in surface system
 - 1,100 lb breakaway east of Petit Manan

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NMFS





NMFS Proposal

- Based on comments received during scoping
- Annual measures
- Focus on trap/pot
- Manage by LMAs and/or Lobster Zones
- 1 endline on trawls of 5 traps or less
- 2 endlines on trawls greater than 5 traps
- Gear marking in all waters
- Gear characterization reporting

Area	0-3 miles	3-12 miles	12+ miles
Other LMA 1 waters	3	10	20
LMA1/OC overlap	2	--	--
OC	2	10	20
LMA 2	3	10	20
LMA 2/3 Overlap	--	--	20
LMA 3	--	10	20
ME Zone A	2	5	10
ME Zone B	3	5	10
ME Zone C	3	5	10
ME Zone D	3	5	10
ME Zone E	2	5	10
ME Zone F	4	10	20
ME Zone G	2	10	20

