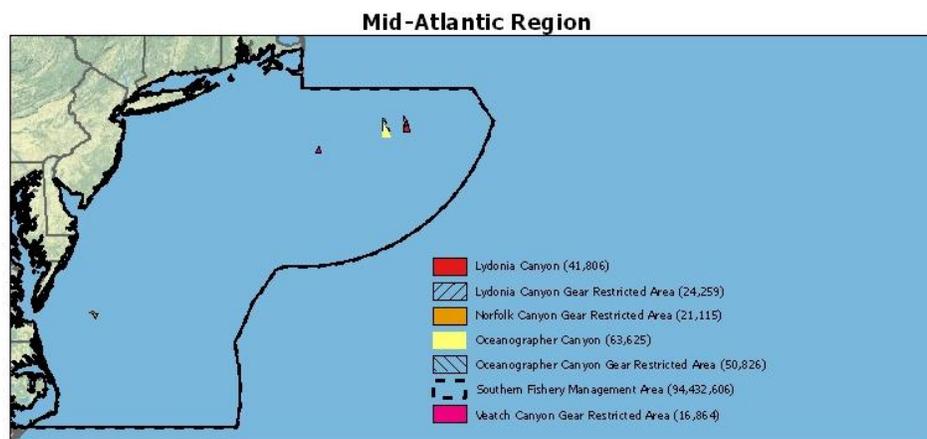
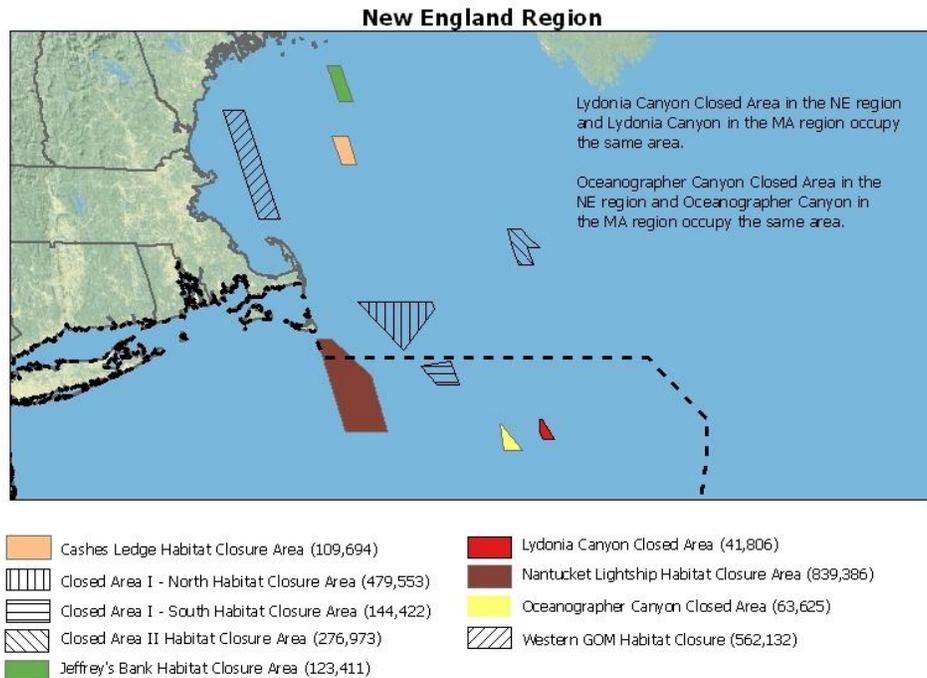




## EFH Areas Protected from Fishing in the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regions

Section 303(a)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to take steps to minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects of fishing on essential fish habitat (EFH).

NMFS works with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils to protect EFH in support of healthy ecosystems and sustainable fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean.



