

MPAs in New England

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MPA's – Not Just About Fishing

- Comprehensive MPA should address all activities with potential to adversely affect marine biodiversity, fish populations, and habitats.
- Narrow authority granted Councils/NMFS to regulate only commercial and recreational fishing.

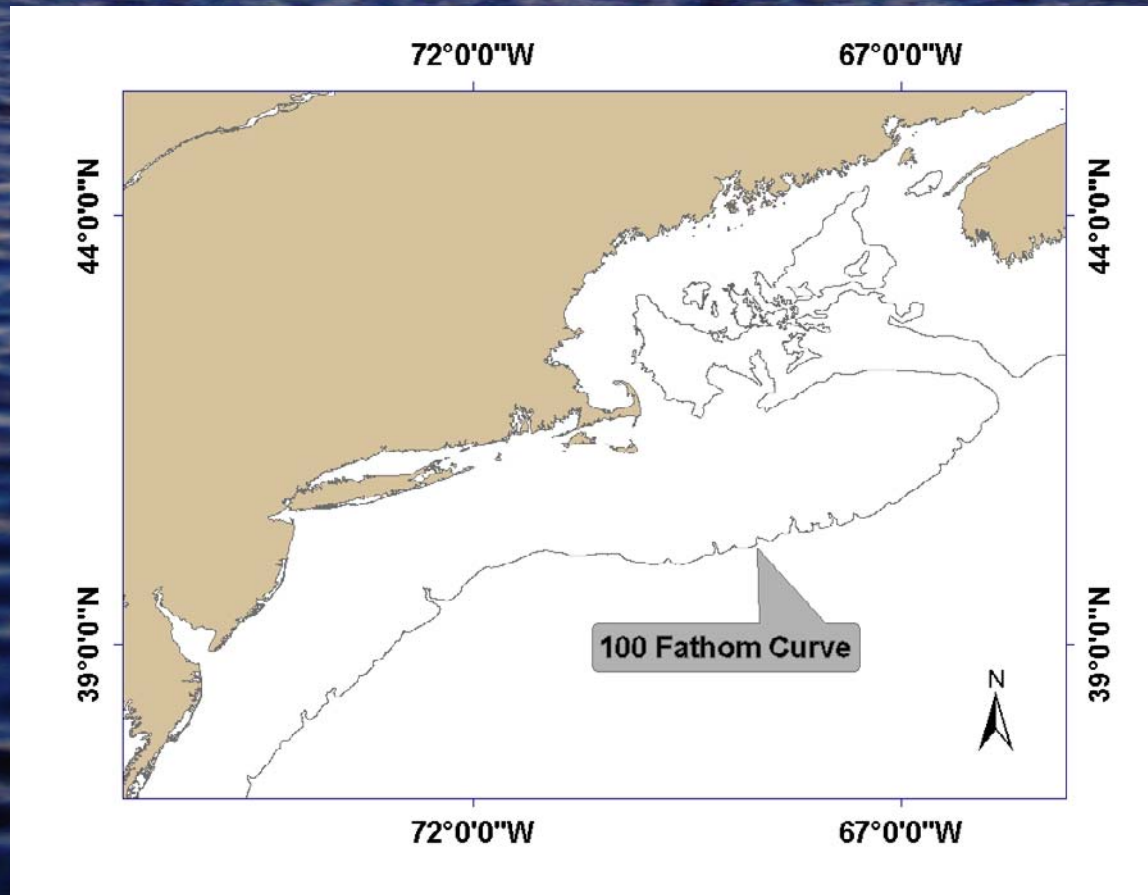
MPA's – Not Just About Fishing

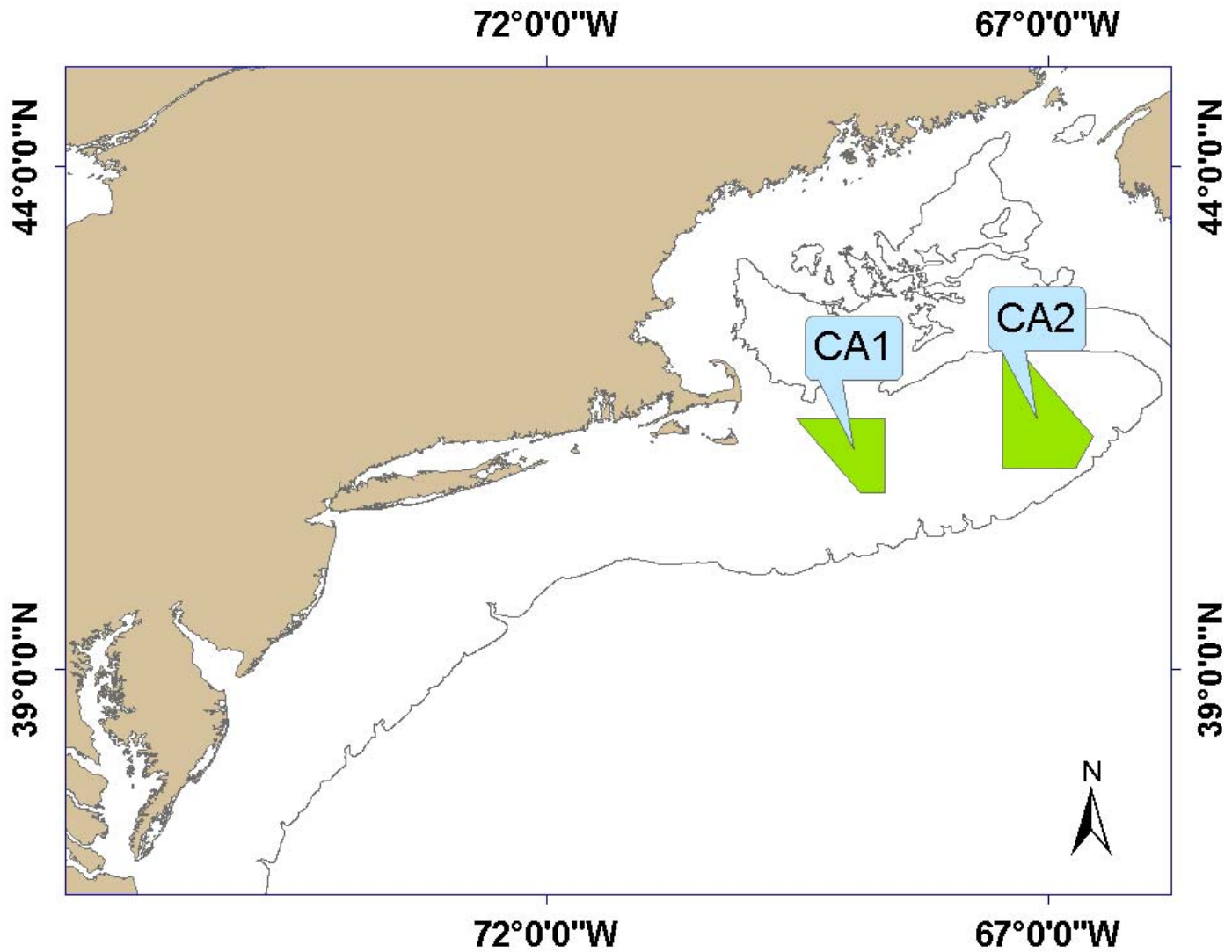
- Other concerns include: sand and gravel mining, ocean dumping, oil, gas and mineral exploration and extraction, channel dredging, dredge material disposal, pipeline/cable installation, pollution and wind energy facilities.
- Control/regulation of these activities is critical to overall success of any proposed MPA.

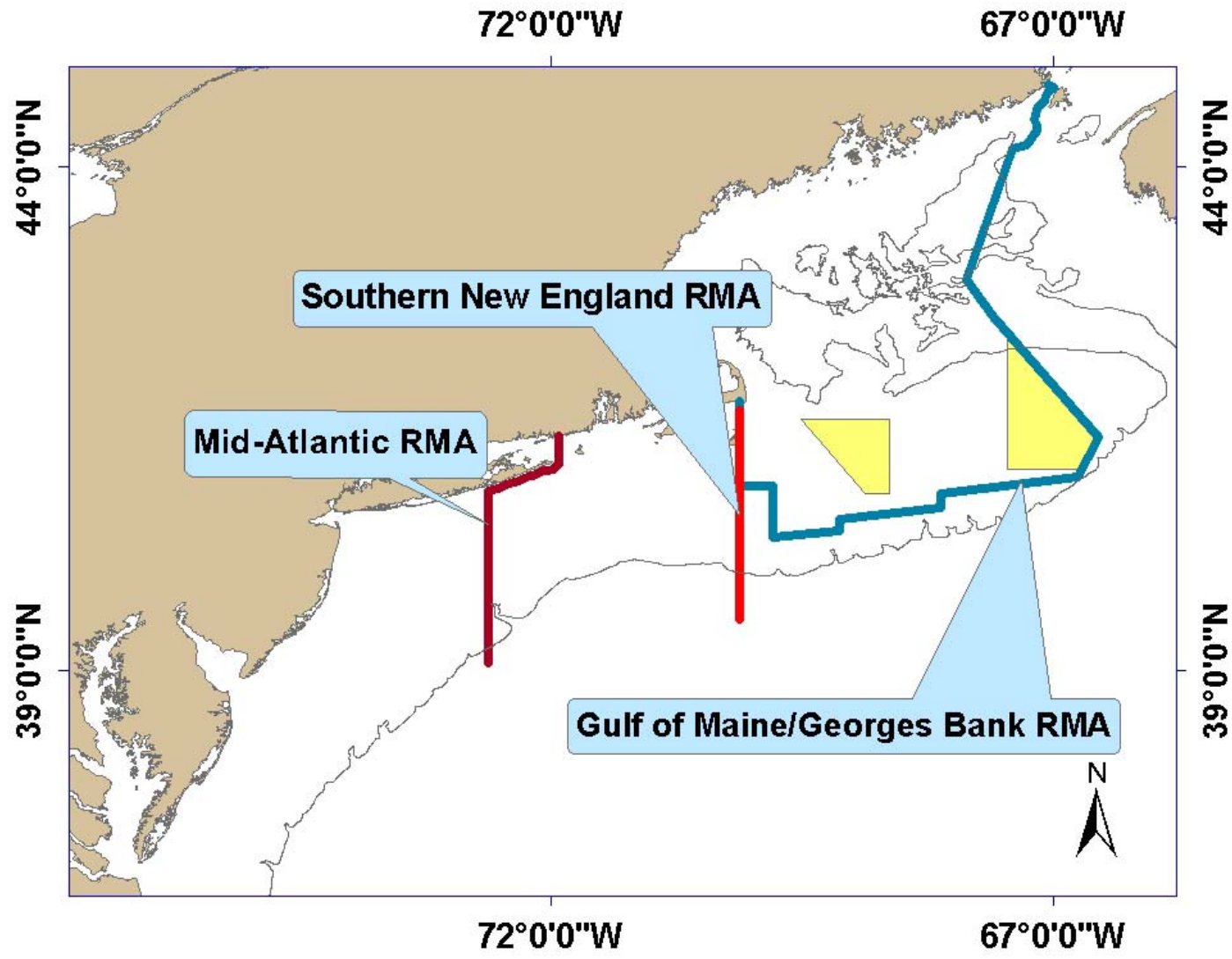
MPA's – Not a New Concept

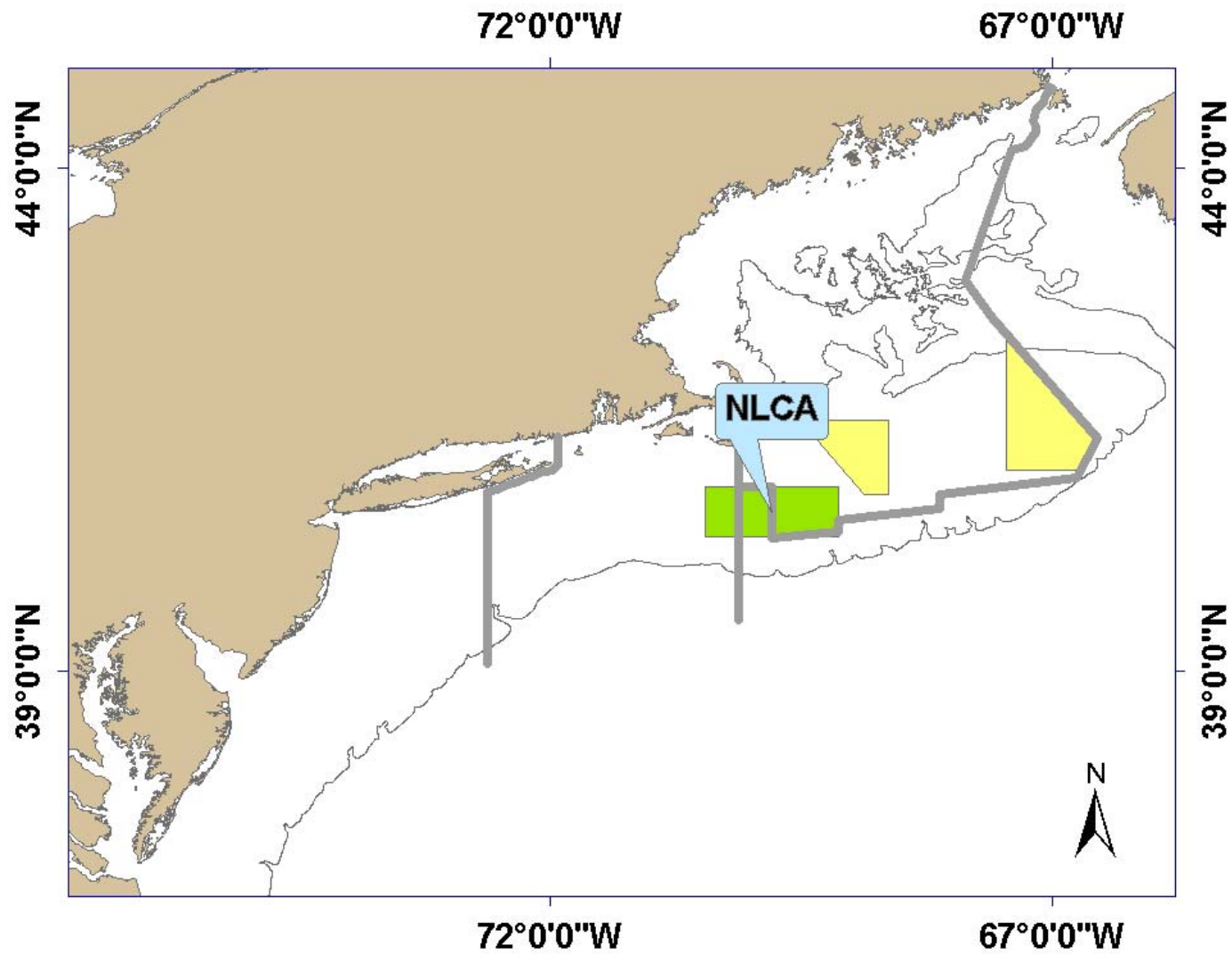
- New England Fishery Management Council has many management areas which meet various IUCN criteria for an MPA.
 - Habitat Closed Areas
 - Groundfish and Scallop FMP Closed Areas
 - Gear Restricted Areas
 - Scallop Rotational Access Areas

