

From: [Beth Casoni](#)
To: [Sam Blatchley \(MLAs ATTY\)](#)
Cc: [Sooky Sawyer](#)
Subject: FW: Emergency Closure for Trap/Pot Fisheries: Area Between Massachusetts State Waters and Federal Waters within the Massachusetts Restricted Area for February 1- April 30, 2023
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 9:15:43 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

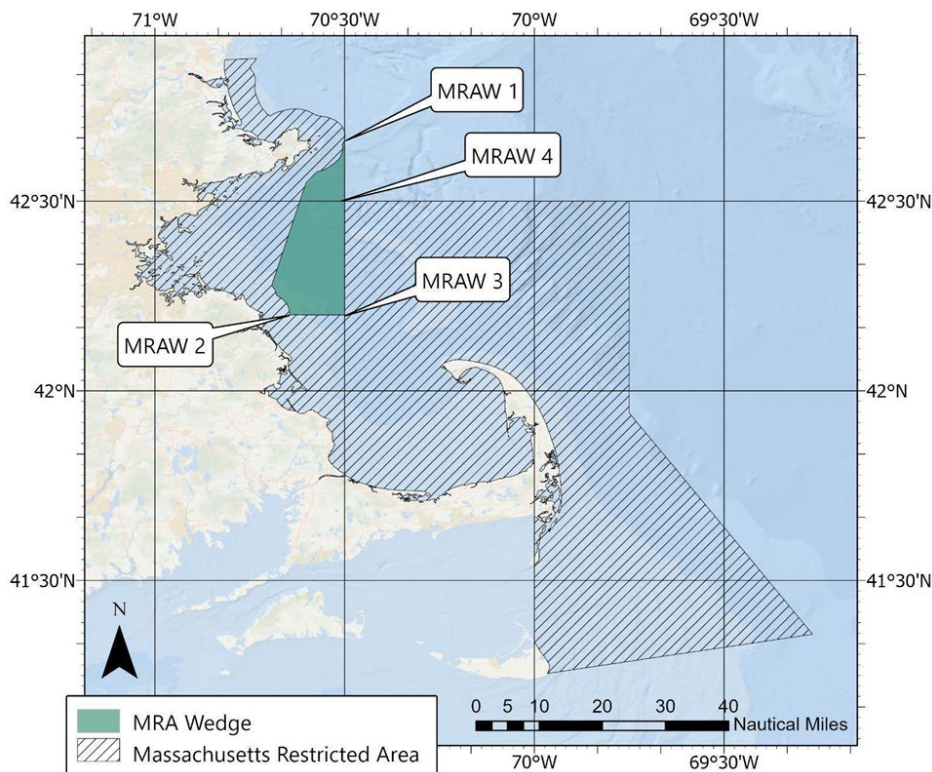
[REDACTED]

From: kate.swails@noaa.gov <kate.swails@noaa.gov> **On Behalf Of** NMFS ALWTRT - NOAA Service Account
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 10:12 AM
Subject: Emergency Closure for Trap/Pot Fisheries: Area Between Massachusetts State Waters and Federal Waters within the Massachusetts Restricted Area for February 1- April 30, 2023

Hello Team,

NOAA Fisheries is announcing an [emergency closure](#) to buoy lines used in trap/pot gear in federal waters within the Massachusetts Restricted Area (see below). Trap/pot fishermen fishing in the federal waters within the Massachusetts Restricted Area must remove all trap/pot gear from this area, and may not reset trawls being actively fished, or set new trawls in this area for the period from February 1- April 30, 2023.





MRA Wedge Area Coordinates		
Point	Lat	Long
MRAW1	42°39.77'	70°30'
MRAW2	42°12'	70°38.69'
MRAW3	42°12'	70°30'
MRAW4	42°30'	70°30'
MRAW1	42°39.77'	70°30'

This emergency rule addresses the risk created by this open wedge when large numbers of right whales are exiting Cape Cod Bay at the same time and place where fishermen are either fishing or may be staging their trap/pot fishing gear in preparation for the May 1 opening of federal waters in the Massachusetts Restricted Area. We implemented a similar emergency rule in April 2022, and are doing so again at the request of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Thank you,
Marisa

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Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team
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[ALWTRP web page](#)