*Essential fish habitat (EFH) means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity*

For more information on how NMFS protects essential fish habitat, visit

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/efh>

EFH Areas Protected from Fishing Impacts in the New England and the Mid-Atlantic Regions

New England Site Name	GIS Area (Acres)	FMP	50 CFR	Regs published
1 Cashes Ledge Habitat Closure Area	109,694	Multisp. FMP Am 13 Scallop FMP Am 15	648.81 (h)(1)(ii) and (h)(2)(i) 648.61 (a)(2)	<a href="#">4/27/2004</a> <a href="#">7/21/2011</a>
2 Closed Area I North Habitat Closure Area	479,554	Multisp. FMP Am 13 Scallop FMP Am 15	648.81 (h)(1)(iv) and (h)(2)(i) 648.61 (a)(4)	<a href="#">4/27/2004</a> <a href="#">7/21/2011</a>
3 Closed Area I South Habitat Closure Area	144,422	Multisp. FMP Am 13 Scallop FMP Am 15	648.81 (h)(1)(iv) and (h)(2)(i) 648.61 (a)(4)	<a href="#">4/27/2004</a> <a href="#">7/21/2011</a>
4 Closed Area II Habitat Closure Area	276,974	Multisp. FMP Am 13 Scallop FMP Am 15	648.81 (h)(1)(v) 648.61 (a)(5)	<a href="#">4/27/2004</a> <a href="#">Revised 12/27/2005</a> <a href="#">7/21/2011</a>
5 Jeffrey's Bank Habitat Closure Area	123,412	Multisp. FMP Am 13 Scallop FMP Am 15	648.81 (h)(1)(iii) and (h)(2)(i) 648.61 (a)(3)	<a href="#">4/27/2004</a> <a href="#">7/21/2011</a>
6 Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area	839,387	Multisp. FMP Am 13 Scallop FMP Am 15	648.81 (h)(1)(vi) and (h)(2)(i) 648.61 (a)(6)	<a href="#">4/27/2004</a> <a href="#">7/21/2011</a>
7 Western Gulf of Maine Habitat Closure Area	562,133	Multisp. FMP Am 13 Scallop FMP Am 15	648.81 (h)(1)(i) and (h)(2)(i) 648.61 (a)(1)	<a href="#">4/27/2004</a> <a href="#">7/21/2011</a>
13 Lydonia Canyon Closed Area	41,806	Monkfish FMP Am 2	648.97 (b)	<a href="#">4/28/2005</a>
14 Oceanographer Canyon Closed Area	63,625	Monkfish FMP Am 2	648.97 (a)	<a href="#">4/28/2005</a>
15 Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA)	96,432,606	Monkfish FMP Am 2	648.91 (c)(3)	<a href="#">4/28/2005</a>

Mid-Atlantic Site Name	GIS Area (Acres)	FMP	50 CFR	Regs published
1 Lydonia Canyon	41,806	MSB FMP Am 9	648.23 (a)(4)(ii)	<a href="#">7/1/2008</a>
2 Oceanographer Canyon	63,625	MSB FMP Am 9	648.23 (a)(4)(i)	<a href="#">7/1/2008</a>
3 Lydonia Canyon Gear Restricted Area	24,259	Tilefish FMP Am 1	648.296	<a href="#">8/24/2009</a>
4 Norfolk Canyon Gear Restricted Area	21,115	Tilefish FMP Am 1	648.296	<a href="#">8/24/2009</a>
5 Oceanographer Canyon Gear Restricted Area	50,826	Tilefish FMP Am 1	648.296	<a href="#">8/24/2009</a>
6 Veatch Canyon Gear Restricted Area	16,864	Tilefish FMP Am 1	648.296	<a href="#">8/24/2009</a>

(MSB = Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish)



## Measures to Protect EFH from Fishing Impacts in the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regions

### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council EFH Protection Measures

#### Oceanographer Canyon Lydonia Canyon

Established in 2008 MAFMC Amendment 9 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP

§ 648.23 Gear restrictions. (a)(4) *Mackerel, squid, and butterfish bottom trawling restricted areas.*

(i) **Oceanographer Canyon.** No permitted mackerel, squid, or butterfish vessel may fish with bottom trawl gear in the Oceanographer Canyon or be in the Oceanographer Canyon unless transiting. Vessels may transit this area provided the bottom trawl gear is stowed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of this section.

(ii) **Lydonia Canyon.** No permitted mackerel, squid, or butterfish vessel may fish with bottom trawl gear in the Lydonia Canyon or be in the Lydonia Canyon unless transiting. Vessels may transit this area provided the bottom trawl gear is stowed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of this section.

