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NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-NE-244

This series represents a secondary level of scientific publishing. All issues employ thorough internal scientific review; some issues employ external scientific review. Reviews are transparent collegial reviews, not anonymous peer reviews. All issues may be cited in formal scientific communications.

2018 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Annual Discard Report with Observer Sea Day Allocation

Northeast Fisheries Science Center[1]
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US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Woods Hole, Massachusetts
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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AA = Access area
ACCSP = Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
ASM = At-Sea Monitoring Program
CV = coefficient of variation
ESA = Endangered Species Act
FMP = fishery management plan
FSB = Fisheries Sampling Branch
FY = Fiscal Year
GEN = General category
IFS = Industry Funded Scallop Observer program
lg = large mesh
LIM = Limited access category
MA = Mid-Atlantic
MMPA = Marine Mammal Protection Act
NE = New England
NEFOP = Northeast Fisheries Observer Program
NEFSC = Northeast Fisheries Science Center
NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NY DEC = New York Department of Environmental Conservation
OPEN = Nonaccess area
PTNS = Pre-Trip Notification System
SBRM = Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology
SE = standard error of the estimate
sm = small mesh
TDD = Turtle Deflector Dredge
US = United States
VTR = Vessel Trip Report
xlg = extra large mesh

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document contains a compilation of the information to meet the 2018 SBRM annual discard report requirements. For fish and invertebrate species groups, several of the required annual discard report elements (discards and precision by fleet) can be found in Wigley and Tholke 2018, along with a description of the data sources, methods, results, and discussion. Similarly, for sea turtles, further information can be found in Murray 2012, 2015a, 2018.

An estimated 69,947 mt (154,206,116 lb) of federally regulated species were discarded during the July 2016 through June 2017 time period.

Estimates of sea turtle interactions in sink gillnet gear in the Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank region from 2012-2016. There were an estimated 141 loggerhead interactions per year, 29 Kemp's ridley interactions per year, 5 leatherback interactions per year, and 22 unidentified hard-shelled turtle interactions per year in this gear type.

After sea days adjustments, a total of 10,568 sea days is needed to monitor the 15 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology species groups (14 fish/invertebrates species groups and 1 sea turtle species) during the April 2018 through March 2019 period. Of the 10,568 sea days, 7,519 sea days are needed for agency-funded fleets and 3,049 sea days are needed for industry-funded fleets.

The funds available to the NEFSC's Northeast Fisheries Sampling Branch in fiscal year (FY) 2018 are estimated to provide support for 5,122 days and 3,131 days are carried over (i.e., bought ahead) from FY2017 funds for a total of 8,253 days for the April 2018 through March 2019 time period. Based upon an observer set-aside compensation rate analysis for the Industry Funded Scallop program, there is industry funding for 4,101 days. Hence, 12,354 days are available for observer coverage during April 2018 through March 2019.

Within the agency-funded fleets and prioritization-applicable funding, funded days exceed the needed days resulting in an estimated surplus of funds equivalent to approximately 162 days. The 2018 funding does not trigger the SBRM prioritization approach. In addition, practical limitations prevent the observer program from covering the 28 sea days associated with 5 fleets. Hence, a funding equivalent to the 190 sea days will be utilized at the agency's discretion. Any remaining discretionary observer funds disseminated to the NEFSC, if any, will be used at the agency's discretion.

The numbers of sea days allocated by fleet (where a fleet represents gear type, access area, trip category, region, and mesh group combinations) are given for the April 2018 through March 2019 period.

There is a proposed SBRM framework action to expand the sampling frame for the Mid-Atlantic and New England lobster pot fleets. If the framework action is approved, then beginning in the calendar quarter following final approval, all active federal lobster vessels may be eligible for selection to take an observer, regardless of whether they are required to submit VTRs.

INTRODUCTION

The Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Omnibus Amendment was implemented on 27 February 2008 (NMFS 2008, NEFMC 2007) and later vacated by the US District Court for the District of Columbia and remanded back to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on 15 September 2011 due to a deficiency associated with the prioritization process, an element of the amendment. On 29 December 2011, NMFS removed the regulations implementing the SBRM (NMFS 2011). A revised SBRM Omnibus Amendment (NEFMC 2015), hereafter referred to as the SBRM amendment, was approved on 13 March 2015 and a final rule was implemented on 30 July 2015.

