

# EFP Proposals Received since June Council Meeting

1. Scallop Dredge Twine Top EFP
  - Coonamessett Farm
2. Excluder Grate for Whiting Fishery
  - **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**
3. Bycatch Mortality for Skates EFP
  - UNH / New England Aquarium
4. Bycatch Mortality for Skates EFP
  - UNH / New England Aquarium
5. Scallop Small Dredge Twine Top
  - **GMRI**

# 1. Scallop Dredge Twine Top EFP

## Coonamessett Farm

### Purpose

- To test alternative mesh sizes & twine top hanging ratios to reduce bycatch & increase scallop retention
- Yellowtail tagging

### Exemptions (six fishing trips total)

- Twine top mesh requirements
- Closed Areas 1 & 2 (for three 7-day trips)
- Groundfish, monkfish, fluke, black sea bass, scup, dogfish and skate possession restrictions

## 2. Excluder Grate for Whiting Fishery

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

### Purpose

- Reduce bycatch of dogfish
- Maximize catch of whiting

### Exemptions (70 one-hour tows)

- To fish outside of small mesh area along western boundary of Stellwagen Sanctuary between 42.12' and 42.30
- Exemption from Multispecies DAS but would stay within 5% cap on bycatch of multispecies

# 3. Bycatch Mortality for Skates EFP

## UNH / New England Aquarium

### Purpose

- Determine immediate & post release mortality for a variety of skates

### Exemptions (100 sea days)

- Allow vessels to possess, retain & land prohibited species of skates
- Exemption from skate possession limits for sampling purposes

# 4. Reducing Bycatch in GOM Trawls

## GMRI

### Purpose

- To determine the optimal trawl configuration to minimize bycatch, specifically by removing chafing gear for three common cod end mesh sizes

### Exemptions (for 78 one-hour tows)

- Multispecies & monkfish possession limits
- Multispecies & monkfish minimum fish sizes

# 5. Scallop Small Dredge Twine Top GMRI

## Purpose

- To allow a vessel in the small dredge exemption program to harvest Scallop RSA efficiently to fund study to test alternative mesh sizes to reduce bycatch & increase scallop retention for 10.5 foot dredges

## Exemptions (may land 70,565 lbs of scallops)

- Twine top mesh restrictions
- 10.5 dredge restriction – permission to use dredges up to 30.5 in total width