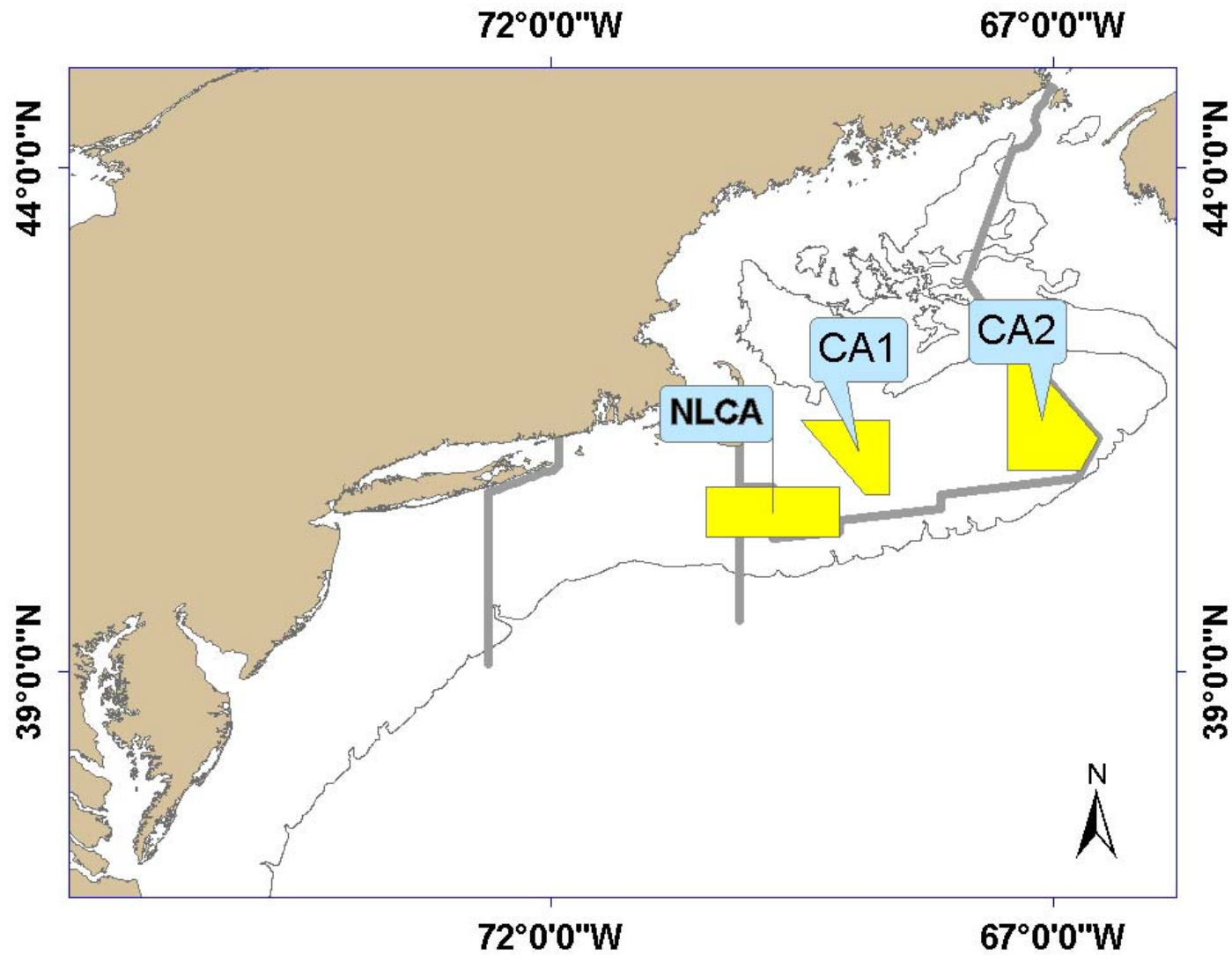
Progression of Fishery-Management Related MPAs in New England Region