The SBRM amendment requires an annual discard report utilizing information obtained from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's (NEFSC) Fisheries Sampling Branch's (FSB) observer programs (Northeast Fisheries Observer Program [NEFOP] and Industry Funded Scallop [IFS] observer program) for 14 federally managed species groups[1] and sea turtles (Table 1). Specifically, the SBRM annual discard report requirements include: "…*summaries of the trips observed, fishing modes in the relevant time period, funding issues and other related issues and developments, and projections of coverage across fisheries for upcoming time period. More detailed information would be provided in tables and figures that addressed: The number of observer trips and sea days scheduled that were accomplished for each fishing mode and quarter, as well as the number of trips and sea days of industry activity; the kept weight from unobserved quarters and statistical areas summarized by fishing mode; the amount kept and estimated discards of each species by fishing mode; and the relationship between sample size and precision for relevant fishing modes."(NEFMC 2015, pages 237-238).*

This document contains a compilation of the information to meet the 2018 SBRM annual discard report requirements. For fish and invertebrate species groups, several of the required annual discard report elements can be found in Wigley and Tholke 2018, along with a description of the data sources, methods, results, and discussion. Similarly, for sea turtles, further information can be found in Murray 2012, 2015a, 2018. This document also presents the number of sea days needed to monitor the 15 species groups, the funding available for observer coverage, and the numbers of sea days allocated by fleet[2] (where a fleet represents gear type, access area, trip category, region, and mesh group combinations) for the April 2018 through March 2019 period.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVER COVERAGE

A total of 3,238 trips (9,149 days) was observed during the July 2016 through June 2017 time period. When these trips were stratified by fleet and quarter, some trips were partitioned between fleets resulting in 3,445 trips (9,654 days). See Tables 2 and 3 in Wigley and Tholke 2018 for a summary of the number of observed trips and industry Vessel Trip Reports (VTR) trips by fleet and

[1] As of December 15, 2017, blueline tilefish became a federally managed species in the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Golden and Blueline Tilefish Fishery Management Plan.

[2] Fleets are synonymous with "fishing modes".

calendar quarter and a summary of the number of observed sea days and industry sea days by fleet and calendar quarter, respectively. There were 68 fleets uniquely identified in the July 2016 through June 2017 data. Based upon the industry activity during this time period, 10 new fleets were added to the collection of fleets analyzed (Wigley and Tholke 2018). Additionally, scallop trawl, twin trawl, shrimp trawl, beam trawl, and mid-water trawl fleets were partitioned into specific mesh size groups to create consistency in mesh size groups among all trawl fleets (Wigley and Tholke 2018).

A spatial and temporal analysis of the kept weight of all species (i.e., any species retained during the trip) from statistical areas and calendar quarter was conducted. Over all fleets, 72% of kept weight of all species occurred in statistical areas and calendar quarters that had observer coverage. For a summary of the percentage of kept weight with observer coverage by fleet for the July 2016 through June 2017 time period, see Table 4 in Wigley and Tholke 2018.

SUMMARY OF DISCARD ESTIMATES

For fish/invertebrate species, the total catch, kept, and estimated discards (in live weight) and their associated coefficient of variation (CV) were derived for fleets using data collected during the July 2016 through June 2017 time period (Wigley and Tholke 2018). Based upon that discard estimation analysis, an estimated 69,947 mt (154,206,116 lb of federally regulated species were discarded (Table 2). Fleet abbreviations used in this report are described in Appendix Table 1. See Table 5A and 5B in Wigley and Tholke 2018 for summaries by fleet and SBRM species group and by fleet and individual species that compose these 14 species groups, respectively.

The most recent average annual estimates of sea turtle interactions and CVs in U.S. Mid-Atlantic commercial fisheries are listed in Table 3. Methods to estimate sea day needs for the different gear types can be found in either Murray (2012) or Murray (2018).

