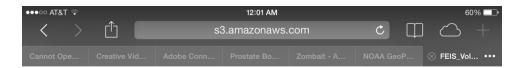
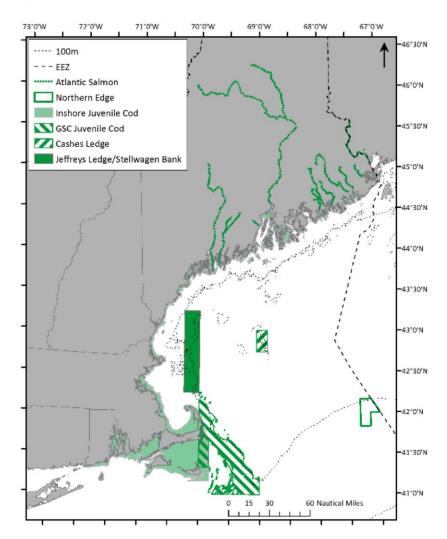
From: Pete's Email [mailto:ackfish@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2016 9:51 PM
To: Didden, Jason <iadden@mafmc.org>

Subject: Council folder



Map 1 – Continental shelf habitat areas of particular concern



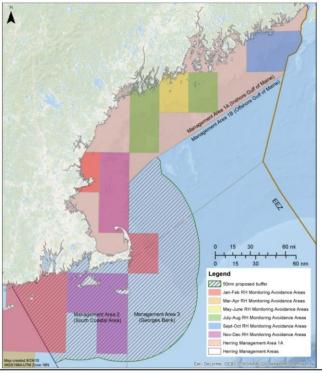
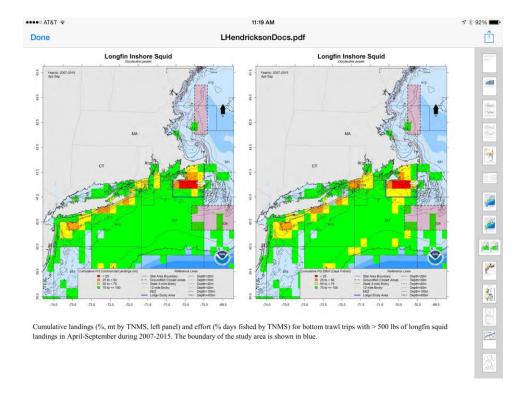


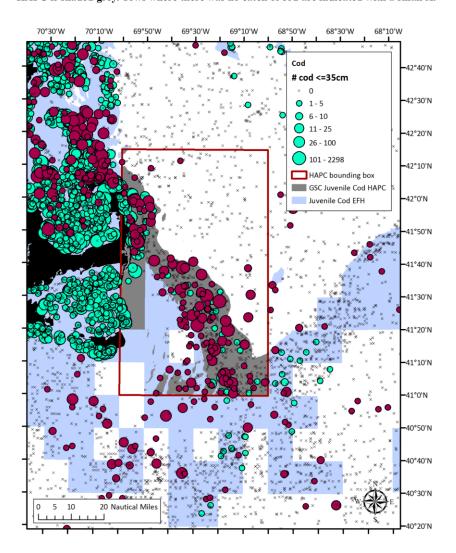
Figure 5. Proposed buffer zone (green-hatched) shown in relation to River Herring Monitoring/Avoidance Areas.

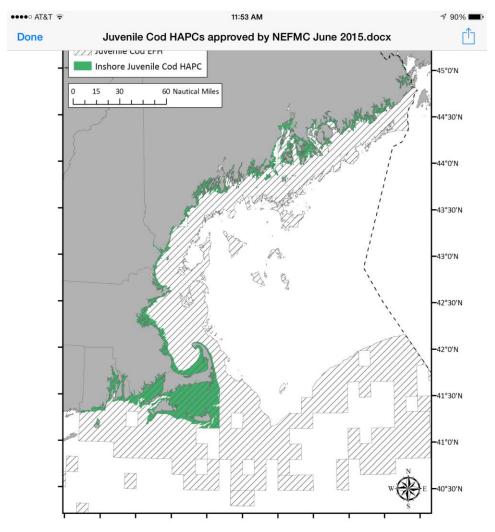
www.herringalliance.org

 $^{^{29}}$ See Draft Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment, p. 101. 30 See Amendment 5 FSEIS, pp. 63-67.



