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May 8, 2026
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Gloucester – Rockport Area 1A Closed to Mobile Gear Fishing, Effective May 9

The Division of Marine Fisheries is closing Area 1A ([map](#)) to mobile gear fishing on May 9, 2026 ([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 as [announced in an earlier 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. DMF allows for mobile gear fishing to take place in Area 1A —Gloucester - Rockport— annually from February 1 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