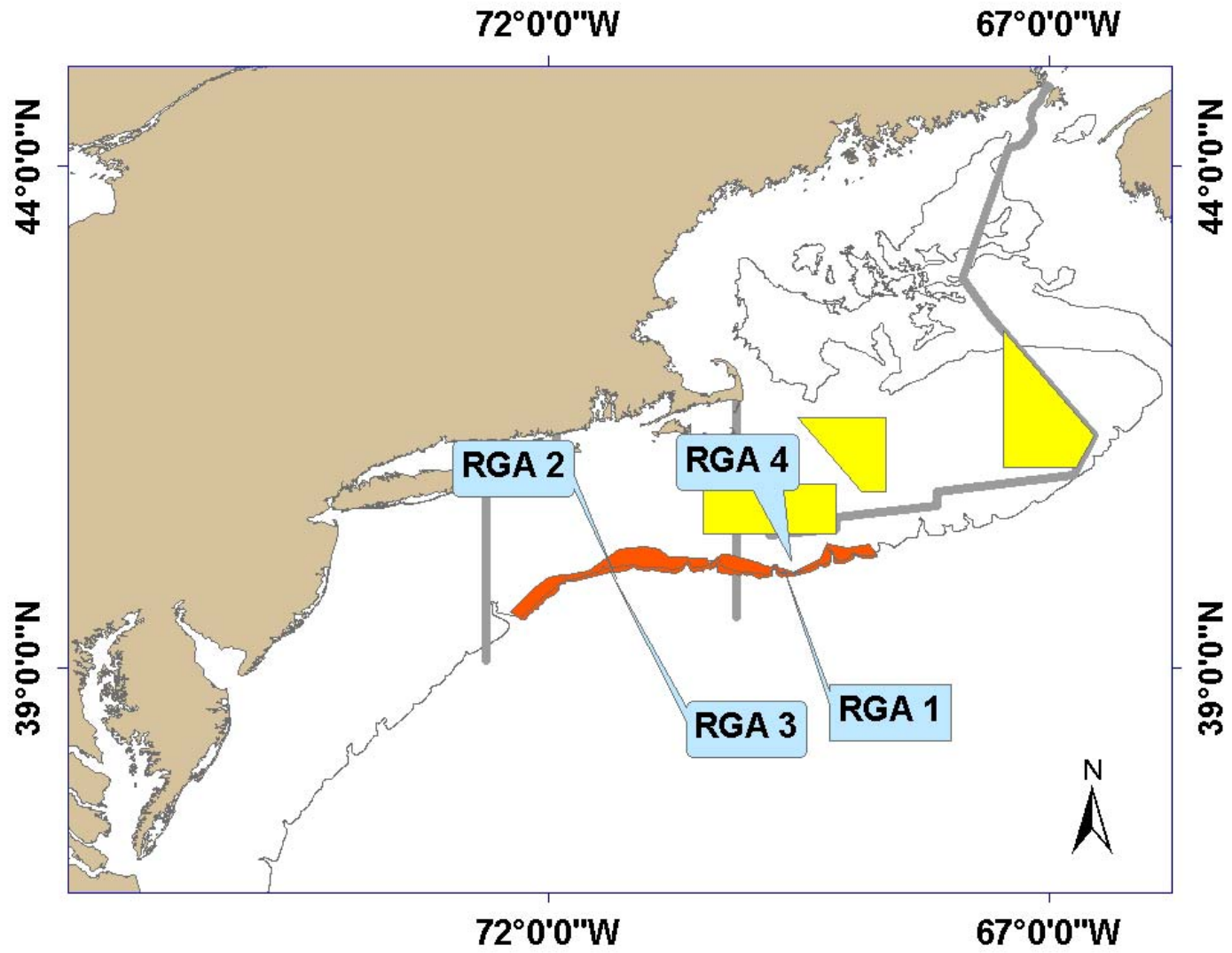


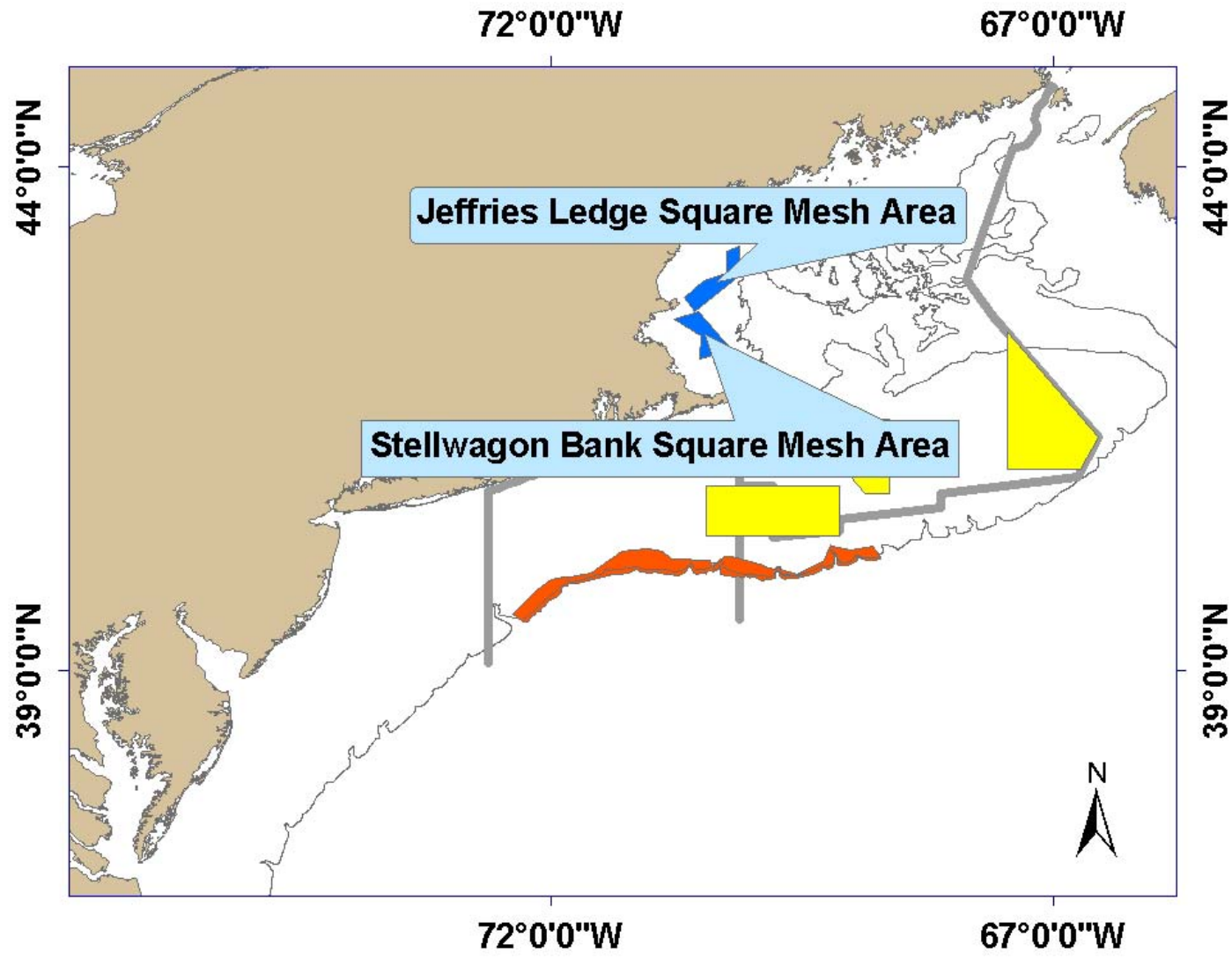


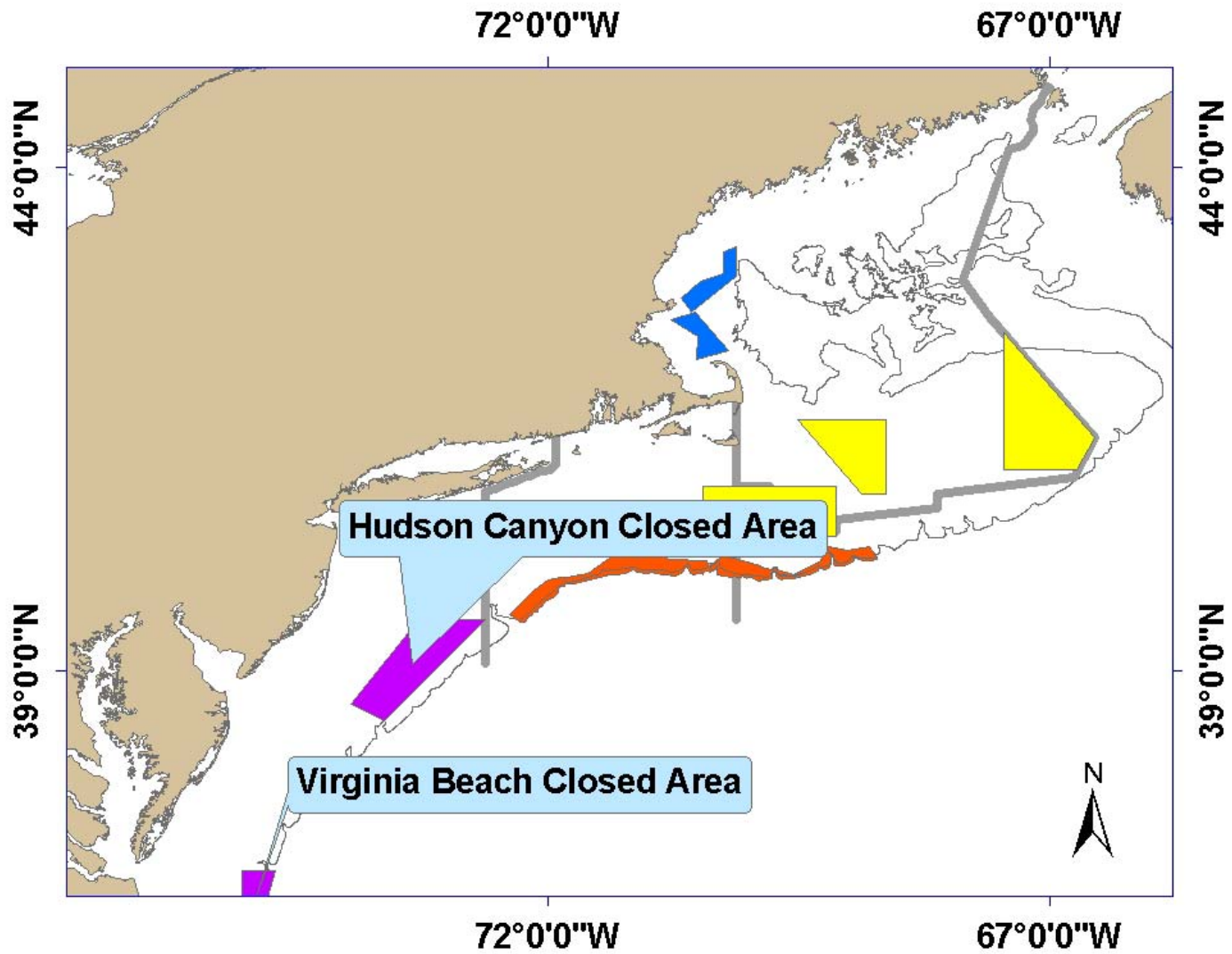


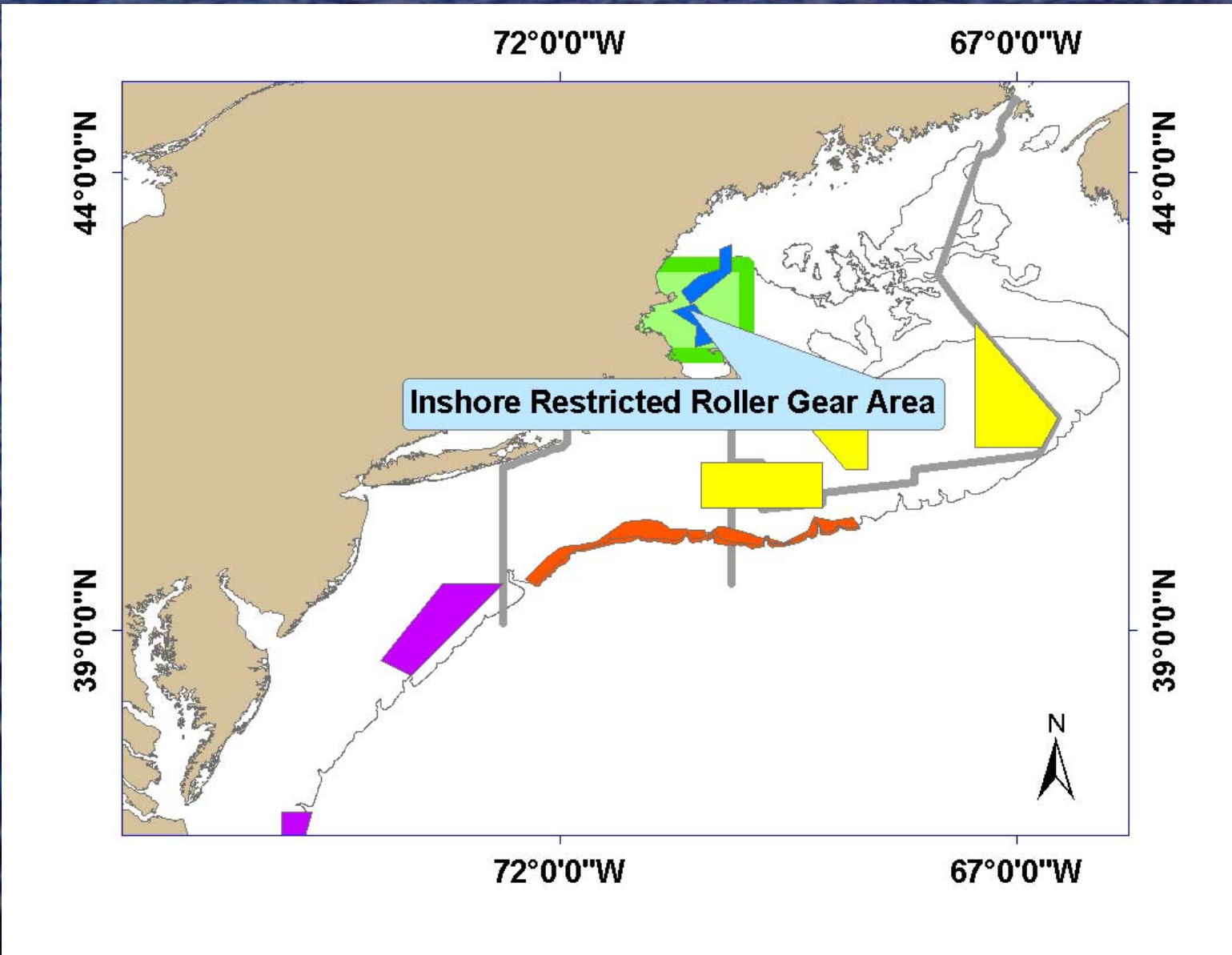


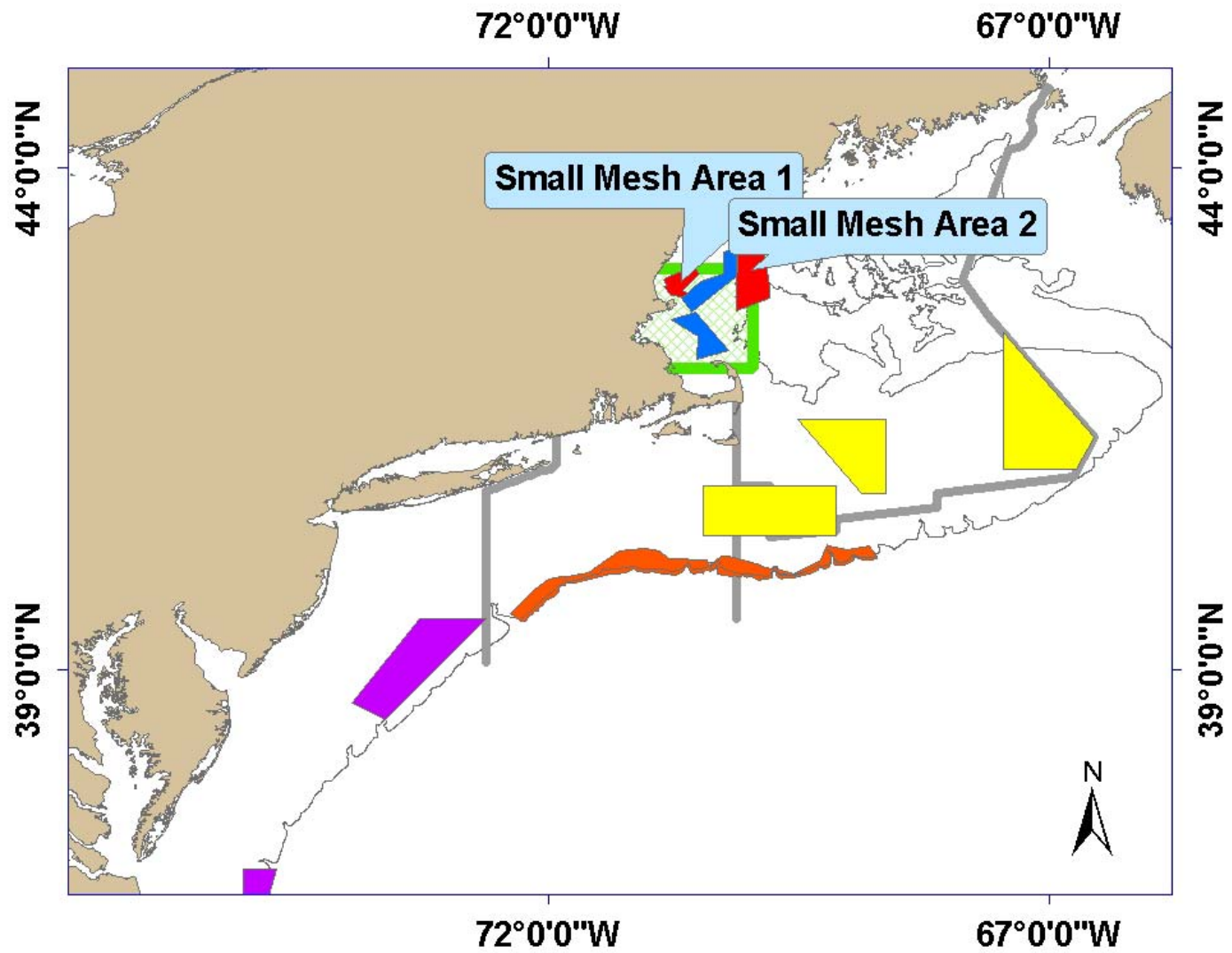


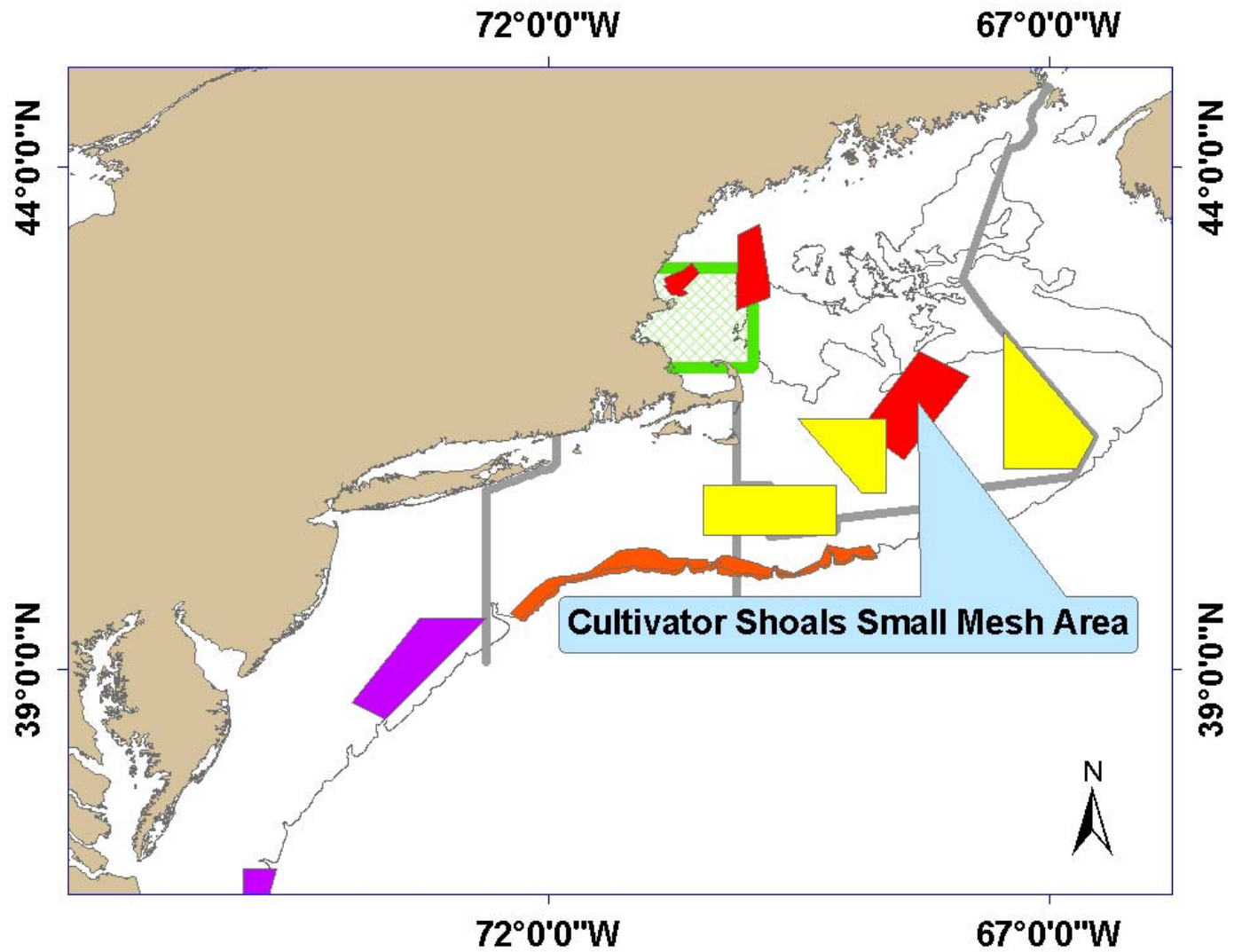