Map 247 – Juvenile cod (# per tow) caught in fishery-independent surveys conducted since 2000. The red circles indicate spring and fall NEFSC trawl survey stations, and the green circles indicate all other surveys, including state surveys, industry based surveys, and the scallop survey. The NEFSC spring and fall trawl surveys were the foundation for the offshore portion of the EFH designation, which was initially limited to waters deeper than 30 meters. The preferred alternative EFH designation is shown in blue, and the subset which is the recommended Great South Channel HAPC is shaded grey. Tows where there was no catch of cod are indicated with a small X.



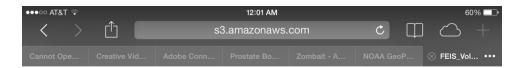


1.1.2 Great South Channel Juvenile Cod HAPC, preferred alternative

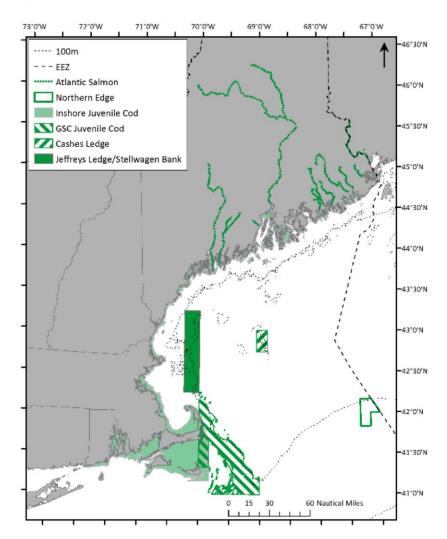
This alternative defines juvenile cod habitat in the vicinity of the Great South Channel as a habitat area of particular concern for the species (Map 246). The bounding box for the HAPC is the area north of 41°N latitude, west of 69°W longitude, south of 42°15'N latitude, and east of 70°W longitude. Within this box, the HAPC boundary is somewhat irregular, in part because it is based on an earlier considered and rejected version of the EFH designation map that excluded continental shelf habitats shallower than 30 meters. Within the bounding box shown on Map 246, the HAPC combines 'offshore' habitats between 30 and 120 meters with whole, 'inshore' ten minute squares between 69° 50' and 70° W longitude.

From: Pete's Email [mailto:ackfish@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2016 9:51 PM
To: Didden, Jason <iadden@mafmc.org>

Subject: Council folder



Map 1 – Continental shelf habitat areas of particular concern



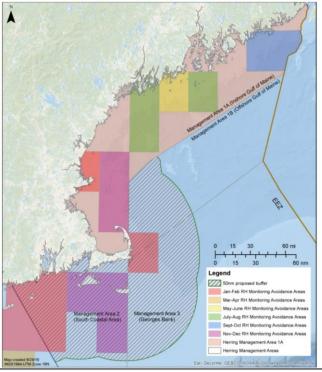
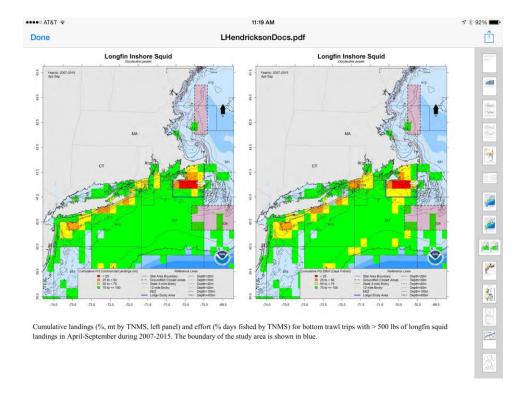


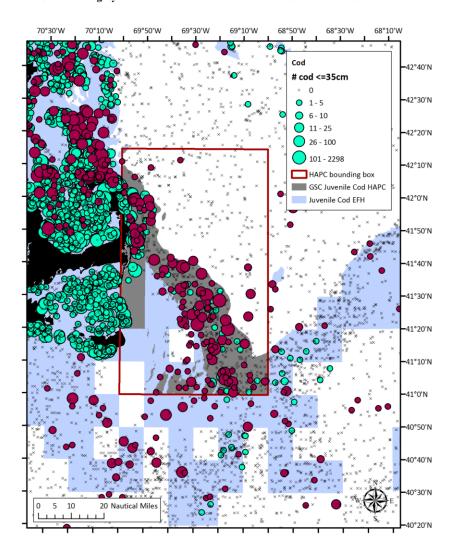
Figure 5. Proposed buffer zone (green-hatched) shown in relation to River Herring Monitoring/Avoidance Areas.

