



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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May 7, 2023

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Gloucester – Rockport Area 1A Closed to Mobile Gear Fishing, Effective May 8

The Division of Marine Fisheries is closing Area 1A ([map](#)) to mobile gear fishing on May 8, 2023 ([Notice](#)). This action is being taken to minimize user group conflicts between fixed and mobile gear fishers with the seasonal fixed gear closures being lifted in response to surveys not detecting right whales in Massachusetts' waters ([Advisory](#)).

Historically, the North Shore (Area 1) has been closed to mobile gear fishing year-round to prevent gear conflicts with fixed gear fisheries. However, DMF has carved out certain exemptions to allow mobile gear fishing to occur at certain times and places where gear conflicts are likely minimized. For instance, Area 1A has been open to mobile gear fishing from February 1 – March 31 annually. Previously this year, DMF extended the allowance for mobile gear fishing to continue in this area until May 15 or until the seasonal fixed gear closures to protect right whales are lifted, whichever occurs sooner.

For more information about the management of mobile gear fisheries in Massachusetts, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries