

**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.