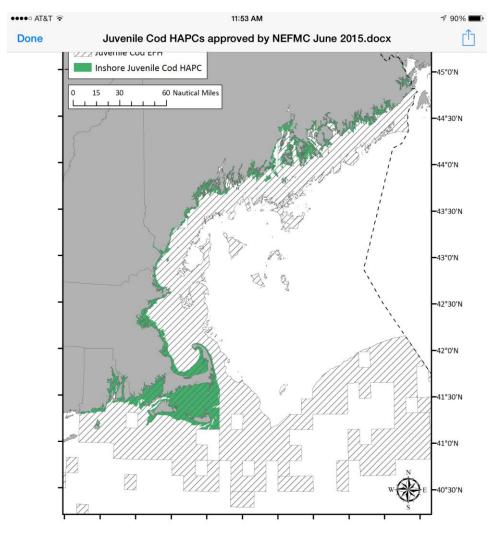
www.herringalliance.org

²⁹ See Draft Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment, p. 101. ³⁰ See Amendment 5 FSEIS, pp. 63-67.



Map 247 – Juvenile cod (# per tow) caught in fishery-independent surveys conducted since 2000. The red circles indicate spring and fall NEFSC trawl survey stations, and the green circles indicate all other surveys, including state surveys, industry based surveys, and the scallop survey. The NEFSC spring and fall trawl surveys were the foundation for the offshore portion of the EFH designation, which was initially limited to waters deeper than 30 meters. The preferred alternative EFH designation is shown in blue, and the subset which is the recommended Great South Channel HAPC is shaded grey. Tows where there was no catch of cod are indicated with a small X.





1.1.2 Great South Channel Juvenile Cod HAPC, preferred alternative

This alternative defines juvenile cod habitat in the vicinity of the Great South Channel as a habitat area of particular concern for the species (Map 246). The bounding box for the HAPC is the area north of 41°N latitude, west of 69°W longitude, south of 42°15'N latitude, and east of 70°W longitude. Within this box, the HAPC boundary is somewhat irregular, in part because it is based on an earlier considered and rejected version of the EFH designation map that excluded continental shelf habitats shallower than 30 meters. Within the bounding box shown on Map 246, the HAPC combines 'offshore' habitats between 30 and 120 meters with whole, 'inshore' ten minute squares between 69° 50' and 70° W longitude.

Sent from my iPad

From: Pete's Email [mailto:ackfish@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2016 9:58 PM
To: Didden, Jason <iadden@mafmc.org>