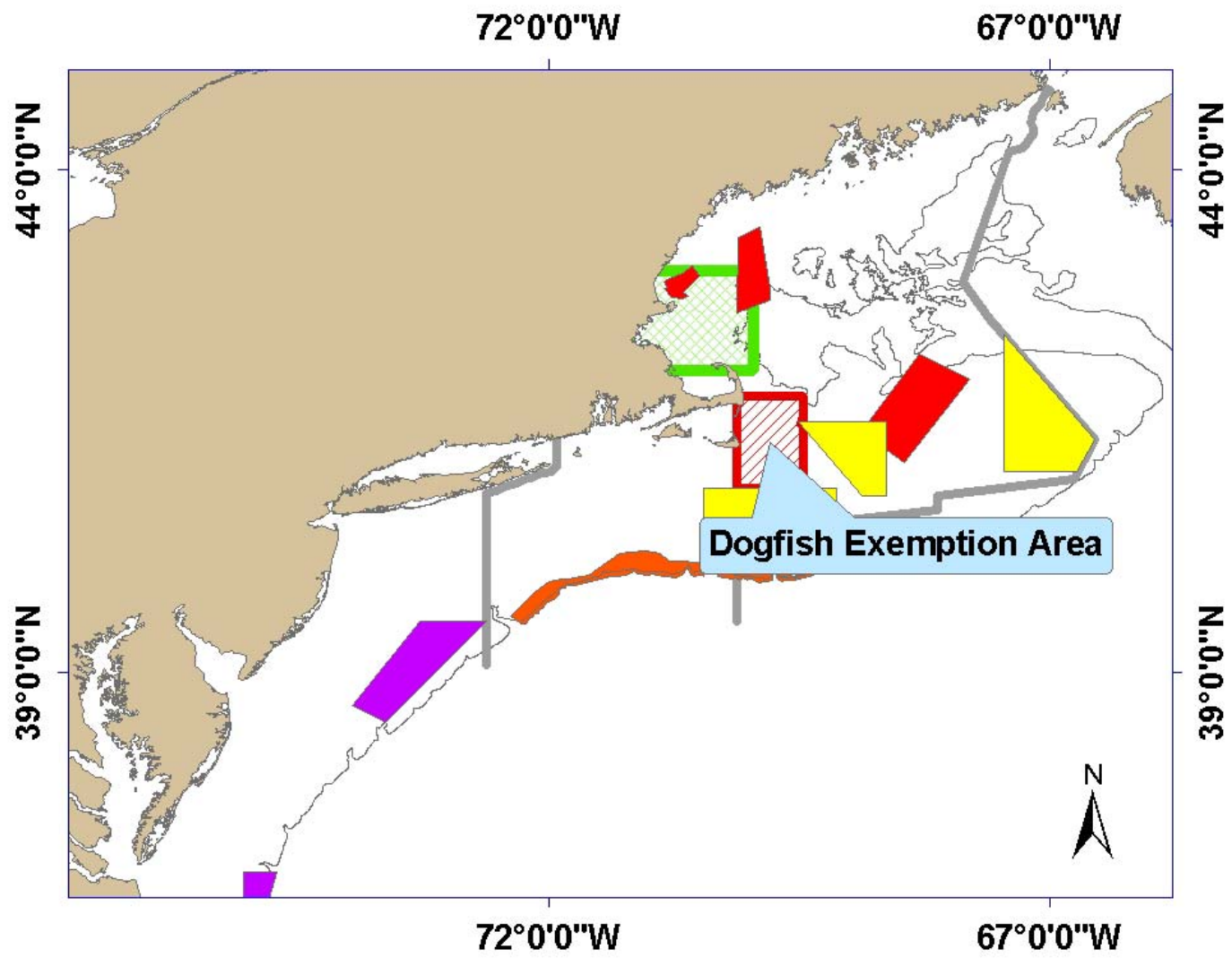


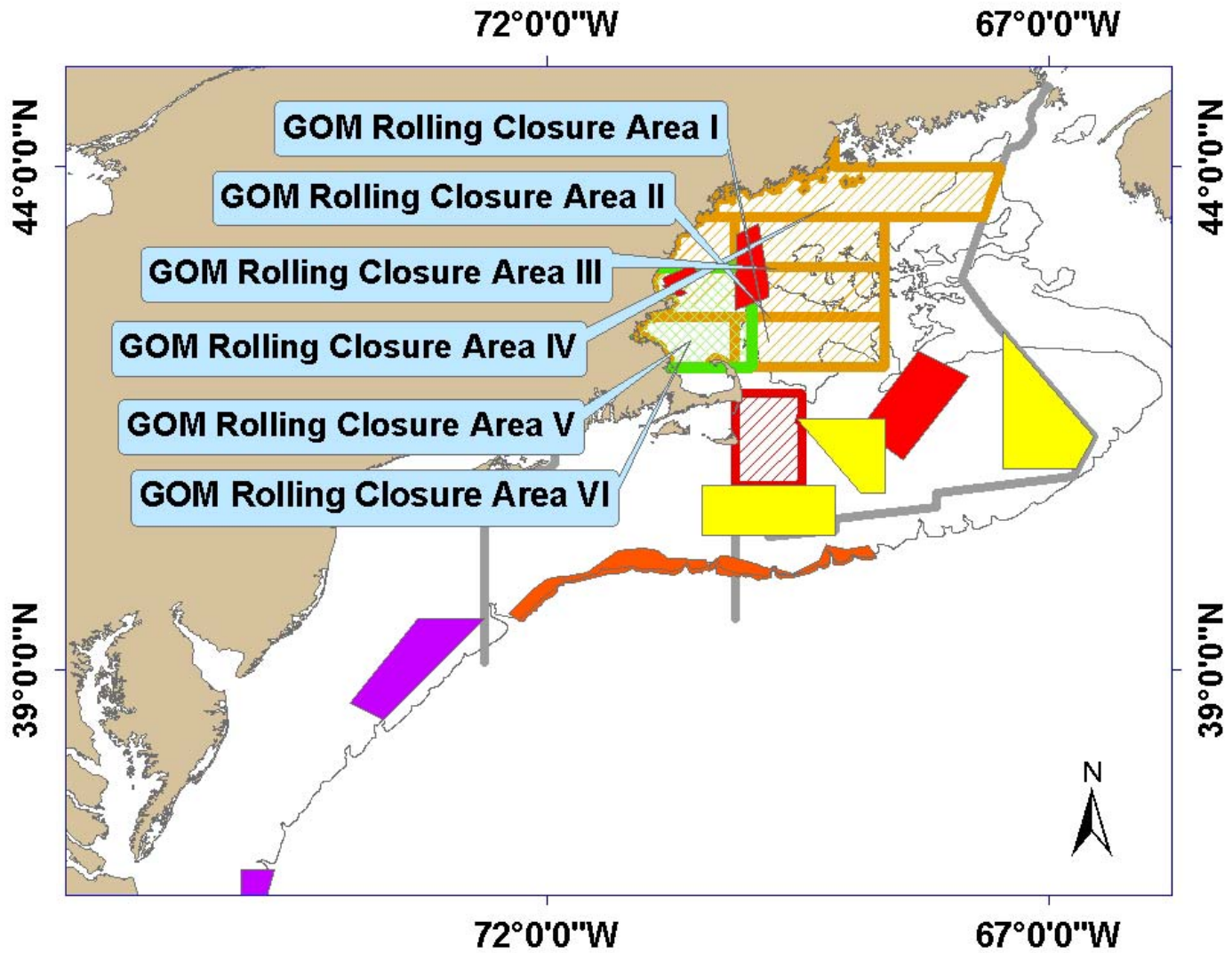


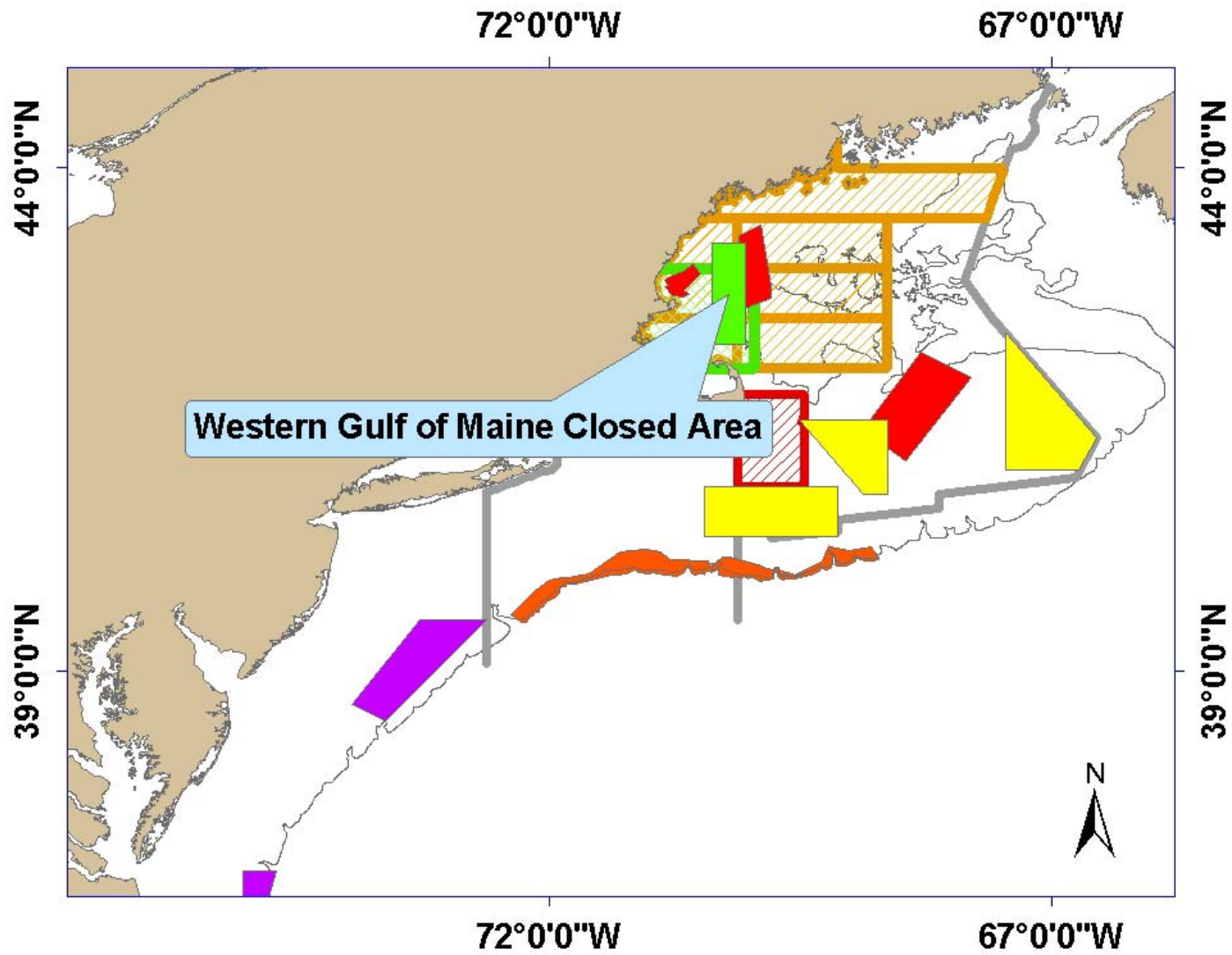


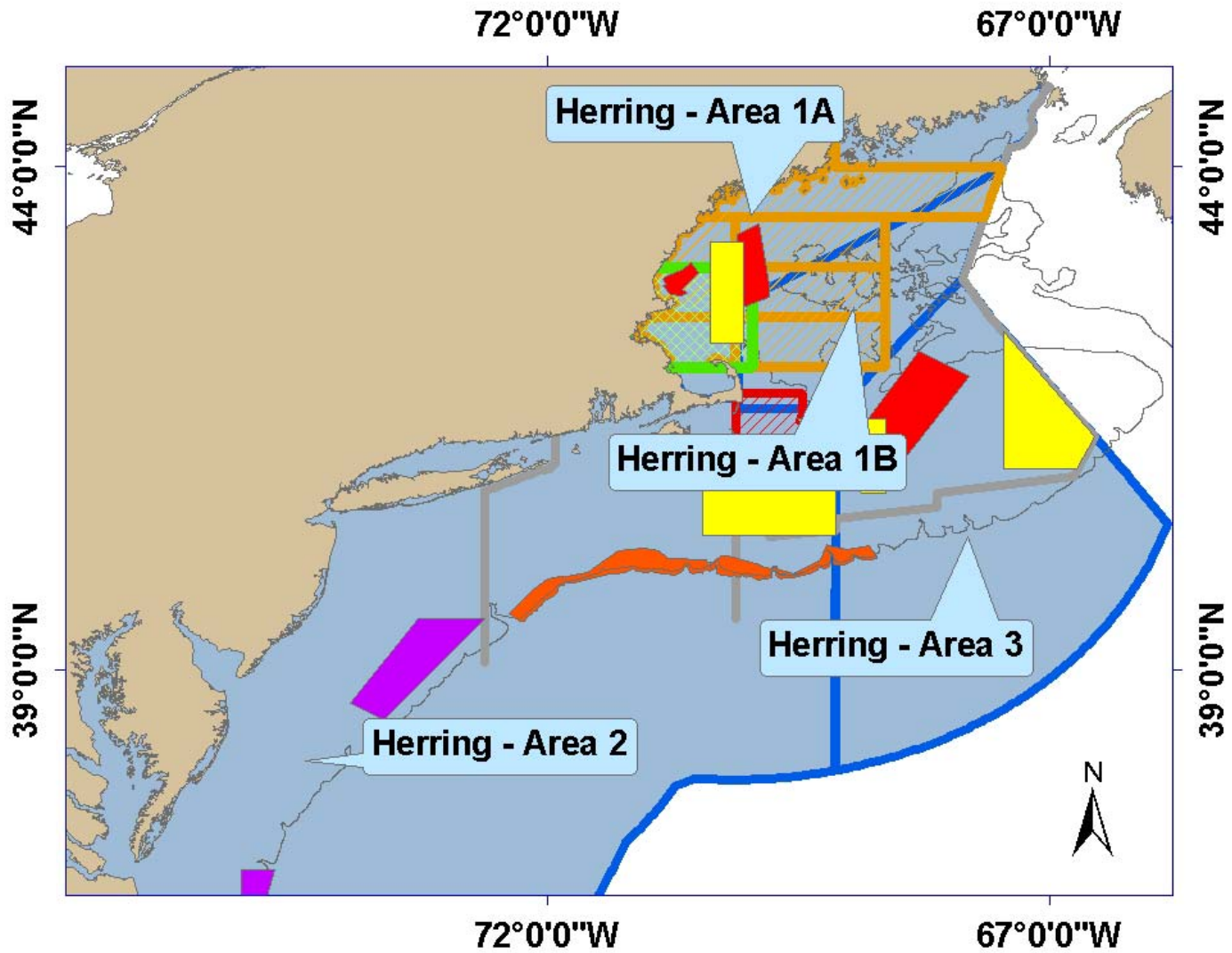


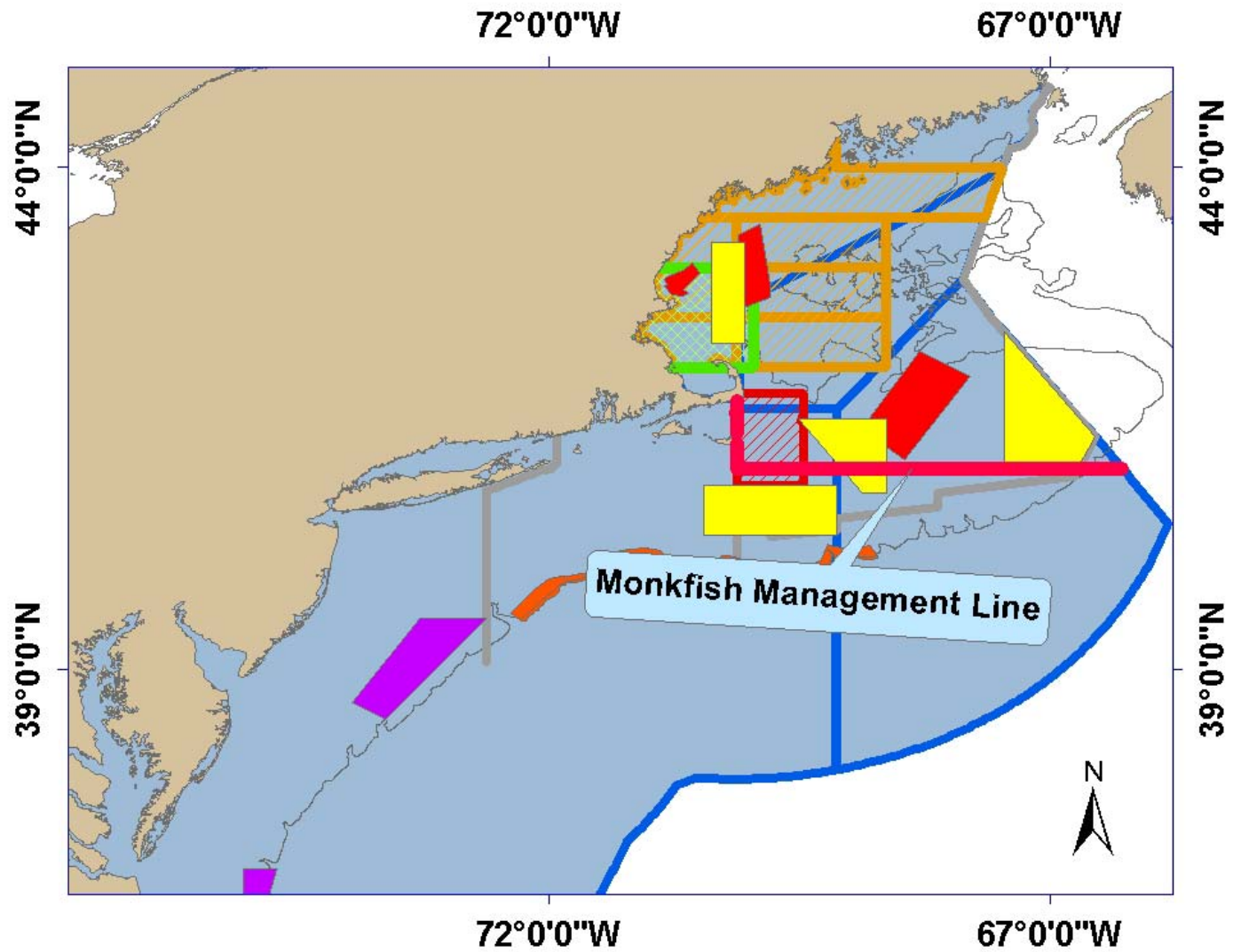


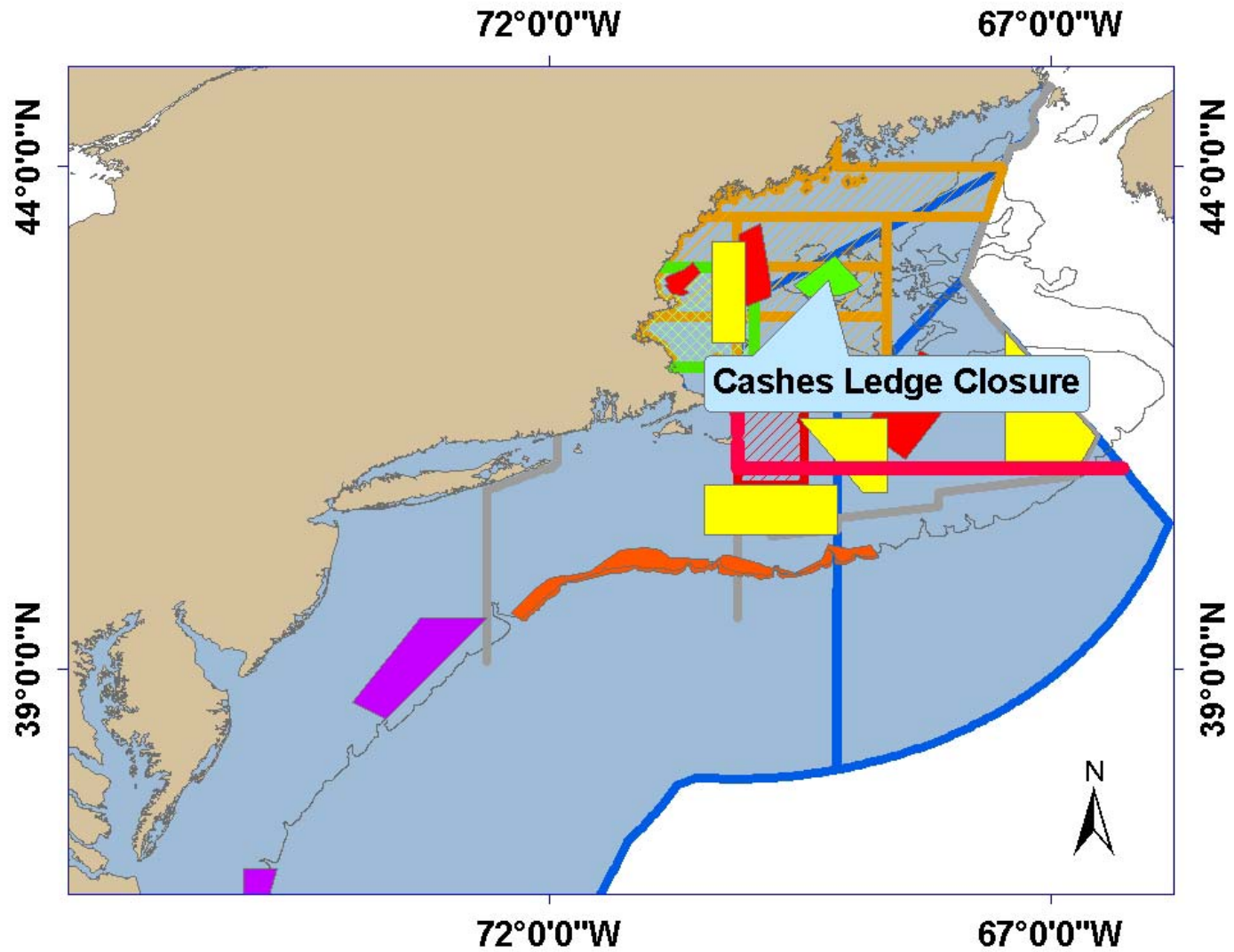


