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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

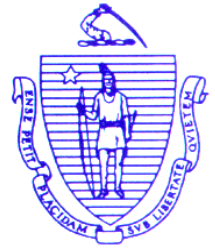
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March 19, 2018

Dear Fixed Gear Fishermen,

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries' (DMF) Industry-Based Survey for Gulf of Maine Cod (Cod IBS) is set to begin again in April 2018. The survey is being conducted in federal waters from Cape Cod Bay to Casco Bay and includes Massachusetts and New Hampshire state waters. This important cooperative research effort has several direct benefits to New England commercial and recreational fisheries, including lobster.

The cod IBS is conducted onboard the F/V Miss Emily, a green hulled 53' trawler based out of Scituate Ma. Each month the vessel attempts 50 randomly-selected tows that are evenly distributed throughout the survey area. The biggest challenge for the survey is the presence of fixed gear at tow sites. Although DMF makes every possible effort to avoid fixed gear, conflicts do occur. This creates an unsafe situation, typically resulting in a monetary loss to the fishermen and the survey. Also, the presence of fixed gear negatively affects tow completion rates, resulting in a loss of critical data.

In order to facilitate the completion of tows and minimize gear interactions, DMF has identified planned tows for the month of June in areas where high densities of fixed gear have burdened the survey. Rather than giving one central point, we have identified a tow line with coordinates at either end. Note that the vessel requires a clear path that is approximately 1500 feet wide and 1.5 nautical miles long and are requesting that all gear be temporarily removed from these areas.

The attached table contains a tentative schedule and a list of tows that will be attempted in June. If it is not possible to survey the identified tow line, the survey vessel will find a new tow within 2.25 nautical miles of the coordinates.

Updates on future planned tows and their completion will be available from the Cod IBS [website](#) and text messages sent by the cod IBS [text message alert](#) system. Additionally updates will be provided to the Maine Lobstermen's Association, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, and New Hampshire Fish and Game.

If you have questions regarding the Cod IBS please contact William Hoffman at (978) 281-0308 x106.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation,

William Hoffman, Micah Dean, and Nick Buchan

April 2018 planned tows will be attempted on a line between Point A and Point B.
Loran coordinates were generated using P-Sea[™] WindPlot2MAX and are for **general guidance only**

For accurate coordinates use Latitude / Longitude

Station	General Area	Dates	Point A 9960-W	Point A 9960-Y	Point A Latitude	Point A Longitude	Point B 9960-W	Point B 9960-Y	Point B Latitude	Point B Longitude
14	Cape Cod Bay	4/1-4/15	13881.4	44040	41°52.161'N	70°13.250'W	13869.2	44044.3	41°53.205'N	70°11.992'W
16	Cape Cod Bay	4/1-4/15	13848.9	44074.4	41°58.155'N	70°12.470'W	13845	44066.6	41°57.207'N	70°11.058'W
15	Cape Cod Bay	4/1-4/15	13956.2	44089.4	41°56.301'N	70°28.902'W	13948.8	44097.1	41°57.642'N	70°28.684'W
20	Race Point	4/1-4/15	13867.6	44112	42°02.737'N	70°19.220'W	13866.4	44104.6	42°01.744'N	70°18.245'W
18	Cape Cod Bay	4/1-4/15	13926.8	44133.4	42°03.496'N	70°29.563'W	13922.9	44125.2	42°02.502'N	70°28.151'W
26	Massachusetts Bay	4/16-4/30	13932.5	44165.7	42°07.774'N	70°33.786'W	13933.8	44155.7	42°06.333'N	70°32.888'W
27	Massachusetts Bay	4/16-4/30	13910.2	44181.1	42°10.785'N	70°32.512'W	13908	44174.9	42°10.013'N	70°31.562'W
24	Massachusetts Bay	4/16-4/30	13923.2	44211.8	42°14.494'N	70°37.388'W	13918.9	44203.9	42°13.550'N	70°35.963'W
21	Massachusetts Bay	4/16-4/30	13852.5	44193.9	42°14.751'N	70°26.202'W	13851.8	44185.6	42°13.598'N	70°25.162'W
19	Stellwagen Bank	4/16-4/30	13782.3	44162.5	42°13.029'N	70°13.298'W	13781.1	44154	42°11.866'N	70°12.142'W
22	Backside of Cape Cod	4/16-4/30	13760.9	44118.7	42°07.623'N	70°05.238'W	13755.2	44111.9	42°06.870'N	70°03.653'W
23	Backside of Cape Cod	4/16-4/30	13757.7	44093.9	42°04.210'N	70°01.864'W	13756.1	44086.2	42°03.168'N	70°00.722'W
25	Massachusetts Bay	4/16-4/30	13954.1	44286	42°23.659'N	70°49.398'W	13953.4	44280.4	42°22.899'N	70°48.704'W
17	Stellwagen Bank	4/16-4/30	13776.4	44237.9	42°24.024'N	70°21.472'W	13781.5	44230.3	42°22.712'N	70°21.214'W
28	Massachusetts Bay	4/16-4/30	13881.8	44280.4	42°25.812'N	70°39.772'W	13879.1	44274.3	42°25.051'N	70°38.744'W
38	Massachusetts Bay	4/16-4/30	13876.4	44326.9	42°32.676'N	70°44.446'W	13863.4	44325.1	42°32.970'N	70°42.649'W
35	E of Gloucester	4/16-4/30	13819.9	44317.6	42°33.696'N	70°36.434'W	13806.1	44319.5	42°34.549'N	70°34.970'W
29	E of Gloucester	4/16-4/30	13768.5	44293.9	42°32.414'N	70°27.240'W	13772.2	44287.3	42°31.308'N	70°26.892'W
33	S Jefferies Ledge	4/16-4/30	13731.4	44330.2	42°39.267'N	70°27.146'W	13716.7	44331	42°40.000'N	70°25.434'W
34	SW of Scantum Basin	4/16-4/30	13752.2	44400.3	42°48.676'N	70°38.450'W	13752.8	44392.6	42°47.524'N	70°37.552'W
30	Scantum Basin	4/16-4/30	13666.2	44397.7	42°52.072'N	70°27.985'W	13656.8	44404.8	42°53.538'N	70°27.811'W
37	SW of Isles of Shoals	4/16-4/30	13737.6	44444.8	42°55.960'N	70°42.442'W	13722.3	44440.6	42°56.015'N	70°40.140'W
36	Isles of Shoals	4/16-4/30	13656.2	44434.8	42°58.078'N	70°31.750'W	13639.1	44436.9	42°59.169'N	70°30.069'W
32	N Of Old Scantum	4/16-4/30	13613.2	44408.4	42°56.010'N	70°23.169'W	13607.1	44401.4	42°55.219'N	70°21.488'W
49	E of Boon Island	4/1-4/15	13571.1	44443.4	43°03.208'N	70°23.096'W	13555.8	44446.5	43°04.374'N	70°21.774'W
1	NW of Jefferies Ledge	4/1-4/15	13432	44468.8	43°13.473'N	70°10.808'W	13431.5	44461.5	43°12.368'N	70°09.652'W
50	E of Kennebunkport	4/1-4/15	13393.6	44521.4	43°23.577'N	70°14.558'W	13385.3	44524.9	43°24.522'N	70°14.184'W
48	SE of Portland	4/1-4/15	13303.7	44533.6	43°29.776'N	70°06.538'W	13308.8	44527.1	43°28.492'N	70°06.060'W
41	Outer Kettle	4/1-4/15	13129.3	44479.3	43°29.301'N	69°37.639'W	13131.6	44472.5	43°28.085'N	69°36.704'W