Subject: Council folder





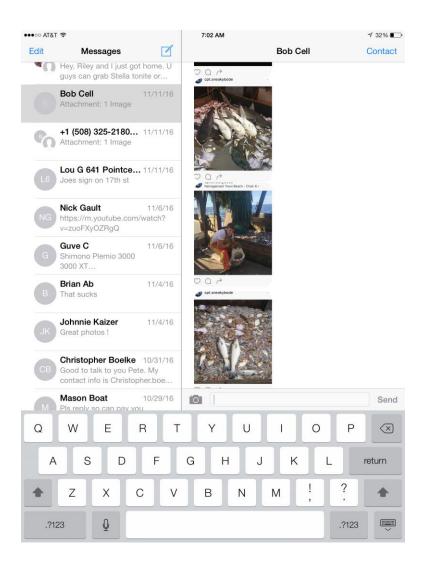


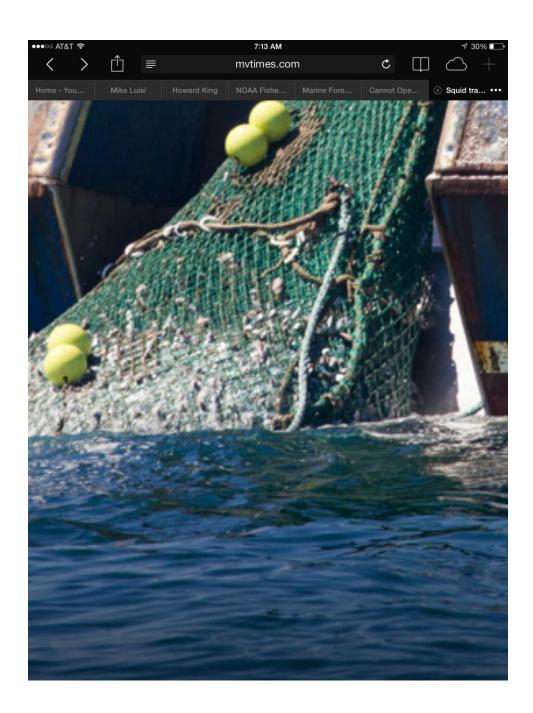


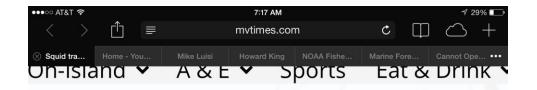




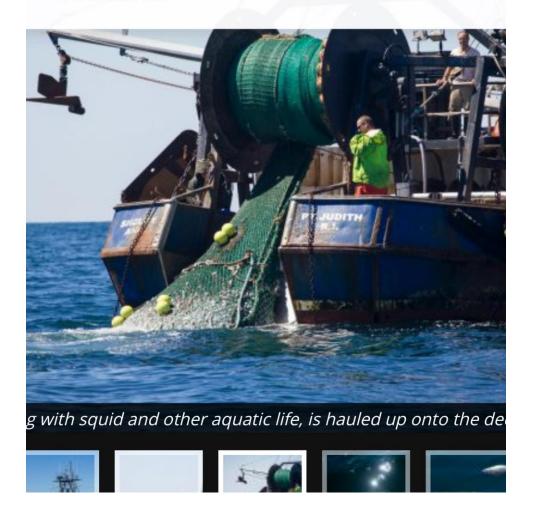








Directories



Town and County of Nantucket Board of Selectmen • County Commissioners

James R. Kelly, Chairman Rick Atherton Robert R. DeCosta Matt Fee Dawn E. Hill Holdgate



16 Broad Street Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554

> Telephone (508) 228-7255 Facsimile (508) 228-7272 www.nantucket-ma.gov

C. Elizabeth Gibson Town & County Manager

October 5, 2016

Dr. David E. Pierce, Director Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries 251 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114

Dear Dr. Pierce:

In the continuing efforts to be excellent stewards of the waters and fisheries around Nantucket Island, the citizens of Nantucket are demanding improved management of our waters. Nantucket has a rich history of fishing both recreationally and commercially and is world-renown for the excellent fisheries and habitat management. As requested in earlier correspondence the citizens of Nantucket are looking at a more eco-based approach to fisheries and habitat management to best protect the habitat and fisheries for generations to come. Protection of spawning squid, river herring (Figure 5) and sea herring is a critical component to managing these resources. To that end Nantucket is requesting equivalent protection to the other 90% of Massachusetts coastal communities as shown on the attached map (Figure 1). This map shows 70 coastal communities in Massachusetts, 63 of which have a great level of habitat protection. Nantucket has not been afforded such protection to date. Most objections to this request are coming from out-of-state industry, fishermen, or fisheries managers from Massachusetts that already have mobile gear protections in their own back yard. The citizens of Nantucket are all taxpayers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, like the other coastal communities on the attached map and should be afforded the same protections as the majority of the Commonwealth.

