



David E. Pierce
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

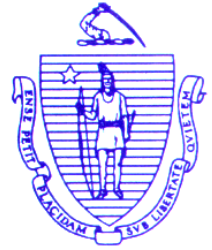
Division of Marine Fisheries

1213 Purchase St. 3rd Floor

New Bedford, MA 02740

(508)990-2860

fax (508)990-0449



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

George N. Peterson, Jr.
Commissioner

Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

TO INTERESTED WHITING FISHING INDUSTRY MEMBERS:

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) is seeking members of the whiting fishery interested in participating in a small-mesh experimental fishery in areas of the Gulf of Maine. This work will look to determine if earlier openings of Small Mesh Area 1 and/or the Raised Footrope Exemption areas are suitable for targeting small-mesh species.

At this time, MA DMF is trying to gather a list of interested permit holders for possible participation in an experimental fishery. MA DMF then will invite those pre-qualified to bid on a formal Request for Responses (RFR) for inclusion under a federal Exempted Fishing Permit to conduct this project. Pre-qualification will be limited to those impacted by the recent groundfish disaster given this work is being funded through the Commonwealth's Groundfish Disaster Economic Assistance Program.

At this point, no compensation is planned for participation; however, vessels will be able to keep and land whiting and red hake. MA DMF will provide the required observer coverage at no cost to the vessel.

Please fill out the following requested information:

Owner Name (print): _____ Business Name: _____

Owner Signature: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

Did you qualify for aid as a permit holder under the Commonwealth's Groundfish Disaster Economic Assistance Program? (check all that apply) Bin 1: ___ Bin 2: ___ Bin 3: ___

Vessel Name: _____ Federal Permit #: _____

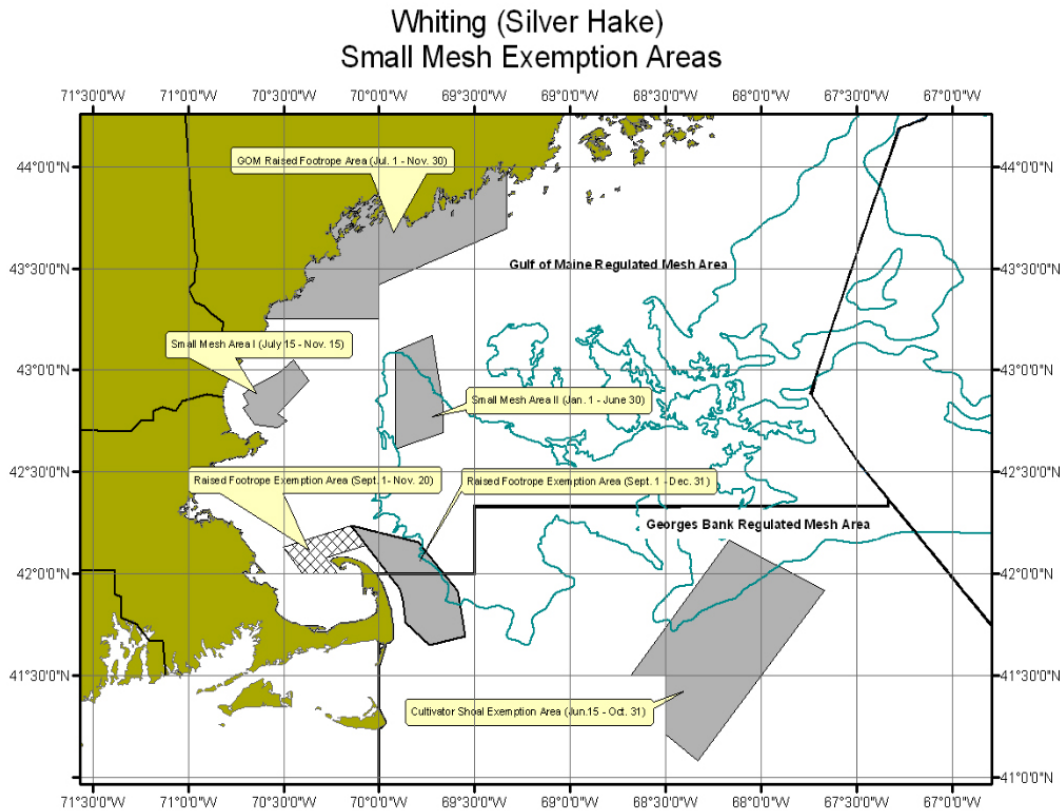
Vessel Size (LOA): _____ Vessel HP: _____ Home Port: _____

Small-Mesh Areas Typically Fished: _____

Species Targeted: _____

Below are the areas/times likely to be studied under this experimental fishery. Please rank the sub-areas in the Gulf of Maine in which you have the most interest (1), less interest (2), and least interest (3) to participate:

- ___ Small Mesh Area 1 during July 1-14
(currently open July 15 – November 15)
- ___ Raised Footrope Exemption Area, west of Provincetown, during August
(currently open Sep 1 – Nov. 20)
- ___ Raised Footrope Exemption Area, east of Provincetown, during August
(currently open Sep. 1 – Dec. 31)



Other comments/suggestions: _____

Please return this form to:

David Chosid
 Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
 1213 Purchase St., 3rd Floor
 New Bedford, MA 02740
 FAX: 508.990.0449
 Email: david.chosid@state.ma.us

For additional questions, feel free to contact David Chosid
 by phone at (508)990-2860 ext. 140 or above email.