AMENDMENT 1 TO THE NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR III OPERATIONS PLAN

APPROVED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE FEBRUARY 26, 2016

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 26, 2016, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2017

This amendment recognizes A.I.S., Inc. as the authorized at-sea monitoring service provider for the Northeast Fishery Sector III. Specific contact information for this provider is:

A.I.S., Inc.
89 N. Water Street
P.O. Box 2093
New Bedford, MA 02741

This amendment also modifies the procedure for vessels fishing under the Redfish Exemption. Before switching to a smaller mesh codend, a vessel must submit a Multispecies Catch Report via the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), with a good faith estimate of all catch that day between 0000 hours (12:00 AM) and the time of the report, consistent with VMS instructions and Catch Reporting Guidance (see below). Vessels are no longer required to send a VMS message via email to NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Law Enforcement, as described in “Part 2 of Redfish Exemption Trip: Switching Codends” section of the Operations Plan.

This amendment also modifies the procedure for vessels fishing under the Small-Mesh Exemption. Upon completing the large-mesh portion of the trip, a vessel must submit a Multispecies Catch Report via VMS, with a good faith estimate of all catch on board, consistent with VMS instructions and Catch Reporting Guidance (see below). Vessels are no longer required to send a VMS message via email to NMFS Office of Law Enforcement, as described in “Prohibition on combining small-mesh exempted fishery and sector trips” section of the Operations Plan.