#### Lydonia Canyon Gear Restricted Area Norfolk Canyon Gear Restricted Area Oceanographer Canyon Gear Restricted Area Veatch Canyon Gear Restricted Area

Established in 2009 MAFMC Amendment 1 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan

§ 648.296 Gear restricted areas. No vessel of the United States may fish with bottom-tending mobile gear within the areas bounded by the following coordinates: [names and coordinates for **Oceanographer, Lydonia, Veatch, and Norfolk Canyon Gear Restricted Areas** listed].

[From the Preamble to the 2009 regulations published in the Federal Register:

**EFH Measures C.** Gear Restricted Areas (GRAs): The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that Councils evaluate potential adverse effects of fishing activities on EFH and include in FMPs management measures necessary to minimize adverse effects to the extent practicable. Specifically for tilefish, clay outcroppings (pueblo habitats) have been determined to be highly vulnerable to permanent disturbance by bottom-tending mobile gear such as the bottom otter trawl, as described in Amendment 1. Therefore, several GRAs are approved to minimize impacts on juvenile and adult tilefish EFH from bottom trawling activity. These closed areas do not follow the depth contours exactly, but are designed as polygonal areas that approximate the areas and depths described, while allowing for straight boundaries for enforcement purposes. In addition, because these areas are closed polygons, any areas within those GRAs that are deeper than the maximum depth that defines tilefish EFH are also closed to bottom trawling activity, even though they are not defined as EFH. Amendment 1 prohibits bottom trawling, within and adjacent to the four Canyons identified as HAPC, at depths associated with the revised EFH designation.]

### New England Fishery Management Council EFH Protection Measures

#### Cashes Ledge Habitat Closure Area

Established in 2004 NEFMC Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan  
and 2011 NEFMC Amendment 15 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

**§ 648.61 EFH closed areas. (a)** No vessel fishing for scallops, or person on a vessel fishing for scallops, may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas described in paragraphs (a)(1) through (6) of this section, unless otherwise specified

**(2) Cashes Ledge Habitat Closure Area.**

**§ 648.81 NE multispecies closed areas and measures to protect EFH.**

*(h) Essential Fish Habitat Closure Areas (1)* In addition to the restrictions under paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel with bottom tending mobile gear on board the vessel may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas.

**(1)(ii) Cashes Ledge Habitat Closure Area**

*(h)(2)(i) Transiting.* A vessel may transit Closed Area I, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, the Western GOM Closure Area, the GOM Rolling Closure Areas, the GB Seasonal Closure Area and the EFH Closure Areas, as defined in paragraphs (a)(1), (c)(1), (d)(1), (e)(1), (f)(1), (g)(1), and (h)(1), respectively, of this section, provided that its gear is stowed in accordance with the provisions of § 648.23(b).

## **Closed Area I Habitat Closure Area**

**Established in 2004 NEFMC Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and 2011 NEFMC Amendment 15 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan**

**§ 648.61 EFH closed areas. (a)** No vessel fishing for scallops, or person on a vessel fishing for scallops, may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas described in paragraphs (a)(1) through (6) of this section, unless otherwise specified

**(4) Closed Area I Habitat Closure Areas.**

**§ 648.81 NE multispecies closed areas and measures to protect EFH.**

*(h) Essential Fish Habitat Closure Areas. (1)* In addition to the restrictions under paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel with bottom tending mobile gear on board the vessel may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas.

**(1)(iv) Closed Area I Habitat Closure Areas**

*(h)(2)(i) Transiting.* A vessel may transit Closed Area I, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, the Western GOM Closure Area, the GOM Rolling Closure Areas, the GB Seasonal Closure Area and the EFH Closure Areas, as defined in paragraphs (a)(1), (c)(1), (d)(1), (e)(1), (f)(1), (g)(1), and (h)(1), respectively, of this section, provided that its gear is stowed in accordance with the provisions of § 648.23(b).

## **Closed Area II Habitat Closure Area**

**Established in 2004 NEFMC Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and 2011 NEFMC Amendment 15 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan**

**§ 648.61 EFH closed areas. (a)** No vessel fishing for scallops, or person on a vessel fishing for scallops, may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas described in paragraphs (a)(1) through (6) of this section, unless otherwise specified

**(5) Closed Area II Habitat Closure Area.**

**§ 648.81 NE multispecies closed areas and measures to protect EFH.**

*(h) Essential Fish Habitat Closure Areas. (1)* In addition to the restrictions under paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel with bottom tending mobile gear on board the vessel may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas.