Table 2 Total catch (live lb), Vessel Trip Report landings (kept; live lb), estimated discards (live lb), associated coefficient of variation (CV), and standard error of the estimated discards (SE; live lb) for 14 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) species groups combined, by fleet, based on July 2016 through June 2017 data. Dark shading indicates fleets not considered or with no observed trips in the annual analysis. These CV were not used in the annual sample size analysis. Blank CV indicates either no discards or discards equals 0. "P" indicates fleets with "pilot" designation. *Taken from Table 5C in Wigley and Tholke 2018.*

Species: 14 SBRM SPECIES GROUPS COMBINED

Fleet Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh Group	Total	Kept	Discarded	CV	SE	Pilot
1	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	MA	all	1,858,295	1,643,691	214,605	0.666	142,979	
2	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	NE	all	7,093,565	6,336,502	757,063	0.907	687,002	
3	Hand Line	OPEN	all	MA	all	333,468	327,239	6,229	0.694	4,324	P
4	Hand Line	OPEN	all	NE	all	2,228,616	2,222,016	6,599	0.588	3,879	
5	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	34,589,991	21,721,179	12,868,811	0.090	1,154,165	
6	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	24,599,124	12,888,606	11,710,518	0.096	1,129,501	
7	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	sm	73,949,077	61,275,706	12,673,371	0.096	1,213,450	
8	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	lg	76,348,669	48,380,632	27,968,037	0.105	2,926,736	
9	Otter Trawl, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	sm	77,385	38,901	38,484	0.275	10,590	
10	Otter Trawl, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	lg	337,735	273,753	63,982	0.445	28,460	P
11	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	sm	147,070	61,744	85,326	0.108	9,176	P
12	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	lg	1,820,876	1,308,864	512,012	0.299	152,874	
14	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	MA	lg	214,261	62,243	152,017	0.000	0	P
15	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	sm	1,446,304	1,038,141	408,163	0.139	56,830	P
18	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	MA	sm	273,414	273,414				P
19	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	sm	1,517,081	1,517,081				P
20	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	lg	316,083	180,166	135,917	0.000	0	P
21	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	lg	4,853,539	2,805,177	2,048,363	0.141	287,885	P
22	Otter Trawl, Shrimp	OPEN	all	MA	sm	45,246	4,270	40,976	0.000	0	P
23	Otter Trawl, Shrimp	OPEN	all	NE	sm	194,950	194,950				P
24	Otter Trawl, Twin, Shrimp	OPEN	all	MA	sm	705,700	2,074	703,626	0.211	148,763	
25	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	sm	114,143	114,143				P
27	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	sm	324,228	324,228				P
29	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	NE	all	10,504	10,504				P
30	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	sm	2,532,728	2,312,035	220,692	0.350	77,317	
31	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	lg	6,670,169	6,378,608	291,561	0.124	36,236	
32	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	xlg	6,152,429	5,163,692	988,738	0.107	105,415	
33	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	sm	22,845	20,740	2,104	0.000	0	P
34	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	lg	9,523,193	8,736,042	787,151	0.287	225,687	

See Appendix Table 1 for fleet abbreviations.

Table 2, continued. Total catch (live lb), Vessel Trip Report landings (kept; live lb), estimated discards (live lb), associated coefficient of variation (CV), and standard error of the estimated discards (SE; live lb) for 14 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) species groups combined, by fleet, based on July 2016 through June 2017 data. Dark shading indicates fleets not considered or with no observed trips in the annual analysis. These CV were not used in the annual sample size analysis. Blank CV indicates either no discards or discards equals 0. "P" indicates fleets with "pilot" designation*. Taken from Table 5C in Wigley and Tholke 2018.*

Species: 14 SBRM SPECIES GROUPS COMBINED

Fleet Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh Group	Total	Kept	Discarded	CV	SE	Pilot
35	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	xlg	20,475,638	17,442,003	3,033,635	0.081	245,229	
36	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0				P
37	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	NE	all	49,977,720	49,967,871	9,849	0.658	6,485	
38	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	all	6,110,147	4,739,975	1,370,172	0.243	333,136	
39	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	NE	all	5,055,291	4,451,449	603,842	0.128	77,258	
40	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	MA	all	84,161,452	69,222,452	14,939,000	0.125	1,864,896	
41	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	NE	all	140,497,949	110,358,100	30,139,849	0.111	3,337,482	
42	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	all	15,015,503	12,051,591	2,963,912	0.097	286,370	
43	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	NE	all	8,779,208	7,541,948	1,237,260	0.148	182,812	
44	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	MA	all	62,681,838	56,629,542	6,052,295	0.096	579,227	
45	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	NE	all	141,744,817	126,866,058	14,878,759	0.088	1,312,160	
48	Trawl, Mid-water Paired&Single	AA	all	NE	sm	6,659,240	6,651,575	7,665	0.260	1,992	
49	Trawl, Mid-water Paired&Single	OPEN	all	MA	sm	3,996,203	3,987,192	9,011	0.733	6,607	
50	Trawl, Mid-water Paired&Single	OPEN	all	NE	sm	66,329,205	66,193,957	135,248	0.683	92,333	
53	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	MA	all	481,812	335,852	145,960	0.256	37,336	
54	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	NE	all	347,401	181,143	166,258	0.179	29,720	
55	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	MA	all	7,384	7,292	92	0.899	83	
56	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	NE	all	1,519	1,077	442	0.599	265	
58	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	MA	all	254,875	177,963	76,912	1.148	88,300	
59	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	NE	all	154,458	50,383	104,075	0.659	68,587	
61	Pots and Traps, Crab	OPEN	all	MA	all	488,739	305,231	183,508	0.398	73,105	
62	Pots and Traps, Crab	OPEN	all	NE	all	4,023,966	2,893,361	1,130,605	0.233	263,871	
63	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	30,000	30,000				P
65	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0				P
67	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	MA	all	243,744,732	241,345,504	2,399,228	0.429	1,028,881	
68	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	NE	all	218,019,531	216,577,371	1,442,160	0.247	355,587	
	Confidential fleets					2,640,668	2,148,638	492,031	0.178	87,703	
	Other minor fleets					589,348	589,348				
					TOTAL	1,340,569,332	1,186,363,217	154,206,116	0.036	5,621,211	

See Appendix Table 1 for fleet abbreviations

Table 3 The most recent average annual estimates of sea turtle interactions and their associated coefficient of variation (CV) in U.S. Mid-Atlantic commercial fisheries.

Fishery	Estimate	CV	Years Included	Species*	Reference
Bottom trawl, for fish and scallops	231	0.13	01 Jan 2009-2013	Loggerhead	Murray 2015a
Sea Scallop Dredge	22	0.73	01 Jan 2009-2014	Loggerhead	Murray 2015b
Sink Gillnet	141	0.29	01 Jan 2012-2016	Loggerhead	Murray 2018
Sink Gillnet	29	0.43	01 Jan 2012-2016	Kemp's ridley	Murray 2018
Sink Gillnet	5	0.71	01 Jan 2012-2016	Leatherback	Murray 2018
Sink Gillnet	22	0.37	01 Jan 2012-2016	Unidentified hard-shelled	Murray 2018

* Sea day monitoring needs for Kemp's ridley and leatherback turtles in sink gillnet gear were not projected because of the low encounter rate of these species.

Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) Vessel Selection

If selected to carry an observer am I required to take one?

Yes, as a federal fishery permit holder (see list of permits to left) **or Category I or II fishery participant, you are required to take an observer when selected.** Depending on your permits, category or fishing location this requirement is mandated under one of the following Acts: the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) or the Endangered Species Act (ESA)**.**

Is there a limit to how many times a month I can be selected to carry an observer?

No, there are no laws or regulations that limit or specify the number of times a single vessel may be selected for observer coverage within a given month*. However, the goal is to collect representative data without overburdening an individual vessel. Every effort is made to spread coverage out evenly among all vessels actively fishing in the same fleet (for the purpose of this sea day schedule the fleet you fish in is defined by the gear type and mesh size you are using as well as the region you are fishing in i.e. Large mesh (>5.5") Otter Trawl in New York).

** With the exception of LAGC IFQ vessels (See (*50 CFR 648.11(g)(2)(ii))

How does the observer service provider decide how many times a month to select a vessel for observer coverage?

The NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Fisheries Science Center generates a yearly sea day schedule for the NEFOP with a given number of days at sea that need to be observed every month in active fishing fleets. NOAA Fisheries partners with an observer service provider to complete this sea day schedule. The NEFOP provider attempts to achieve the days at sea tasked, while still spreading coverage throughout the fleet. For some fleets, it is not possible to accomplish the number of tasked NEFOP seadays without covering vessels multiple times per month. An example:

- *The NEFOP sea day schedule requires 30 sea days for the month of March on trawl vessels that are using mesh < 5.5" (small mesh) in a given region.*
- *There are only 10 day trip vessels in March that are using small mesh trawl in that region.*
- *Each vessel will have to be covered 3X to get the 30 days of coverage needed.*

Additionally, if a vessel fishes in multiple fleets on different trips (such as a small mesh trawl and a large mesh trawl trip) they may be selected for coverage for both fleets.

How many days are tasked to the fleets I fish in each month?

The NEFOP sea day schedule shows the breakdown of all of the days tasked for each fleet throughout the year and can be found at: www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/. The NEFOP can provide a summary of sea days tasked to the fleets you participate in upon request.

Federal permits requiring observer coverage:

- Atlantic sea scallops
- Northeast multispecies
- Monkfish
- Skates
- Atlantic mackerel
- Squid
- Butterfish
- Scup
- Black seabass
- Bluefish
- Spiny dogfish
- Atlantic herring
- Tilefish
- Atlantic deep-sea red crab
- Summer flounder (moratorium permit)
- American lobster
- Atlantic surfclam
- Ocean quahog

Any questions about the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program or these requirements should be directed to Amy Martins, Branch Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch (508) 495-2266

Your cooperation and assistance in this program is greatly appreciated.

For the full text of these regulations visit:

Magnuson Stevens Act:
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/laws-policies#magnuson-stevens-act

Marine Mammal Protection Act:
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/laws-policies#marine-mammal-protection-act

Endangered Species Act:
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/laws-policies#endangered-species-act

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If I'm fishing in state waters am I required to take a federal observer?

Yes, if you hold any of the federal permits listed to the left or are a Category I or II fishery participant, you are required (under the MSA and MMPA) to take an observer, once selected, if you are fishing within waters of the United States (defined in the MSA as "all the States thereof"). It does not matter whether you are fishing in state or federal waters.

How will I be notified of my selection?

You will be contacted by a NMFS employee, designated contractor or observer acting on behalf of the Regional Administrator, in person, by telephone, or in writing and notified that your vessel has been selected to carry an observer. In some situations you may be selected dockside shortly in advance of a fishing trip.

What authority does NOAA have to place observers on my vessel?

NOAA's authority to place observers on your vessel is found in a number of federal statutes, including the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, and their implementing regulations. For example, federal Magnuson-Stevens Act regulations at 50 CFR § 648.14 (e) state that:

It is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(2) **Refuse to carry onboard a vessel an observer or sea sampler if requested to do so** by the Regional Administrator or the Regional Administrator's designee.

(3) Fail to provide information, notification, accommodations, access, or reasonable assistance to either a NMFS-approved observer or sea sampler conducting his or her duties aboard a vessel as specified in § 648.11.

Similar requirements are found in regulations implemented under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (see language below) and the Endangered Species Act. In addition, as a condition of your federal fishing permit, you must carry an observer when contacted by a NOAA employee or designated contractor.

50 CFR § 229.7 (c) (1)

(c) *Observer requirements for participants in Category I and II fisheries.*

(1) If requested by NMFS or by a designated contractor providing observer services to NMFS, a vessel owner/operator must take aboard an observer to accompany the vessel on fishing trips.

For a complete list of Category I or II fisheries visit:

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/final-list-fisheries-2018

It is a violation of federal regulations to fail to carry an observer on any fishing trip when the vessel has been selected. A violation may result in the assessment of civil penalties.

For more information on the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program please visit our website at: http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/

NEFOP Seaday Schedule, New Hampshire & Massachusetts 2018

The Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) is tasked by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center with an annual seaday schedule for a specific number of federally funded observed days at sea. Here is an excerpt from the schedule with the days tasked to vessels fishing out of New Hampshire or Massachusetts for the 2018-2019 SBRM year (April 2018 - March 2019). This excerpt accompanies the NEFOP Vessel Selection information sheet.

What is a fleet?

A fleet is a group of vessels all fishing using the same gear type and size in a given region.