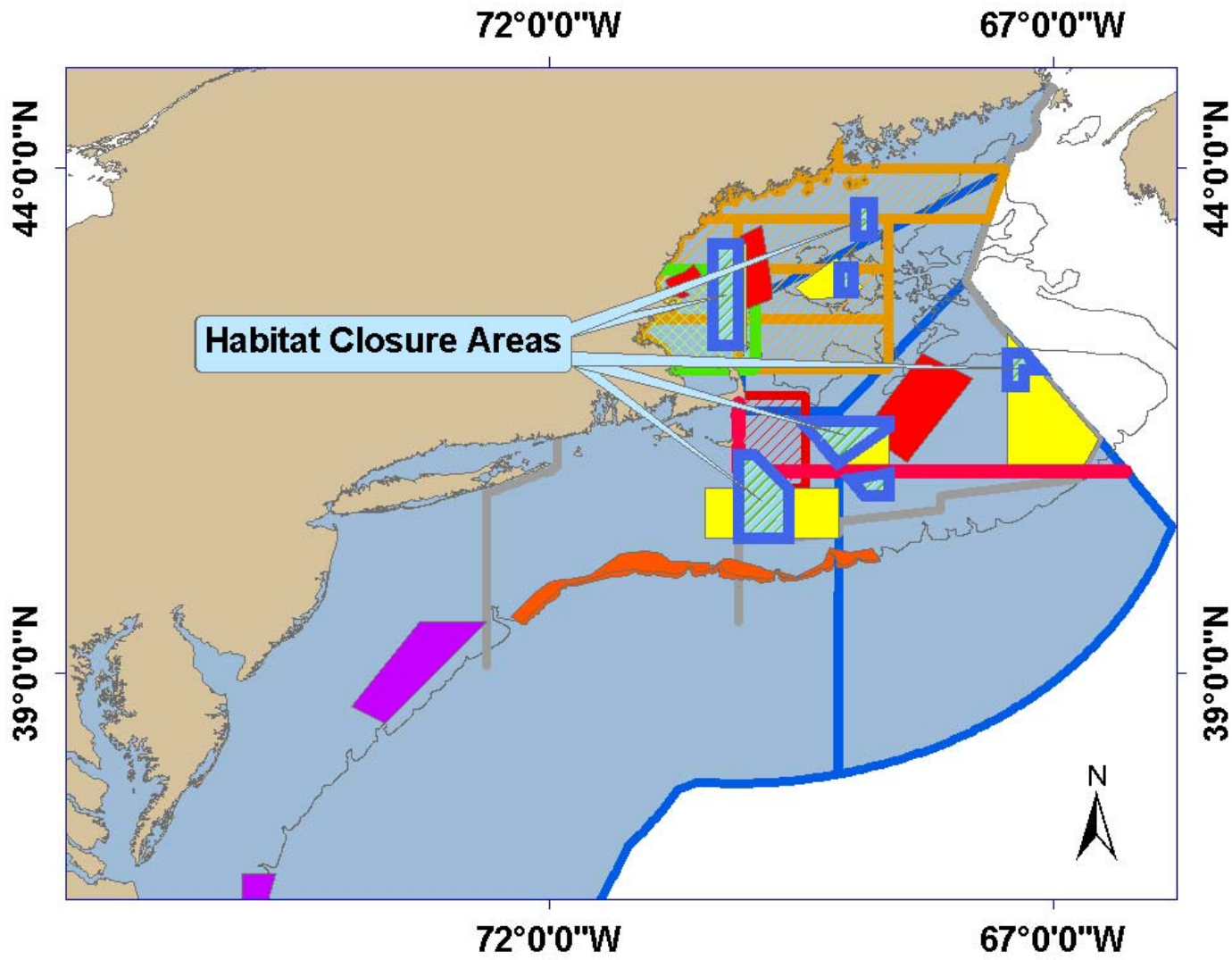


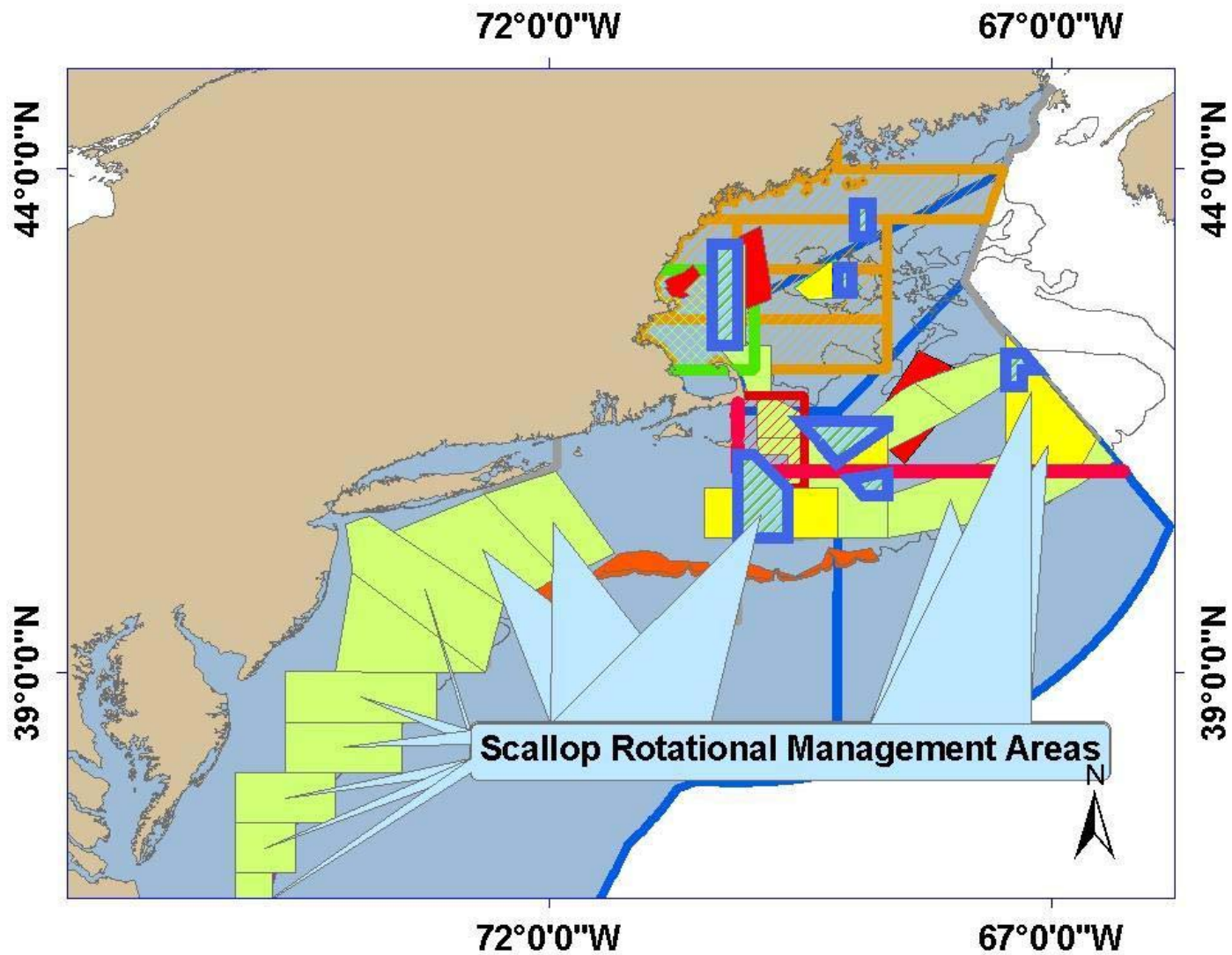


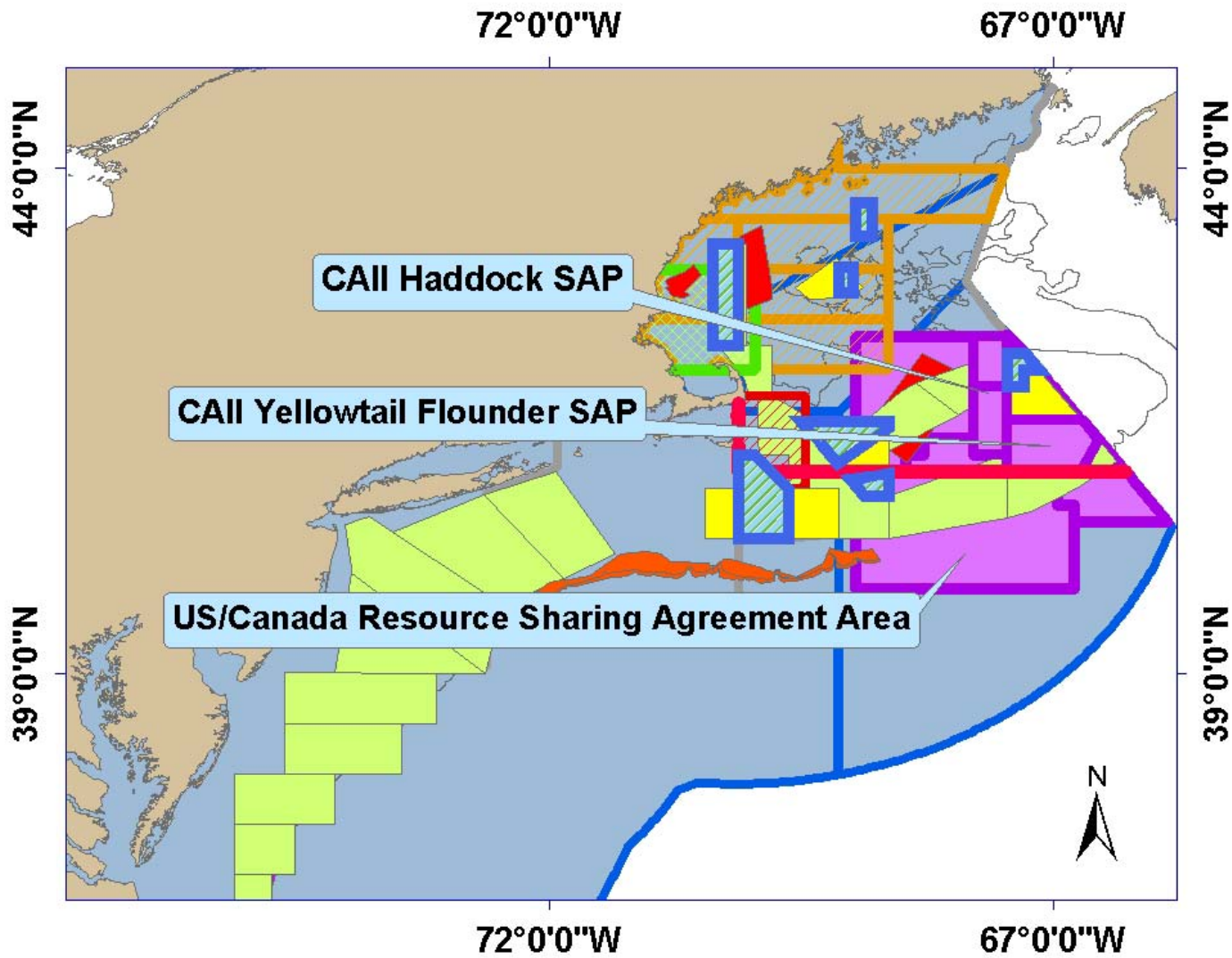


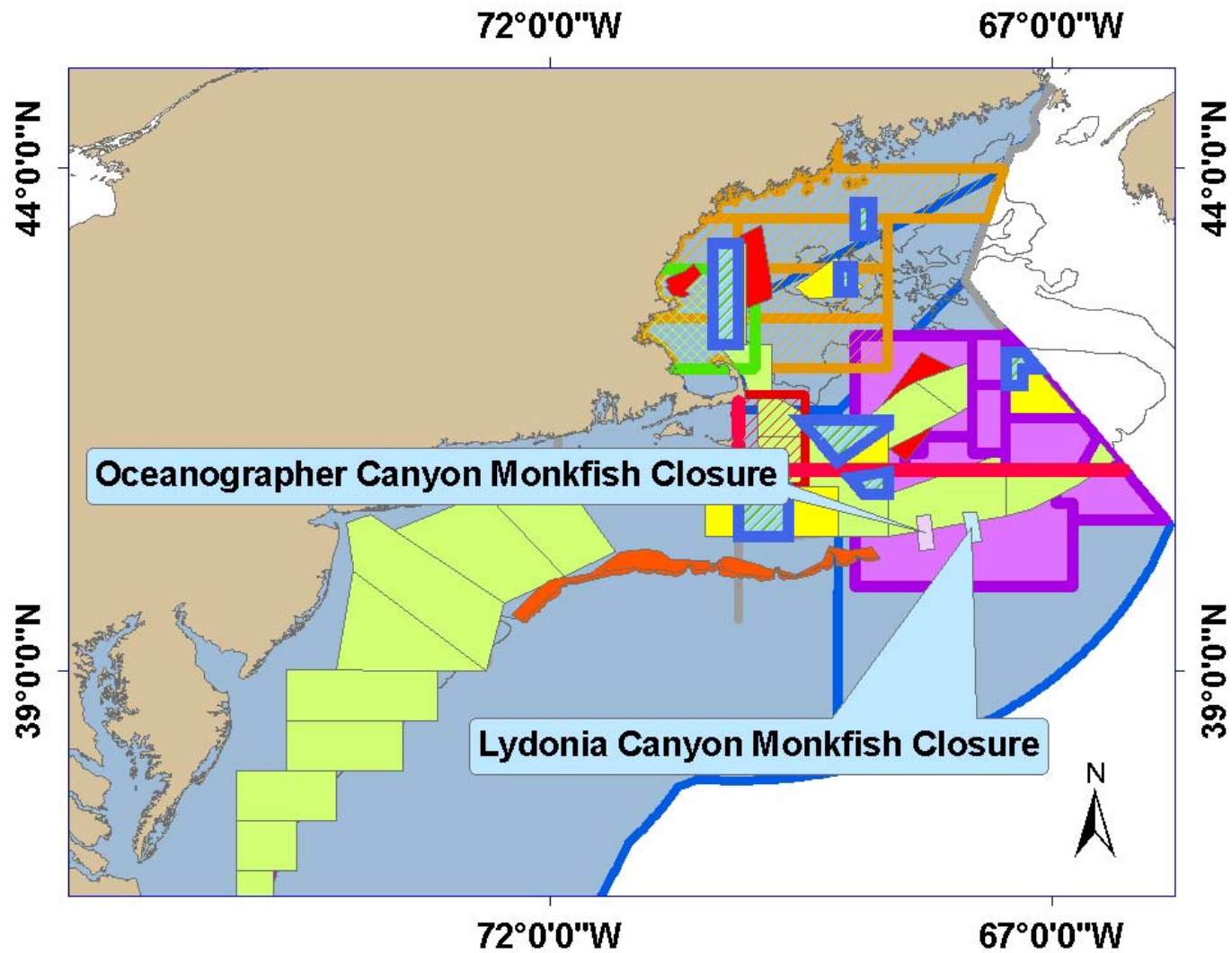




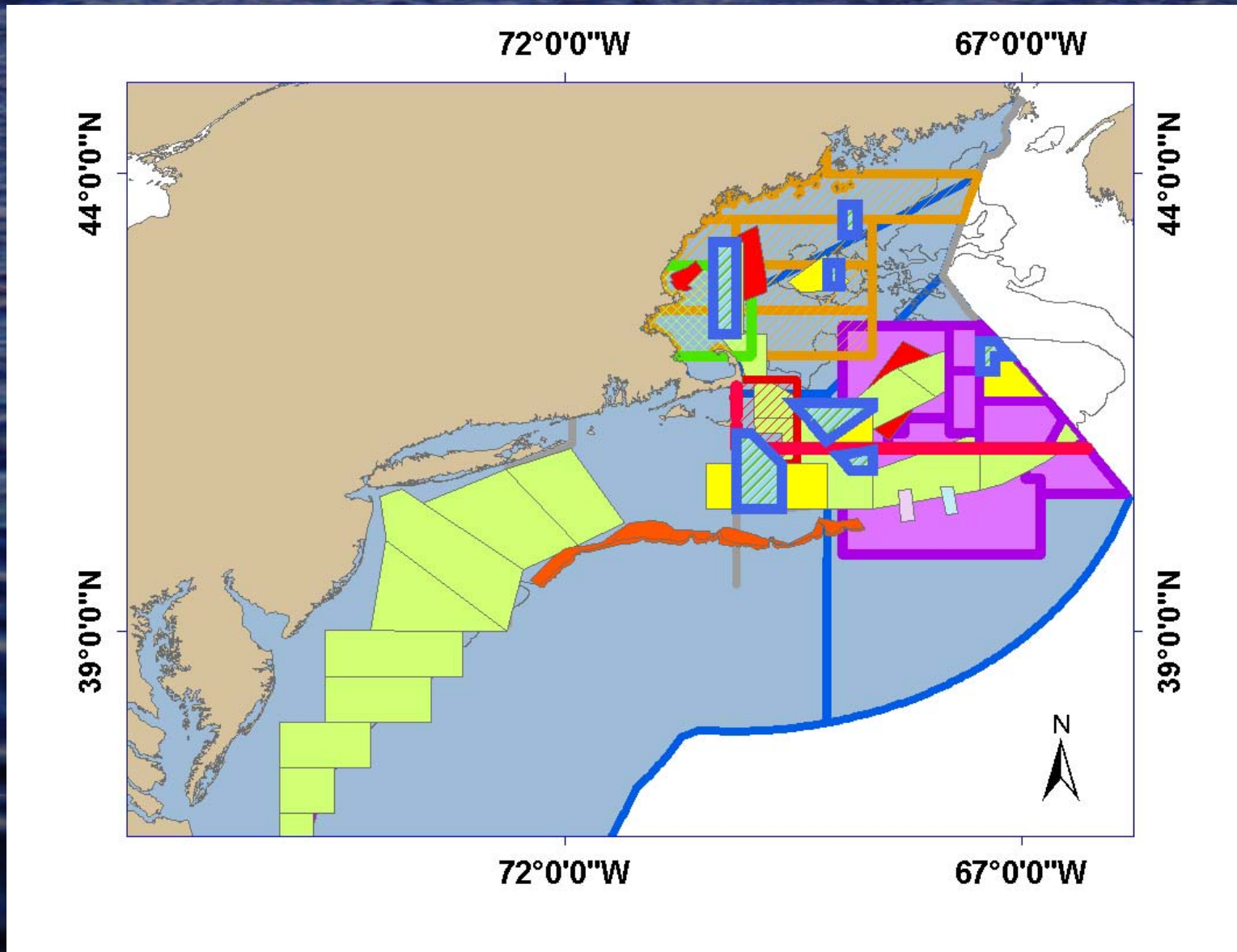








Area-Based Fisheries Management in New England