**(1)(v) Closed Area II Habitat Closure Area**

## **Jeffrey's Bank Habitat Closure Area**

**Established in 2004 NEFMC Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and 2011 NEFMC Amendment 15 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan**

**§ 648.61 EFH closed areas. (a)** No vessel fishing for scallops, or person on a vessel fishing for scallops, may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas described in paragraphs (a)(1) through (6) of this section, unless otherwise specified

### (3) Jeffrey's Bank Habitat Closure Area.

#### § 648.81 NE multispecies closed areas and measures to protect EFH.

(h) *Essential Fish Habitat Closure Areas.* (1) In addition to the restrictions under paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel with bottom tending mobile gear on board the vessel may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas.

#### (1)(iii) Jeffrey's Bank Habitat Closure Area

(h)(2)(i) *Transiting.* A vessel may transit Closed Area I, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, the Western GOM Closure Area, the GOM Rolling Closure Areas, the GB Seasonal Closure Area and the EFH Closure Areas, as defined in paragraphs (a)(1), (c)(1), (d)(1), (e)(1), (f)(1), (g)(1), and (h)(1), respectively, of this section, provided that its gear is stowed in accordance with the provisions of § 648.23(b).

## Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area

Established in 2004 NEFMC Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and 2011 NEFMC Amendment 15 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

§ 648.61 EFH closed areas. (a) No vessel fishing for scallops, or person on a vessel fishing for scallops, may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas described in paragraphs (a)(1) through (6) of this section, unless otherwise specified

#### (6) Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area.

#### § 648.81 NE multispecies closed areas and measures to protect EFH.

(h) *Essential Fish Habitat Closure Areas.* (1) In addition to the restrictions under paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel with bottom tending mobile gear on board the vessel may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas.

#### (1)(vi) Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area

(h)(2)(i) *Transiting.* A vessel may transit Closed Area I, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, the Western GOM Closure Area, the GOM Rolling Closure Areas, the GB Seasonal Closure Area and the EFH Closure Areas, as defined in paragraphs (a)(1), (c)(1), (d)(1), (e)(1), (f)(1), (g)(1), and (h)(1), respectively, of this section, provided that its gear is stowed in accordance with the provisions of § 648.23(b).

## Southern Fishery Management Area Trawl Roller Gear Restriction

Established in 2005 NEFMC Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan

#### § 648.91 Monkfish regulated mesh areas and restrictions on gear and methods of fishing.

(c)(3) *SFMA trawl roller gear restriction.* The roller gear diameter on any vessel on a monkfish DAS in the SFMA may not exceed 6 inches (15.2 cm) in diameter.

## Western Gulf of Maine Habitat Closure Area

Established in 2004 NEFMC Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and 2011 NEFMC Amendment 15 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

§ 648.61 EFH closed areas. (a) No vessel fishing for scallops, or person on a vessel fishing for scallops, may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas described in paragraphs (a)(1) through (6) of this section, unless otherwise specified

#### (1) Western Gulf of Maine Habitat Closure Area.

#### § 648.81 NE multispecies closed areas and measures to protect EFH.

(h) *Essential Fish Habitat Closure Areas.* (1) In addition to the restrictions under paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section, no fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel with bottom tending mobile gear on board the vessel may enter, fish in, or be in the EFH Closure Areas.

#### (1)(i) Western Gulf of Maine Habitat Closure Area

(h)(2)(i) *Transiting.* A vessel may transit Closed Area I, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, the Western GOM Closure Area, the GOM Rolling Closure Areas, the GB Seasonal Closure Area and the EFH Closure Areas,

as defined in paragraphs (a)(1), (c)(1), (d)(1), (e)(1), (f)(1), (g)(1), and (h)(1), respectively, of this section, provided that its gear is stowed in accordance with the provisions of § 648.23(b).

## **Oceanographer Canyon Closed Area**

## **Lydonia Canyon Closed Area**

**Established in 2005 NEFMC Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan**

### **§ 648.97 Closed areas.**

(a) ***Oceanographer Canyon Closed Area.*** No fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish, or be in the area known as Oceanographer Canyon Closed Area (copies of a chart depicting this area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request).

(b) ***Lydonia Canyon Closed Area.*** No fishing vessel or person on a fishing vessel may enter, fish, or be in the area known as Lydonia Canyon Closed Area (copies of a chart depicting this area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request).