Seadays assigned to NH & MA fleets for this SBRM year (April 2018 – March 2019)*

Fleet Description	2018 Apr - Jun	2018 Jul - Sep	2018 Oct - Dec	2019 Jan- Mar	Change from 2017
Otter Trawl Small/Medium Mesh (<5.49")	60	183	42	20	43% ↓
Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	26	48	2	6	31% ↓
Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5"-7.99") (complete)	0	35	4	0	255% ↑
Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete)	5	2	3	2	80% ↓
Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (limited**) MA, NH & RI	45	1	18	30	26% ↓
Ocean Quahog / Surfclam Dredge	41	47	31	32	844% ↑

↓ indicates fewer days tasked than the previous year ↑ indicates more days tasked than the previous year

Providers select vessels on a monthly schedule to achieve the quarterly assigned seadays (i.e., achieving 1/3 of the quarterly assigned days each month) as effort allows.

For this SBRM year there are 590 seadays tasked specifically to fleets landing in the states of Massachusetts & New Hampshire. 474 additional seadays are tasked to handline, longline, mid-water trawl, gillnet, purse seine and conch, crab, hagfish, fish and lobster pot fleets landing in any New England state (ME-RI) including MA & NH. There are a total of 6,885 seadays tasked to Greater Atlantic fleets through the NEFOP Seaday Schedule this year.

An additional 1,178 SBRM/Limited NEFOP seadays will be tasked through the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) to vessels participating in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery. Vessels participating in a northeast multispecies sector or the Atlantic sea scallop fishery may be subject to additional coverage requirements, not outlined above, via the At-Sea Monitoring or Industry Funded Scallop programs.

For questions on the NEFOP Seaday Schedule please contact:

Observer Program Area Lead, Sara Weeks: sara.weeks@noaa.gov, (508) 495-2227

**This information is subject to change and is current as of 4/10/2018*

*** "Limited" trips are those trips where observers collect only limited data on the discarded fish catch. These days can be completed on both state and federally permitted gillnet vessels under authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.*

NEFOP Seaday Schedule, Rhode Island 2018

The Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) is tasked by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center with an annual seaday schedule for a specific number of federally funded observed days at sea. Here is an excerpt from the schedule with the days tasked to vessels fishing out of Rhode Island for the 2018-2019 SBRM year (April 2018 - March 2019). This excerpt accompanies the NEFOP Vessel Selection information sheet.

What is a fleet?

A fleet is a group of vessels all fishing using the same gear type and size in a given region.

Seadays assigned to Rhode Island fleets for this SBRM year (April 2018 – March 2019)*

Fleet Description	2018 Apr - Jun	2018 Jul - Sep	2018 Oct - Dec	2019 Jan- Mar	Change from 2017
Otter Trawl Small/Medium Mesh (<5.49"), RI	221	306	196	77	43% ⬇
Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5"), RI	25	43	30	15	28% ⬇
Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5"-7.99"), RI	38	46	15	0	106% ⬆
Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8"), RI	11	3	7	4	78% ⬇
Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (limited**), MA & RI	45	0	18	30	27% ⬇
Twin Trawl, RI	0	21	23	23	25% ⬇

⬇ indicates fewer days tasked than the previous year ⬆ indicates more days tasked than the previous year

Providers select vessels on a monthly schedule to achieve the quarterly assigned seadays (i.e., achieving 1/3 of the quarterly assigned days each month) as effort allows.

For this SBRM year there are 1104 seadays tasked specifically to fleets landing in the state of Rhode Island. 474 additional seadays are tasked to gillnet, handline, longline, mid-water trawl, clam dredge, Ruhle trawl, purse seine and conch, crab, hagfish, fish and lobster pot fleets landing in any New England state (ME-RI) including Rhode Island. There are a total of 6,885 seadays tasked to Greater Atlantic fleets through the NEFOP Seaday Schedule this year.

An additional 1,178 SBRM/Limited NEFOP seadays will be tasked through the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) to vessels participating in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery. Vessels participating in a northeast multispecies sector or the Atlantic sea scallop fishery may be subject to additional coverage requirements, not outlined above, via the At-Sea Monitoring or Industry Funded Scallop programs.