The citizens of Nantucket are requesting a mobile gear closure with no waivers, letters of authorization or other means of waiving the closure, that extends to three miles from the Nantucket archipelago (includes Nantucket, Tuckernuck, and Muskeget) from May 1st to October 31st. The residents of Nantucket have been under the impression that the Division of Marine Fisheries has been making decisions for the greater good of the fisheries and ecosystem around Nantucket. We currently feel based on the response from our last requests in regards to the extension of the most recent squid fishing season that decisions are being made to solely benefit both in-state and out-of-state mobile gear participants and not to the greater good of habitat and in keeping with eco-based decision making. The following request was made in correspondence from June of this year as it related to the granted extension:

We recognize that the Director is granted powers under 322 CMR 8.07(1)(b)(i) to "extend the small-mesh squid trawling season if he determines that continued fishing with small mesh will not result

in large catches of small squid less than five inches mantle length and/or juvenile scup, black sea bass, or fluke." The Town respectfully requests the following related to this decision:

- 1. That the current information demonstrating the lack of impact to the above listed conditions and species that was used to make this decision be provided to the town for review and comment.
- 2. That the DMF clearly describes how this impact is being measured by observers or DMF personnel through the current fishing season and through the extension.

The question remains given the size of the fishery, is the data collected from 27 tows statistically significant to make a fishery-wide determination. Discard data presented at the Mid-Atlantic Council Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Advisory Panel on September 13, 2016 showed the average discard percentages from all three trimesters was between 33%-36%. This seems significantly different than the data that you provided. The Town would also like to know the location of these 27 tows and if any of them are within the waters around Nantucket. Without the complete data set with locations to review, the citizens of Nantucket refuse to be satisfied that the Division of Marine Fisheries is making sound decisions to protect both fisheries and habitat around the near coastal waters of Nantucket.

Nantucket is supportive of commercial fishing as long as it is done in a responsible manner. The Division of Marine Fisheries should establish logical minimum mesh sizes and prohibit net strengtheners to decrease mesh size. These strengtheners must be banned as they are nothing more than a squid liner inside of a five inch cod end. These liners have been illegal in New England for more than thirty years. Ensuring that ground cables are not extended on raised foot gear and that the cod end cannot drag the bottom would help ensure minimal disruption to habitat. This bottom habitat is critical for the protection of squid mops which according to Lisa Hendrickson of NOAA need 17-30 days attached to the bottom. The attached Figure E-1 shows that these egg mops have been encountered from May to July in the waters around Nantucket. There are concerns related to bottom dragging and the gear conflicts that exist with conch trap fishermen. As in many other areas that are closed in the Commonwealth, the gear conflict between trap fishermen and mobile gear has been the main reason for their closures. Also, the disruption to squid mops in Nantucket waters and what impact that has on both recreational and commercial fishery resources with this potential depletion of squid is a concern. These areas have also been designated Essential Fish Habitat and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern for Great South Channel and inshore Cod (see attached figures). There are a number of questions that relate to how by-catch is measured and what limits are or should be placed on by-catch that is being harvested within state waters. Should roll-over quotas directly roll to the next available period or should spawning habitat and timeframe for other species be taken in to account when deciding how to roll over any available quota. These are all important issues to the citizens of Nantucket and look forward to an opportunity to discuss these with the Division of Marine Fisheries in an open public forum on Nantucket.

Nantucket residents should have significant input and control on how the waters and benthic habitats and fisheries around the island are utilized. To these ends the Town and County should have the ability to control what time and kinds of fishing gear are used, and what impacts to benthic environments are permissible to allow for the sustainable use of the waters around Nantucket. An example of actions supported by the Town and County: the New England Fisheries Management Council voted to create a Habitat Management Area five miles east of Nantucket that runs 20 miles east and 30 miles to the north and south. This area does not allow for mobile gear with no exemptions. In the future the Town, County and residents of Nantucket wish to extend similar protections around the three-mile perimeter of the island to promote responsible stewardship and biological sustainability of the coastal waters surrounding the island. To these ends we reiterate our request for a mobile gear closure with no

waivers, letters of authorization or other means of waiving the closure, that extends to three miles from the Nantucket archipelago (includes Nantucket, Tuckernuck, and Muskeget) from May $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ to October $\mathbf{31}^{\text{st}}$. We look forward to continuing this discussion and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert DeCosta

County Commission Chairman

Cc: Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito (constituent.services@state.ma.us)

Steven Kadish, Chief of Staff (constituent.services@state.ma.us)

Senator Stanley Rosenberg (stan.rosenberg@masenate.gov)

Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the House (Robert.DeLeo@mahouse.gov)

