



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/
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GROUND FISH FISHERMEN

Small Mesh Area 1 and 2 Exemption Areas
Exempted from GOM Cod Seasonal Interim Closure Areas
Effective Date: February 26, 2015 through May 12, 2015

We inadvertently left the Small Mesh Area 1 and 2 Exemption Areas out of the list of areas exempted from the Gulf of Maine Cod Seasonal Interim Closure Areas. We published a rule correcting this oversight. Specifically, vessels fishing a raised footrope trawl can fish in the Small Mesh Area 1 and 2 Exemption Areas with small mesh nets, when these exemption areas overlap with the Gulf of Maine Cod seasonal interim closure areas. Vessels can now fish with small mesh nets with raised footrope trawls in the Small Mesh Area 2 Exemption Area in March and April, and, if the interim rule is extended another six months beyond May 12, in the Small Mesh Area 1 Exemption Area July 15 through November 15.

Additional information on this correction can be found online at
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies/index.html>

Additional information on the small mesh exempted fisheries can be found online at
http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/small_mesh_exemption.pdf

A map of Small Mesh Area 1 and 2 Exemption Areas is on the back of this page.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.