For questions on the NEFOP Seaday Schedule please contact:

Observer Program Area Lead, Sara Weeks: sara.weeks@noaa.gov, (508) 495-2227

**This information is subject to change and is current as of 4/10/2018*

*** "Limited" trips are those trips where observers collect only limited data on the discarded fish catch. These days can be completed on both state and federally permitted gillnet vessels under authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.*

Fisheries Sampling Branch, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) Seaday Schedule, April 2018 - March 2019 - Version 1

Ref #	Allocation Source	Fishery Description	Region	Geographic Area	Quarter 2 - 2018			Quarter 3 - 2018			Quarter 4 - 2018			Quarter 1 - 2019			Total Tasked
					APR 2018 Tasked	MAY 2018 Tasked	JUN 2018 Tasked	JUL 2018 Tasked	AUG 2018 Tasked	SEP 2018 Tasked	OCT 2018 Tasked	NOV 2018 Tasked	DEC 2018 Tasked	JAN 2019 Tasked	FEB 2019 Tasked	MAR 2019 Tasked	
0087	SBRM	Longline	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	21			21			21			21			**84**
0083	SBRM	Longline	NE	New England State	4			35			9			0			**48**
0623	SBRM	Handline	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	20			34			17			4			**75**
0624	SBRM	Handline	NE	New England State	3			3			3			2			**11**
0453	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small Mesh (<5.5")	MA	CT	30			64			35			12			**141**
0454	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small Mesh (<5.5")	MA	MD	1			0			2			4			**7**
0455	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small Mesh (<5.5")	MA	NC	6			2			3			10			**21**
0456	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small Mesh (<5.5")	MA	NJ	69			20			55			61			**205**
0457	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small Mesh (<5.5")	MA	NY	125			225			92			16			**458**
0458	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small Mesh (<5.5")	MA	VA	9			7			13			13			**42**
0459	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	MA	CT	7			20			3			2			**32**
0460	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	MA	MD	2			21			3			0			**26**
0461	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	MA	NC	30			3			12			27			**72**
0462	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	MA	NJ	74			140			50			21			**285**
0463	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	MA	NY	27			55			16			8			**106**
0464	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	MA	VA	9			7			25			28			**69**
0080	SBRM	Otter Trawl	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	406			598			318			214			**1536**
0465	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small Mesh (<5.5")	NE	MA	60			145			34			20			**259**
0467	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small Mesh (<5.5")	NE	NH	0			38			8			0			**46**
0468	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small Mesh (<5.5")	NE	RI	221			306			196			77			**800**
0469	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	NE	MA	26			48			2			6			**82**
0472	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	NE	RI	25			43			30			15			**113**
0715	SBRM	Twin Trawl	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	13			13			16			16			**58**
0716	SBRM	Twin Trawl	NE	RI	0			21			23			23			**67**
0707	SBRM	Shrimp Trawl, Twin, Ocean Waters	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	0			39			115			54			**208**
0600	SBRM	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5.5") (complete)	MA	MD	1			11			4			0			**16**
0601	SBRM	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5.5") (complete)	MA	NC	5			6			52			90			**153**
0602	SBRM	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5.5") (complete)	MA	NJ	29			36			22			2			**89**
0603	SBRM	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5.5") (complete)	MA	NY	15			11			3			0			**29**
0604	SBRM	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5.5") (complete)	MA	VA	39			58			66			78			**241**
0605	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete)	MA	MD	10			0			13			23			**46**
0606	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete)	MA	NC	1			0			0			7			**8**
0607	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete)	MA	NJ	21			10			42			9			**82**
0608	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete)	MA	NY	7			16			23			0			**46**
0609	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete)	MA	VA	5			0			12			18			**35**
0610	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete)	MA	CT	3			0			1			1			**5**
0611	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete)	MA	MD	2			0			0			1			**3**
0612	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete)	MA	NJ	24			0			27			18			**69**
0613	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete)	MA	NY	40			2			10			1			**53**
0614	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete)	MA	VA	5			0			0			3			**8**
0736	SBRM	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (complete)	NE	New England State	4			4			0			0			**8**
0615	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete)	NE	MA	0			33			4			0			**37**
0616	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete)	NE	RI	38			46			15			0			**99**
0620	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete)	NE	NH	0			2			0			0			**2**
0564	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete)	NE	NH	0			1			1			0			**2**
0617	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete)	NE	MA	5			1			2			2			**10**
0618	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete)	NE	RI	11			3			7			4			**25**
0069	SBRM	Purse Seine	NE	New England State	6			6			6			0			**18**
0079	SBRM	Mid-Water Pair & Single Trawl,Access Area	NE	New England State	14			14			15			0			**43**

