

**AMENDMENT 1 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR VIII OPERATIONS
PLAN**

APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE DECEMBER 23, 2013

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2013, FOR THE 2013 FISHING YEAR

Exhibit C, 21: Sector Specific Exemptions

This exemption allows sector vessels to access portions of the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area. Trawl vessels would be restricted to selective trawl gear, including the separator trawl, the Ruhle trawl, the mini-Ruhle trawl, rope trawl, and any other gear authorized by the Council in a management action. Flounder nets are prohibited. Hook vessels are permitted in this area. Gillnet vessels are restricted to fishing 10-inch (25.4-cm) diamond mesh or larger. Gillnet vessels are required to use pingers when fishing in the Western Exemption Area from December 1 – May 31, because this area lies within the existing Southern New England Management Area of the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan.

Western Nantucket Lightship Closed Area

POINT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
A	40°50'N	70°20'W
B	40°50'N	70°00'W
C	40°20'N	70°00'W
D	40°20'N	70°20'W
A	40°50'N	70°20'W

Eastern Nantucket Lightship Closed Area

POINT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
A	40°50'N	69°30'W
B	40°50'N	69°00'W
C	40°20'N	69°00'W
D	40°20'N	69°30'W
A	40°50'N	69°30'W

This measure allows sector vessels to obtain greater access to portions of the year-round closed areas. Access to portions of Nantucket Lightship Closed Area allows sector vessels additional opportunities to target monkfish, dogfish, and skates.

Vessels using this exemption must indicate their intent prior to departure by writing “N4” in the “Comments” section on the Trip Start Hail. Trip Start Hails must be submitted prior to departure. Any additional trip declaration or reporting requirements that NMFS elects to include during the duration of the fishing year will be followed by the sector.