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May 25, 2017

Dear Fixed Gear Fishermen,

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries' (DMF) Industry-Based Survey for Gulf of Maine Cod (Cod IBS) began again in April 2017 and is now into its second year. 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) 282-0308 x106.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation,

William Hoffman (co-PI), Micah Dean (co-PI), and Nick Buchan (project coordinator)

End points of tows that will be attempted

Loran coordinates were converted using P-Sea™ WindPlot2MAX and are for **GENERAL GUIDANCE ONLY**
FOR ACCURATE LOCATION INFORMATION USE LAT/LON ONLY

Station	General Area	Dates	Point A 9960-W	Point A 9960-Y	Point A Latitude	Point A Longitude	Point A 9960-W	Point B 9960-Y	Point B Latitude	Point B Longitude
38	Cape Cod Bay	6/4-6/10	13966.2	44031.8	41°48.022' N	70°24.342 W	13950.5	44039.7	41°49.663' N	70°22.942' W
37	Cape Cod Bay	6/4-6/10	13914.5	44040.5	41°51.046' N	70°17.972' W	13898.3	44043.4	41°52.034' N	70°16.004' W
39	Cape Cod Bay	6/4-6/10	13858.2	44056.9	41°55.371' N	70°11.834' W	13845.0	44056.6	41°55.796' N	70°09.943' W
30	Race Point	6/4-6/10	13864.3	44123.0	42°04.403' N	70°20.004' W	13864.1	44115.9	42°03.41' N	70°19.184' W
36	W of Peaked Hill Bar	6/4-6/10	13814.7	44126.2	42°06.636' N	70°13.454' W	13803.4	44126.1	42°07.055' N	70°11.895' W
26	E of Duxbury, MA	6/4-6/10	13940.2	44147.5	42°04.958' N	70°32.86' W	13931.5	44152.1	42°06.067' N	70°32.296' W
31	SW Corner Stellwagen Bank	6/4-6/10	13821.4	44166.0	42°12.008' N	70°18.916' W	13810.3	44170.2	42°13.042' N	70°17.921' W
35	W of Stellwagen Bank	6/18-6/24	13835.7	44198.2	42°16.019' N	70°24.507' W	13823.7	44190.0	42°15.33' N	70°21.987' W
33	W of Stellwagen Bank	6/18-6/24	13838.4	44233.1	42°20.865' N	70°28.854' W	13828.6	44226.0	42°20.251' N	70°26.781' W
27	E of Boston, MA	6/18-6/24	13951.5	44264.4	42°20.718' N	70°46.722' W	13947.8	44252.8	42°19.244' N	70°44.99' W
29	E of Boston, MA	6/18-6/24	13956.8	44308.3	42°26.694' N	70°52.168' W	13954.8	44299.9	42°25.59' N	70°51.006' W
28	E of Marblehead, MA	6/18-6/24	13913.7	44304.8	42°27.969' N	70°46.48' W	13902.4	44310.5	42°29.249' N	70°45.734' W
25	NE of Eagle Ridge	6/18-6/24	13856.0	44291.1	42°28.392' N	70°37.793' W	13841.9	44293.4	42°29.298' N	70°36.301' W
22	Southern Jefferies Ledge	6/18-6/24	13707.2	44337.2	42°41.398' N	70°26.418' W	13707.2	44337.2	42°41.312' N	70°24.069' W
16	Ipswich Bay	6/18-6/24	13777.5	44934.4	42°46.714' N	70°40.69' W	13782.0	44387.5	42°45.5' N	70°40.366' W
19	E of Merrimack River	6/18-6/24	13785.7	44427.2	42°51.205' N	70°45.744' W	13771.0	44429.5	42°51.19' N	70°44.327' W
18	Scantum Basin	6/18-6/24	13731.1	44391.0	42°48.223' N	70°34.783' W	13724.6	44383.0	42°47.328' N	70°32.922' W
17	S of Isles of Shoals	6/18-6/24	13712.5	44447.3	42°57.45' N	70°39.894' W	13719.7	44441.4	42°56.246' N	70°39.952' W
20	N of Old Scantum	6/18-6/24	13686.0	44417.9	42°56.78' N	70°26.19' W	13610.2	44423.1	42°58.365' N	70°24.821' W
1	NW of the Fingers	6/11-6/17	13476.6	44472.3	43°11.975' N	70°16.424' W	13461.3	44477.8	43°13.537' N	70°15.504' W
2	Tanta Ground	6/11-6/17	13348.8	44492.1	43°21.011' N	70°04.934' W	13353.4	44483.9	43°19.486' N	70°04.158' W
3	SE oF Portland, ME	6/11-6/17	13373.7	44518.3	42°25.1' N	70°12.083' W	13373.7	44518.3	43°24.009' N	70°11.858' W
5	E of Portland, ME	6/11-6/17	13339.9	44535.4	42°26.576' N	70°11.51' W	13339.9	44535.4	43°28.352' N	70°10.833' W