0076	SBRM	Mid-Water Pair & Single Trawl	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	0			0			0			16			**16**
0078	SBRM	Mid-Water Pair & Single Trawl	NE	New England State	11			11			11			11			**44**
0569	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Fish	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	3			3			3			3			**12**
0565	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Fish	NE	New England State	3			3			3			0			**9**
0566	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Conch	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	3			3			3			3			**12**
0518	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Conch	NE	New England State	3			3			3			0			**9**
0570	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Hagfish	NE	New England State	31			32			0			31			**94**
0567	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Lobster	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	4			4			4			4			**16**
0572	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Lobster	NE	New England State	4			4			4			5			**17**
0573	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Crab	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	10			7			7			6			**30**
0575	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Crab	NE	New England State	18			21			21			20			**80**
0713	SBRM	Ocean Quahog/Surfclam Dredge	MA	Mid-Atlantic State	6			6			6			6			**24**
0703	SBRM	Ocean Quahog/Surfclam Dredge	NE	MA	41			47			31			32			**151**
				SBRM Subtotal	**1610**			**2312**			**1522**			**1048**			**6492**
0509	MMPA	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (limited)	NE	S of Cape Cod, MA & RI	22	23	0	0	0	0	4	6	8	10	9	11	**93**
0513	MMPA	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (limited)	NE	N of Cape Cod, NH	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
0717	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Bay	MA	Accomack County, VA	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	**9**
0718	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Accomack County, VA	5	4	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	**18**
0719	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Bay	MA	Hampton County, VA	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	3	**16**
0720	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Bay	MA	Mathews County, VA	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	**6**
0721	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Bay	MA	Northhampton County, VA	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	**7**
0722	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Northhampton County, VA	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**4**
0723	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Bay	MA	City of Virginia Beach, VA	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	**6**
0724	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	City of Virginia Beach, VA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	**10**
0725	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Bay	MA	York County, VA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	**4**
0726	MMPA	Gillnet Large Mesh (>=5") (limited), Ocean 3-200nm	MA	Dare County, NC	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	**6**
0727	MMPA	Gillnet Large Mesh (>=5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Dare County, NC	1	2	1	1	0	1	2	5	2	6	4	2	**27**
0728	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Ocean 3-200nm	MA	Dare County, NC	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	5	2	4	8	**24**
0729	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Dare County, NC	2	6	1	2	1	6	2	6	7	7	3	9	**52**
0730	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Hyde County, NC	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	**10**
0731	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Brunswick County, NC	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	1	1	**10**
0732	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Carteret County, NC	3	3	1	1	6	6	4	8	3	1	1	1	**38**
0733	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	New Hanover County, NC	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	**11**
0734	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Onslow County, NC	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	9	3	0	0	3	**23**
0735	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Pender County, NC	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	6	1	0	0	1	**18**
				MMPA Subtotal	**50**	**49**	**6**	**13**	**17**	**25**	**27**	**55**	**38**	**32**	**29**	**52**	**393**
0800	NYA	Gillnet Small/Medium Mesh (<5.5") (limited)	MA	NY Bight/Long Island Sound	14			24			13			6			**57**
0801	NYA	Gillnet Large/Extra Large Mesh (>=5.5") (limited)	MA	NY Bight/Long Island Sound	40			27			29			15			**111**
0802	NYA	Otter Trawl Small/Medium Mesh (<5.5")	MA	NY Bight/Long Island Sound	55			60			26			12			**153**
0803	NYA	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5")	MA	NY Bight/Long Island Sound	33			36			30			8			**107**
0804	NYA	Pot & Trap, Lobster	MA	NY Bight/Long Island Sound	8			8			4			0			**20**
0805	NYA	Pot & Trap, Conch	MA	NY Bight/Long Island Sound	13			17			7			3			**40**
0806	NYA	Pot & Trap, Fish	MA	NY Bight/Long Island Sound	15			17			6			2			**40**
				New York Agreement Subtotal	**178**			**189**			**115**			**46**			**528**
				Total	**1893**			**2556**			**1757**			**1207**			**7413**

Version 1 released on April 24, 2018