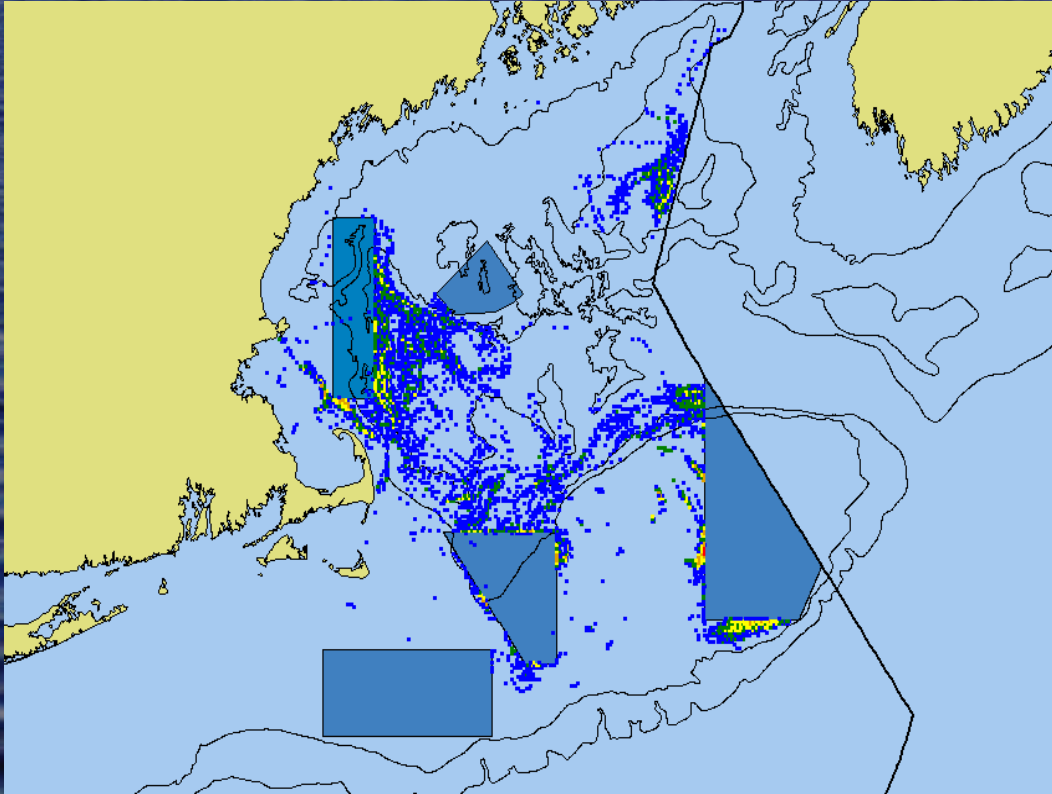




**Dynamic Changes in Spatial
Distribution of Fishing
Effort in Relation to Seasonal
And Year-Round Closures**

(courtesy of M. Fogarty, NEFSC)

Satellite Tracking of Fishing Vessels



Vessels > 100 GRT