Rep. Tim Madden (timothy.madden@mahouse.gov)

George Peterson (George.peterson@state.ma.us)

Alexandra Cahill (alexandra.cahill@state.ma.us)

Doug Christel (douglas.christel@state.ma.us)

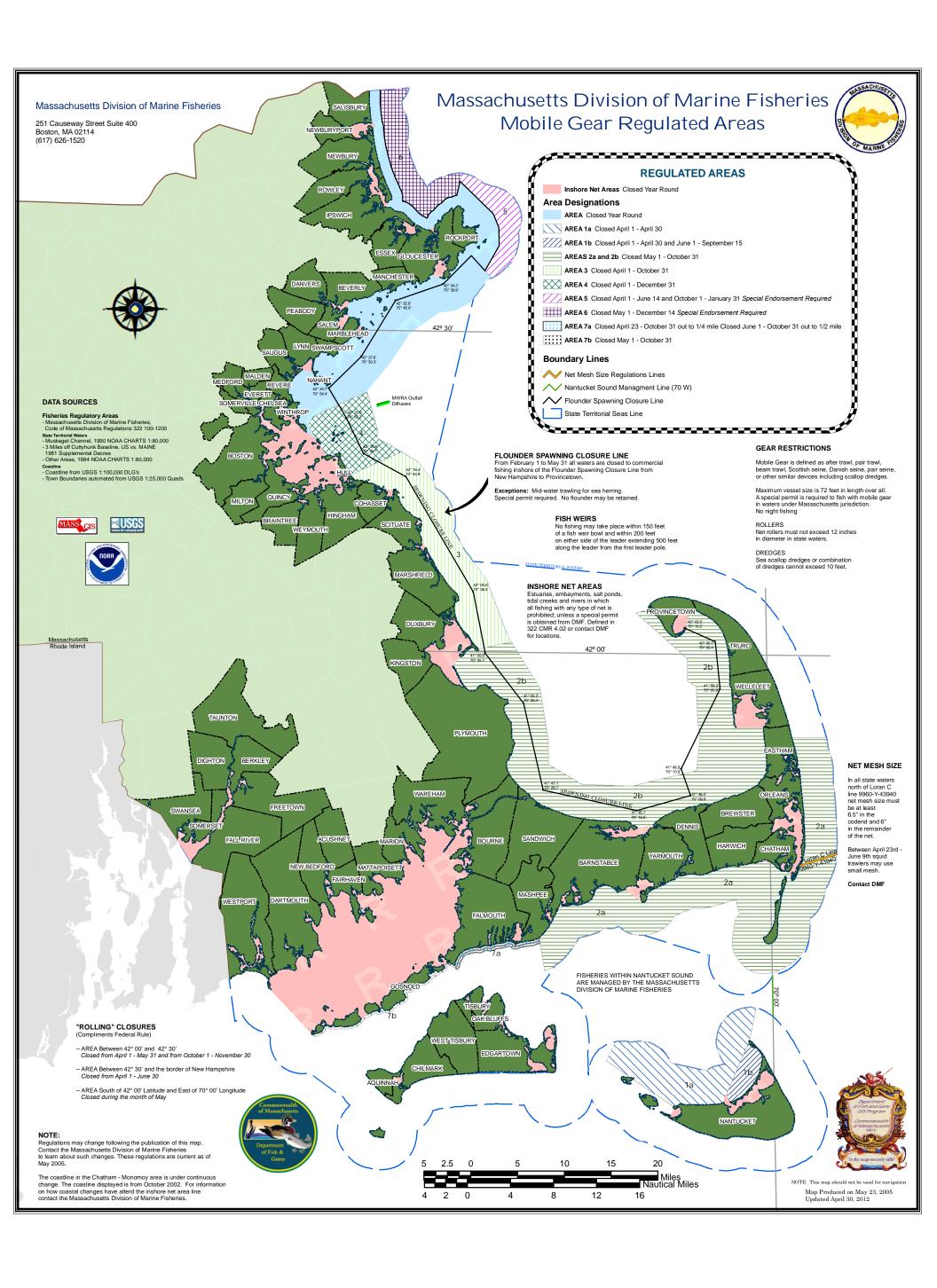
Matt Beaton (matthew.beaton@state.ma.us)

