

silver hake—up to 200 lb (90.7 kg); monkfish and monkfish parts—up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board or up to 50 lb (23 kg) tail-weight/166 lb (75 kg) whole-weight of monkfish per trip, as specified in § 648.94(c)(4), whichever is less; American lobster—up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board or 200 lobsters, whichever is less, unless otherwise restricted by landing limits specified in § 697.17 of this chapter; and skate or skate parts—up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board.

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(15) *Raised Footrope Trawl Exempted Whiting Fishery.* Vessels subject to the minimum mesh size restrictions specified in paragraphs (a)(3) or (a)(4) of this section may fish with, use, or possess nets in the Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery area with a mesh size smaller than the minimum size specified, if the vessel complies with the requirements specified in paragraph (a)(15)(i) of this section. This exemption does not apply to the Cashes Ledge Closure Areas or the Western GOM Area Closure specified in § 648.81(h) and (i). The Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery Area (copies of a chart depicting the area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request) is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

RAISED FOOTROPE TRAWL WHITING FISHERY EXEMPTION AREA (SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 20)

| Point | N. Lat. | W. Long. |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
| RF1 | 42°14.05' | 70°08.8' |
| RF2 | 42°09.2' | 69°47.8' |
| RF3 | 41°54.85' | 69°35.2' |
| RF4 | 41°41.5' | 69°32.85' |
| RF5 | 41°39' | 69°44.3' |
| RF6 | 41°45.6' | 69°51.8' |
| RF7 | 41°52.3' | 69°52.55' |
| RF8 | 41°55.5' | 69°53.45' |
| RF9 | 42°08.35' | 70°04.05' |
| RF10 | 42°04.75' | 70°16.95' |
| RF11 | 42°00' | 70°13.2' |
| RF12 | 42°00' | 70°24.1' |
| RF13 | 42°07.85' | 70°30.1' |
| RF1 | 42°14.05' | 70°08.8' |

RAISED FOOTROPE TRAWL WHITING FISHERY EXEMPTION AREA (NOVEMBER 21 THROUGH DECEMBER 31)

| Point | N. Lat. | W. Long. |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
| RF1 | 42°14.05' | 70°08.8' |
| RF2 | 42°09.2' | 69°47.8' |
| RF3 | 41°54.85' | 69°35.2° |
| RF4 | 41°41.5' | 69°32.85' |
| RF5 | 41°39' | 69°44.3' |
| RF6 | 41°45.6' | 69°51.8' |
| RF7 | 41°52.3' | 69°52.55' |
| RF8 | 41°55.5' | 69°53.45' |
| RF9 | 42°08.35' | 70°04.05' |
| RF1 | 42°14.05' | 70°08.8' |
| | | |
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(i) * * *

(B) All nets must be no smaller than a minimum mesh size of 2.5-inch (6.35-cm) square or diamond mesh, subject to the restrictions as specified in paragraph (a)(14)(i)(D) of this section. An owner or operator of a vessel enrolled in the raised footrope whiting fishery may not fish for, possess on board, or land any species of fish other than whiting and offshore hake subject to the applicable possession limits as specified in § 648.86, except for the following allowable incidental species: Red hake; butterfish; dogfish; herring; mackerel; scup; and squid.

(C) [Reserved]

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(b) * * *

(3) *Exemptions*—(i) *Species exemptions.* Owners and operators of vessels subject to the minimum mesh size restrictions specified in paragraphs (a)(4) and (b)(2) of this section, may fish for, harvest, possess, or land butterfish, dogfish (trawl only), herring, Atlantic mackerel, ocean pout, scup, shrimp, squid, summer flounder, silver hake and offshore hake, and weakfish with nets of a mesh size smaller than the minimum size specified in the GB and SNE Regulated Mesh Areas when fishing in the SNE Exemption Area defined in paragraph (b)(10) of this section, provided such vessels comply with requirements specified in paragraph (b)(3)(ii) of this section and with the mesh size and possession limit restrictions specified under § 648.86(d).

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