APPROVED TRAWL GEAR
The following is a list of approved trawl gears for each SMP area. These regulations are subject to change and certain sectors may have additional exemptions. Other trawl gear, as well as other fishing gear may be seen. Please confirm trawl gear with captain.

Western U.S./Canada: Opens May 1st for sector and common pool vessels. Any groundfish approved trawl gear can be used.

Eastern U.S./Canada: Opens May 1st for sector trawl vessels; Aug 1st for common pool trawl vessels. General regulations approve following gear types: (exempted sectors could use other trawl gear)

- Haddock Separator Trawl
- Ruhle Trawl
- Flounder Trawl

Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP: Opens Aug 1st – Dec 31st for all trawl vessels. Following trawl gears are approved: (exempted sectors could use flounder trawl or other trawl gear)

- Haddock Separator Trawl
- Ruhle Trawl

Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP: Opens Aug 1st-Jan 31st for all trawl vessels. Following trawl gears are approved for all vessels:

- Haddock Separator Trawl
- Ruhle Trawl

Regular B-DAS Program: Opens May 1st. Only applicable to common pool. Following trawl gears are required:

- Haddock Separator Trawl
- Ruhle Trawl

NEFOP Program Codes:
130 NEFOP, US/CAN Management Area
150 NEFOP, Regular B-DAS Program
146 NEFOP, CAI HGH SAP
147 NEFOP, CAII YT FLD/Haddock SAP

ASM Program Codes:
231 ASM, US/CAN Management Area
232 ASM, Regular B-DAS Program
233 ASM, CAI HGH SAP
234 ASM, CAII YT FLD/Haddock SAP

Please Note: These regulations are meant for observer reference and not as fishermen’s guidelines. They are subject to change. Use your Program Manual, this cheat sheet, and NEFOP memos 10-009, 08-015, and 06-003 to work with the captain in order to complete your gear characteristics log. Contact your editor with questions before sending in your trip.
Net Type Definitions

Ruhle Trawl

Designed to reduce by-catch of cod and other groundfish while retaining haddock, this is a four-seam bottom groundfish trawl with large meshes (8ft) in the forward panels that reduce in size toward the codend. This trawl has multiple kite panels with a total surface area of 29.1sq.ft and a distinct sweep gear configuration. Rockhoppers must be evenly spaced every two feet with the largest, 16in diameter, at the sweep center graduating down to 12in toward the wings.

Haddock Separator Trawl

Designed to reduce by-catch of cod and flatfish while retaining haddock. This two or four-seam bottom groundfish trawl may have a trouser trawl configuration with the bottom codend open, or a semicircle escape opening. A separator panel made of 6 inch mesh herds haddock into the closed codend above the panel, and other species out the escape opening below the panel.

Rope Separator Trawl

Designed to reduce by-catch of cod and flatfish while retaining haddock, this is a four-seam bottom groundfish trawl that has a horizontal separator panel made of a series of parallel ropes spaced 1-2ft apart. Non-desired species are released through an escape opening in the bottom panel of the net. Escape outlet is at least 18 meshes in both length and width. Longitudinal lines may be used to maintain the shape of the escape outlet. Meshes in the bottom belly of the net must be 13 inch diamond mesh.

Flounder Trawl

A two-seam low-rise bottom trawl made of either 6in diamond or 6.5in square mesh. Two configurations satisfy the regulatory requirements: The first requires the headrope to be at least 30% longer than the footrope, where the footrope is no greater than 105ft long. The second design has a 10ft long panel of 12in mesh that stretches from gore to gore and is inserted 4.5meshes behind the headrope on the top panel of the net.