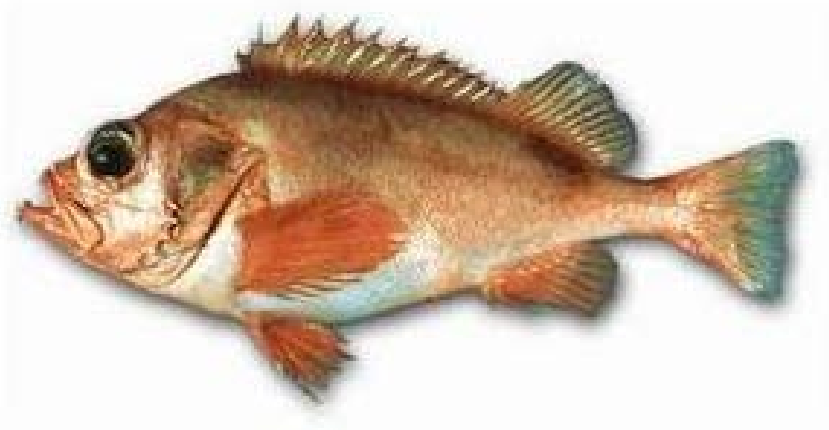


Proposed Rule for a Targeted Acadian Redfish Fishery



NOAA
FISHERIES

Northeast
Regional
Office

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Policy Analyst

Presentation Outline

- REDNET
- Exemption Requests
- Proposed Rule
 - 4.5" mesh
 - Catch thresholds
 - Industry-funded at-sea monitoring program



REDNET Cooperative Research Project

- Preliminary findings presented to Council on 2/1/2012
 - Baseline catch and bycatch evaluation
 - 5 trips, 85 tows
- Council asked NMFS to expedite sector redfish exemption
- Component 2 report completed, April 2012
 - NMFS requested review by Research Steering Committee
- June 2012 - Endorsed by RSC
- NMFS proposed 4.5" mesh for mid-year exemption

Sector Redfish Exemption Requests

- Sectors requested 4.5" for FY12 in December 2011
 - Submitted along with initial REDNET results
 - Too late for NMFS to analyze for May 1
- Sectors also requested 5" and 6" mesh
 - NMFS approved 6" mesh for FY 2012

4.5" Redfish Exemption Request

- Original Request
 - 48 hr. observer notice
 - 100% ASM/NEFOP coverage
 - Sector manager would submit daily catch reports
- NMFS proposed rule
 - 48 hr. observer notice
 - 100% ASM/NEFOP coverage
 - Trip start hail (to identify trips)
 - Daily catch reports not necessary
 - Catch Thresholds
 - Multiple mesh sizes/trip proposed

Thresholds to Address Catch Concerns When Fishing with Small Mesh (<6.5" codend mesh)

- At least 80% of a sector's catch must be redfish
 - To reduce targeting of other groundfish
- Groundfish discards must be 5% or less of total groundfish catch
 - To reduce concern of catching too many juveniles
- Above thresholds analyzed cumulatively on a monthly basis by sector.
 - Exceeding thresholds for 2 months could result in exemption being revoked.

REDNET Catch Statistics

REDNET Groundfish Catch and Discard Totals

	Groundfish (Excluding Redfish)	Groundfish (Including Redfish)
Total Catch (lb)	14,539	273,296
Total Discards (lb)	3,045	13,468
% of Catch Discarded	20.95	4.93

REDNET Redfish Catch

Total Catch	273,296
Total Redfish Catch	232,380
% of Catch That Was Redfish	85.03



Burgamot – Cambridge, MA

100% Industry-funded Option / NEFOP Coverage

- Industry requested opportunity to develop ASM plan for trips targeting redfish
- Original sector request was for 100% ASM if vessel not selected for federal funding
- NMFS proposing 100% ASM coverage only
 - Could bias ASM strata coverage
 - Legal/implementation concerns regarding waivers
- Sectors would propose plan to NMFS for approval
- Any vessel in a sector with approved ASM plan would have to pay ASM costs for redfish trips

Other Miscellaneous

- Exemption could be revoked for other reasons
 - If exemption is impacting rebuilding efforts, spawning fish, etc.
- Requesting specific comment on whether vessels should be allowed to fish with multiple mesh sizes
- Targeted redfish trips will not be factored into sector's overall discard rate
- EFP just issued for REDNET Component 3
 - Gear selectivity

Questions or Comments

- Public comment extended through December 31, 2012
- Electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>
- Fax (978)-281-9135, attn William Whitmore
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