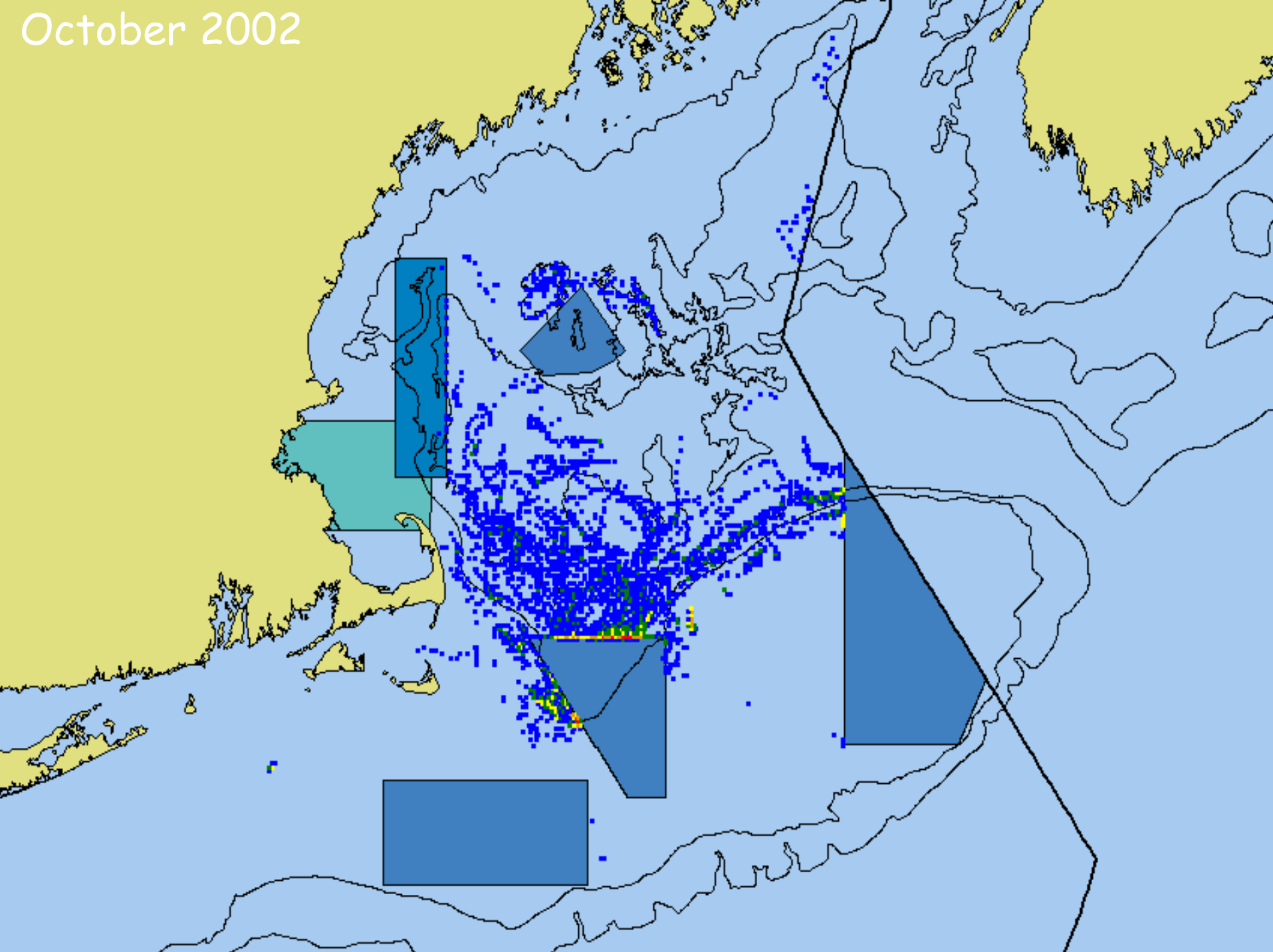
Vessel Speeds < 3.5 knots

Observations at 1 hr
intervals

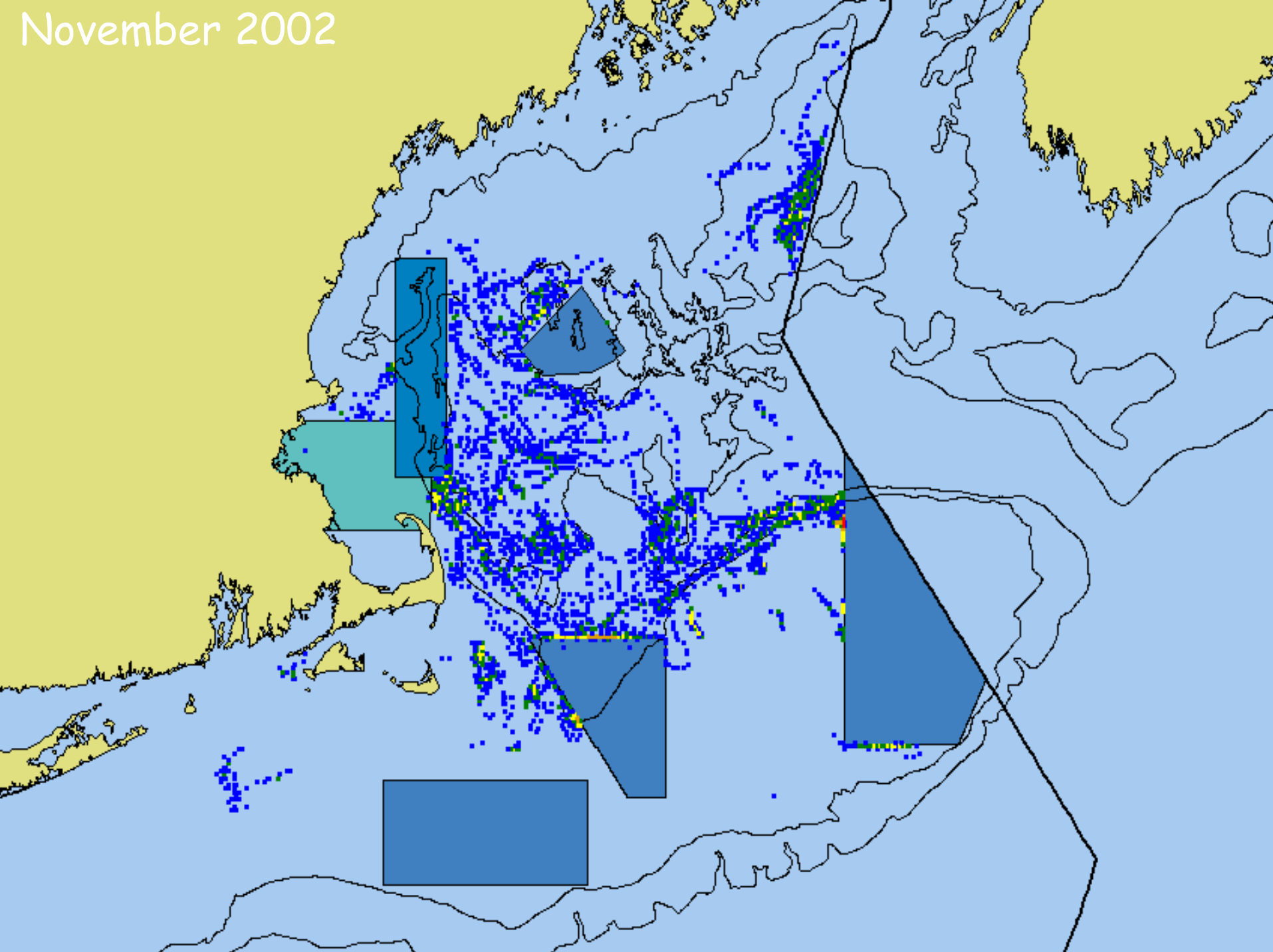
Look For:

- Concentrations of effort at MPA boundaries
- Shifts in effort in response to seasonal closures