John Bullard (john.bullard@noaa.gov)

Ray Kane (<u>ray@capecodfisherman.org</u>)

John Pappalardo (johnp@ccchfa.org)

Jayson Didden (jdidden@mafmc.org)



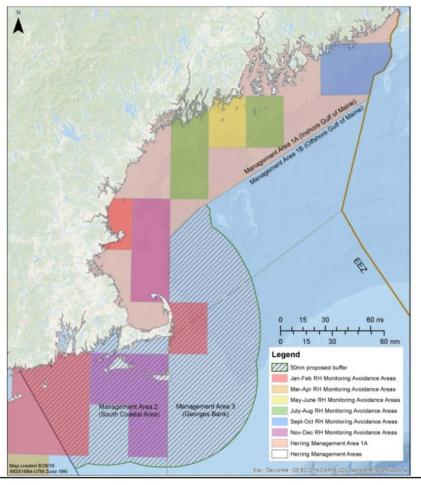


Figure 5. Proposed buffer zone (green-hatched) shown in relation to River Herring Monitoring/Avoidance Areas.

www.herringalliance.org

See Draft Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment, p. 101.
 See Amendment 5 FSEIS, pp. 63-67.

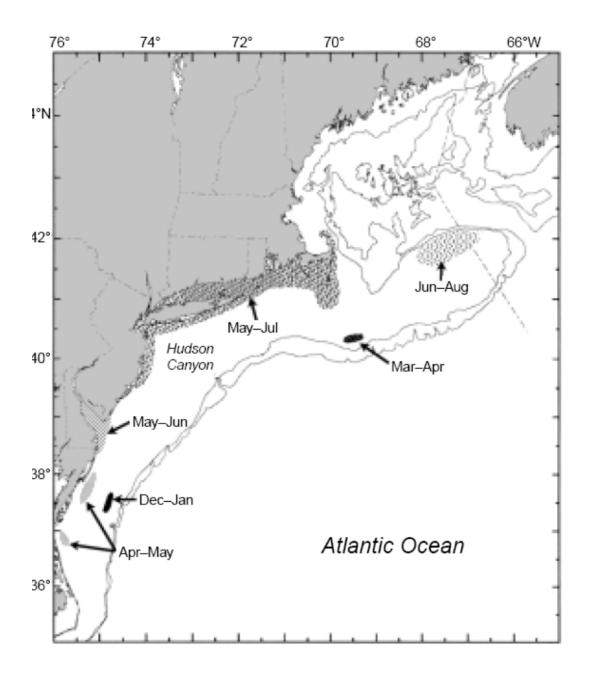


Figure E-1. Locations of fishery encounters with *Loligo* egg mops. Figure taken from Hatfield and Cadrin (2002).

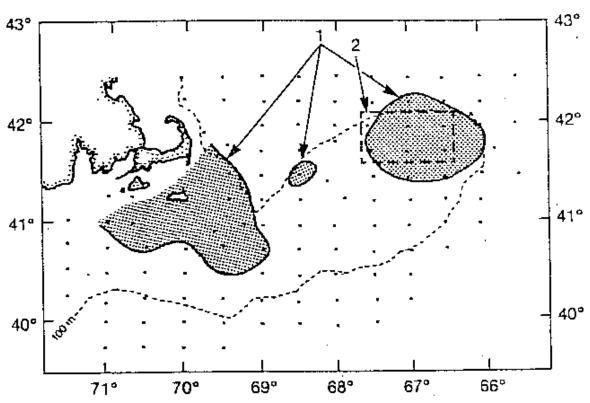
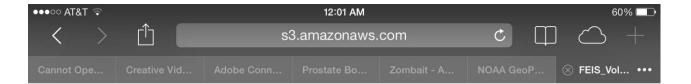


Fig. 13. Estimated boundaries of the spawning grounds on Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals, derived from the occurrence of dense concentrations (>10 larvae/10 m²) of newly-hatched larvae (≤8 mm SL) in 1971–77. (The rectangle represents the area most suitable for spawning on Georges Bank on the basis of geology and oceanography, according to Drapeau (1973).)



Map 1 - Continental shelf habitat areas of particular concern

