

## § 697.22

(f) *Enforcement action.* Unidentified, unmarked, unvented, improperly vented American lobster traps, or, beginning May 1, 2000, any untagged American lobster traps, or any lobster traps subject to the requirements and specifications of § 697.21, which fail to meet such requirements and specifications may be seized and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of 15 CFR part 904.

(g) *Exemption.* Any vessel issued an Area 5 Trap Waiver permit under § 697.4(p) is exempt from the provisions of this section.

[64 FR 68248, Dec. 6, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 14502, Mar. 13, 2001; 71 FR 13039, Mar. 14, 2006; 72 FR 56942, Oct. 5, 2007]

## § 697.22 Exempted fishing.

The Regional Administrator or Director may exempt any person or vessel from the requirements of this part for the conduct of exempted fishing beneficial to the management of the American lobster, weakfish, Atlantic red drum, Atlantic striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, or horseshoe crab resource or fishery, pursuant to the provisions of § 600.745 of this chapter.

(a) The Regional Administrator or Director may not grant such exemption unless it is determined that the purpose, design, and administration of the exemption is consistent with the objectives of any applicable stock rebuilding program, the provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law, and that granting the exemption will not:

(1) Have a detrimental effect on the American lobster, weakfish, Atlantic red drum, Atlantic striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, or horseshoe crab resource or fishery; or

(2) Create significant enforcement problems.

(b) Each vessel participating in any exempted fishing activity is subject to all provisions of this part, except those explicitly relating to the purpose and nature of the exemption. The exemption will be specified in a letter issued by the Regional Administrator or Director to each vessel participating in the exempted activity. This letter must be carried aboard the vessel seeking the benefit of such exemption. Ex-

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empted fishing activity shall be authorized pursuant to and consistent with § 600.745 of this chapter.

(c) The Regional Administrator, or the Director, as appropriate, may authorize a substitute vessel to haul ashore the lobster trap gear of an inoperable or mechanically-impaired federally permitted lobster vessel without having to engage in the exempted fishing process as specified in this section.

[68 FR 56791, Oct. 2, 2003, as amended at 71 FR 13039, Mar. 14, 2006; 73 FR 58061, Oct. 6, 2008]

## § 697.23 Restricted gear areas.

(a) Resolution of lobster gear conflicts with fisheries managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act shall be done under provisions of § 648.55 of this chapter.

(b) *Restricted Gear Area I*—(1) *Duration*—(i) *Mobile Gear.* From October 1 through June 15 of each fishing year, no fishing vessel with mobile gear or person on a fishing vessel with mobile gear may fish, or be, in Restricted Gear Area I, as defined in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, unless transiting only, provided that all mobile gear is on board the vessel while inside the area.

(ii) *Lobster trap gear.* From June 16 through September 30 of each fishing year, no fishing vessel with lobster trap gear or person on a fishing vessel with lobster trap gear may fish, and no lobster trap gear may be deployed or remain, in Restricted Gear Area I as defined in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(2) *Definition of Restricted Gear Area I.* Restricted Gear Area I is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

### INSHORE BOUNDARY

Point to	Latitude	Longitude
120 .....	40°06.4' N.	68°35.8' W.
69 .....	40°07.9' N.	68°36.0' W.
70 .....	40°07.2' N.	68°38.4' W.
71 .....	40°06.9' N.	68°46.5' W.
72 .....	40°08.7' N.	68°49.6' W.
73 .....	40°08.1' N.	68°51.0' W.
74 .....	40°05.7' N.	68°52.4' W.
75 .....	40°03.6' N.	68°57.2' W.
76 .....	40°03.65' N.	69°00.0' W.
77 .....	40°04.35' N.	69°00.5' W.
78 .....	40°05.2' N.	69°00.5' W.
79 .....	40°05.3' N.	69°01.1' W.
80 .....	40°08.9' N.	69°01.75' W.
81 .....	40°11.0' N.	69°03.8' W.
82 .....	40°11.6' N.	69°05.4' W.