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Proposal to change the boundaries of closed area

The US wishes to propose a modification in the boundaries of the western most closed area in Subarea 5. The northern part of this area includes deep water (120-140 fathoms) where significant concentrations of redfish occur during March and April. In order to minimize interference with redfish fishing, it is proposed the existing coordinates of the northern corner - 69°20'W, 42°30'N - be changed to 69°00'W, 42°10'N (see attached chart). The four corners of this closed area would then be defined as follows:

70°00'W, 42°10'N
69°10'W, 41°10'N
68°30'W, 41°35'N
69°00'W, 42°10'N

The US has examined the records of catch from this northern segment for March and April of 1968 and 1969, and found less than one ton of haddock in redfish landings of nearly 1,000 metric tons. Observations indicate that there are no significant spawning concentrations in the northern segment. It is therefore indicated that opening this northern segment to fishing would not have a detrimental effect on the conservation of haddock.

Over....