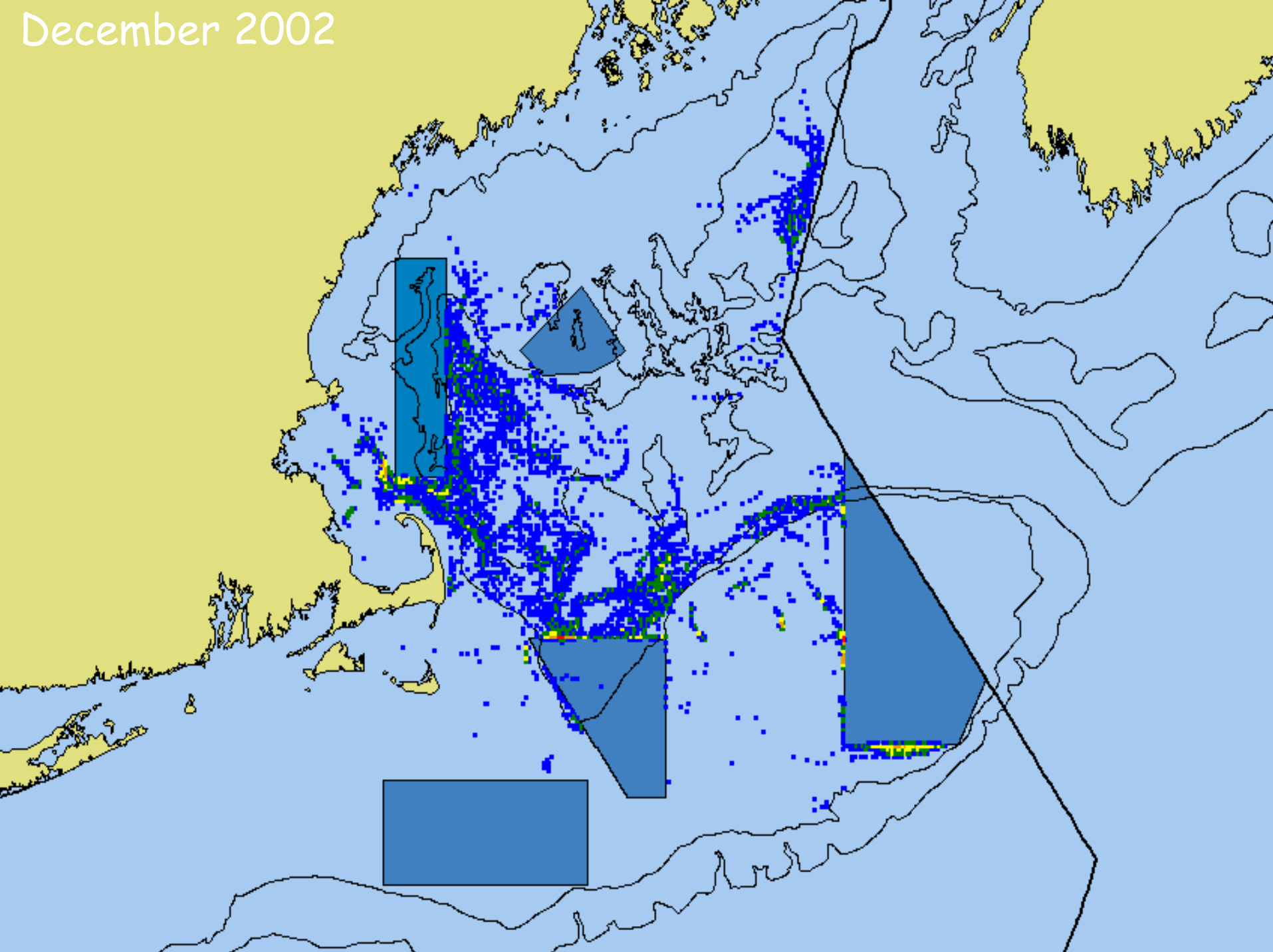
October 2002



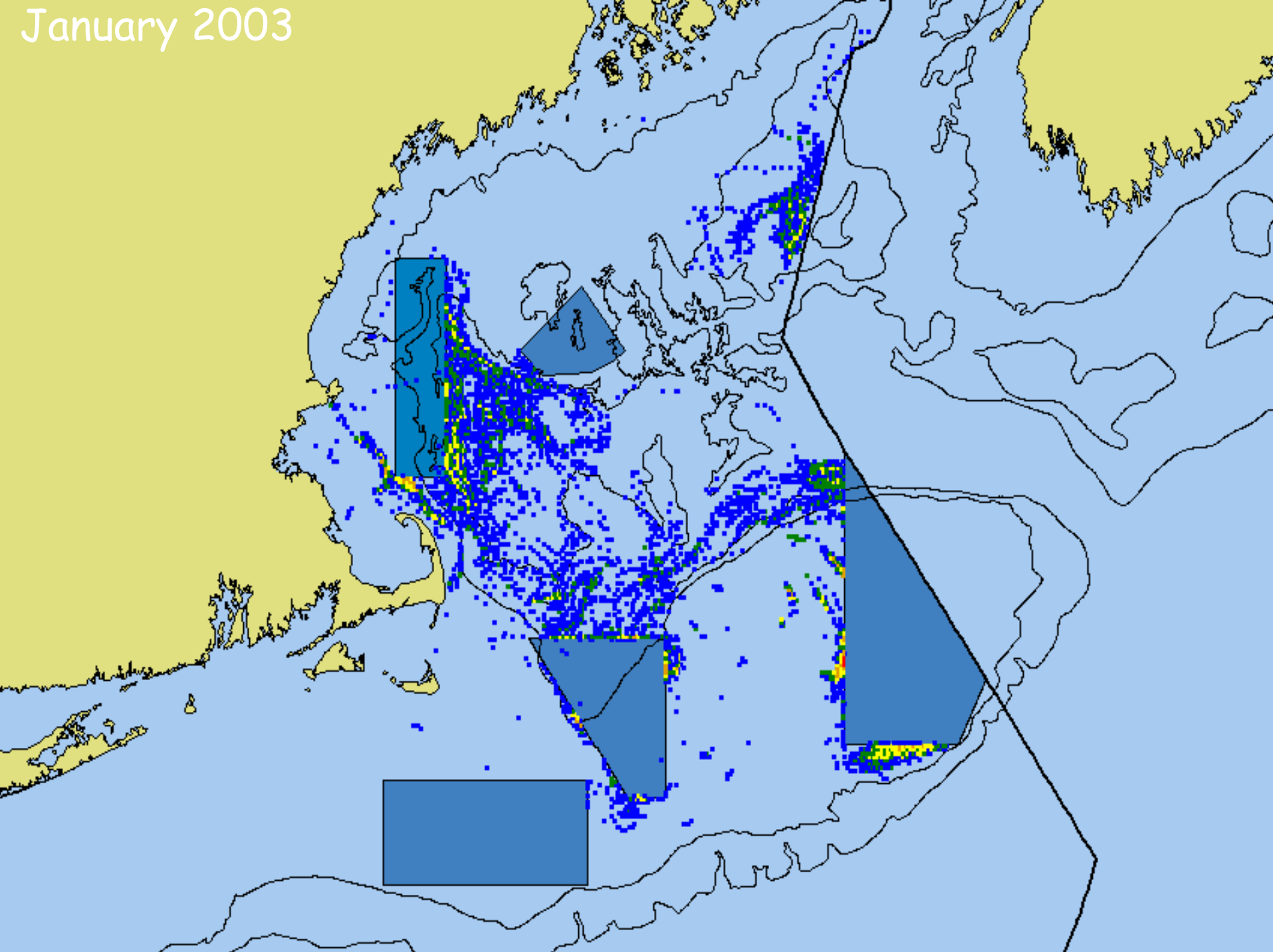
November 2002



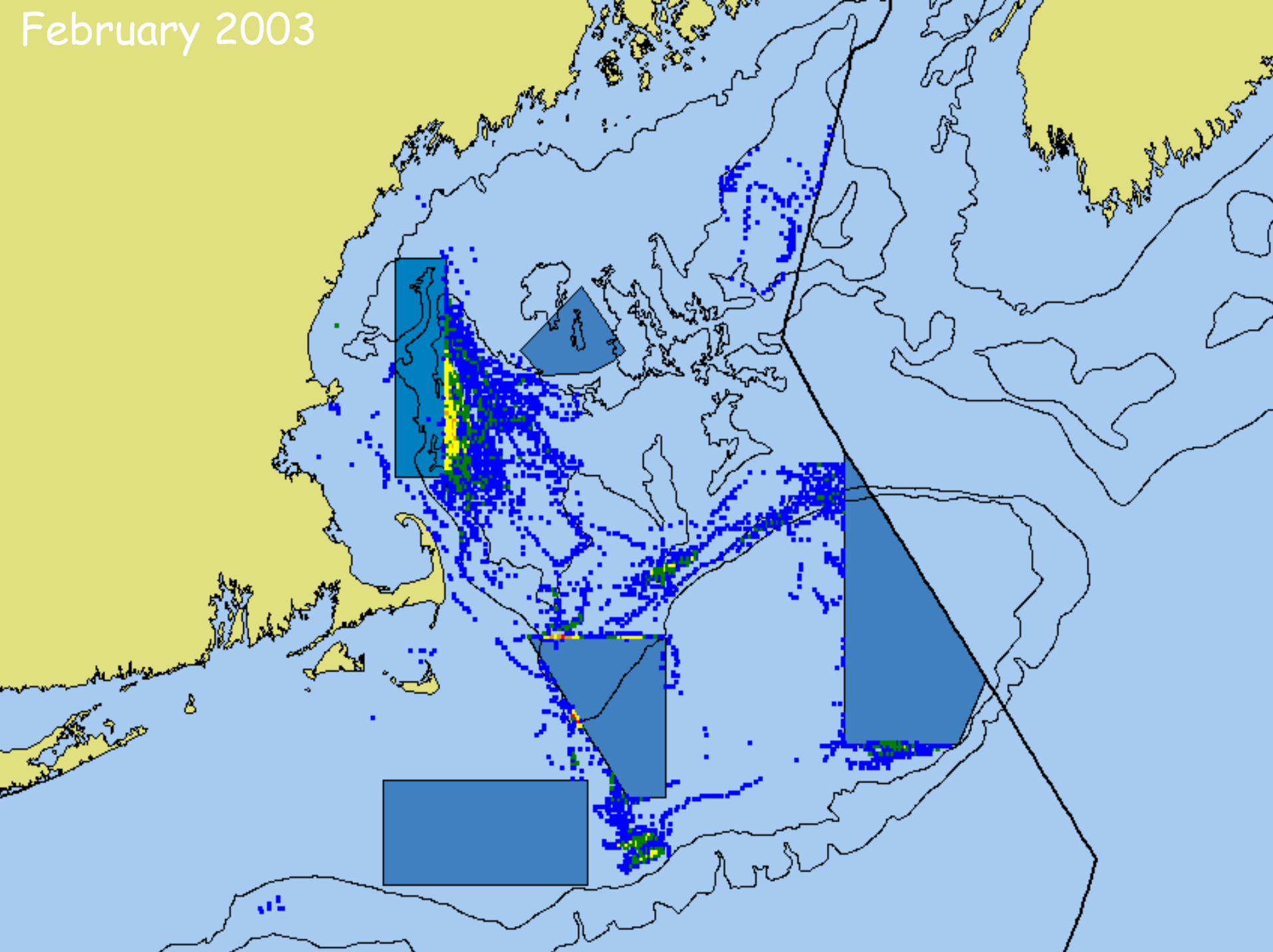
December 2002



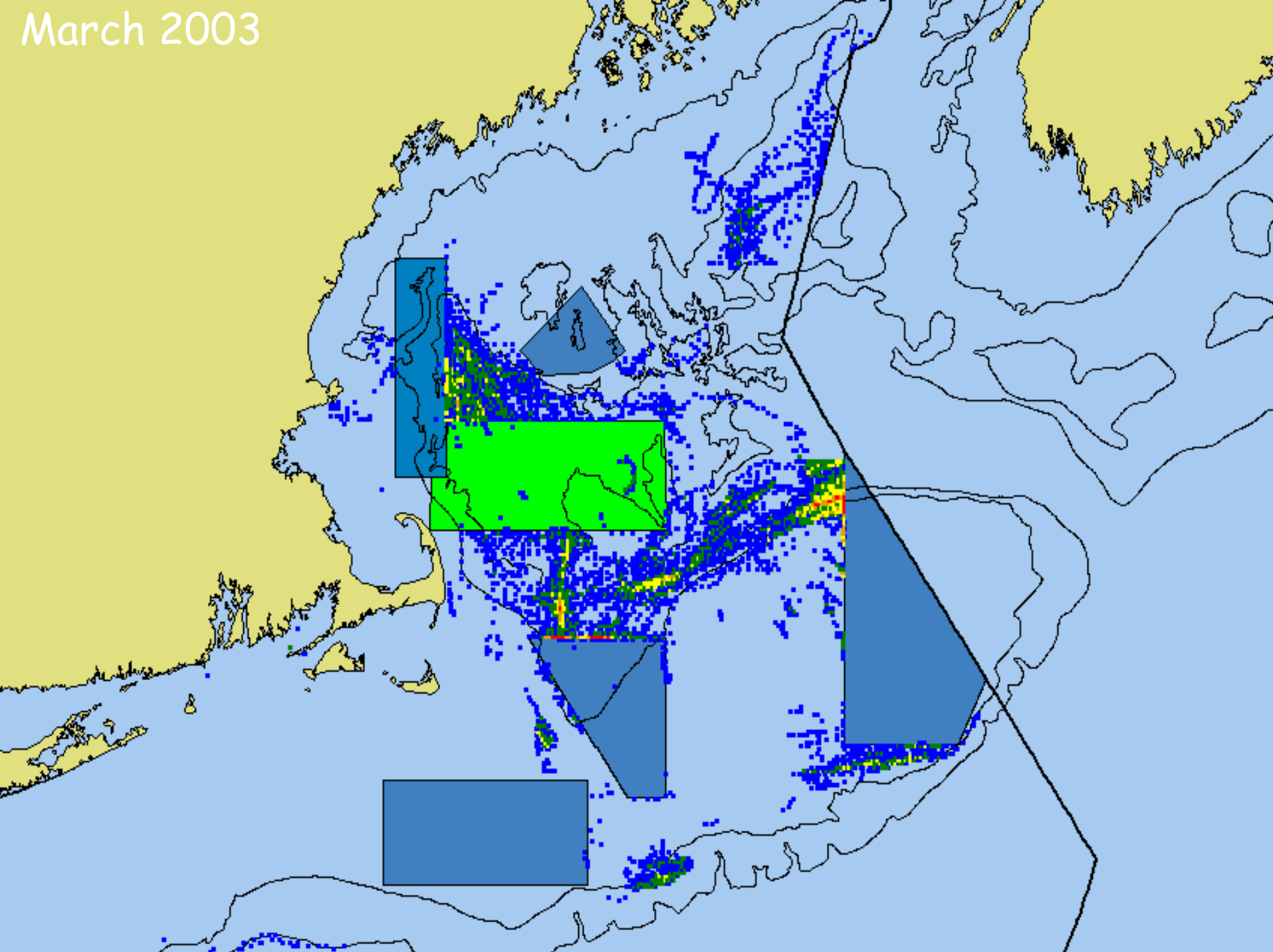
January 2003



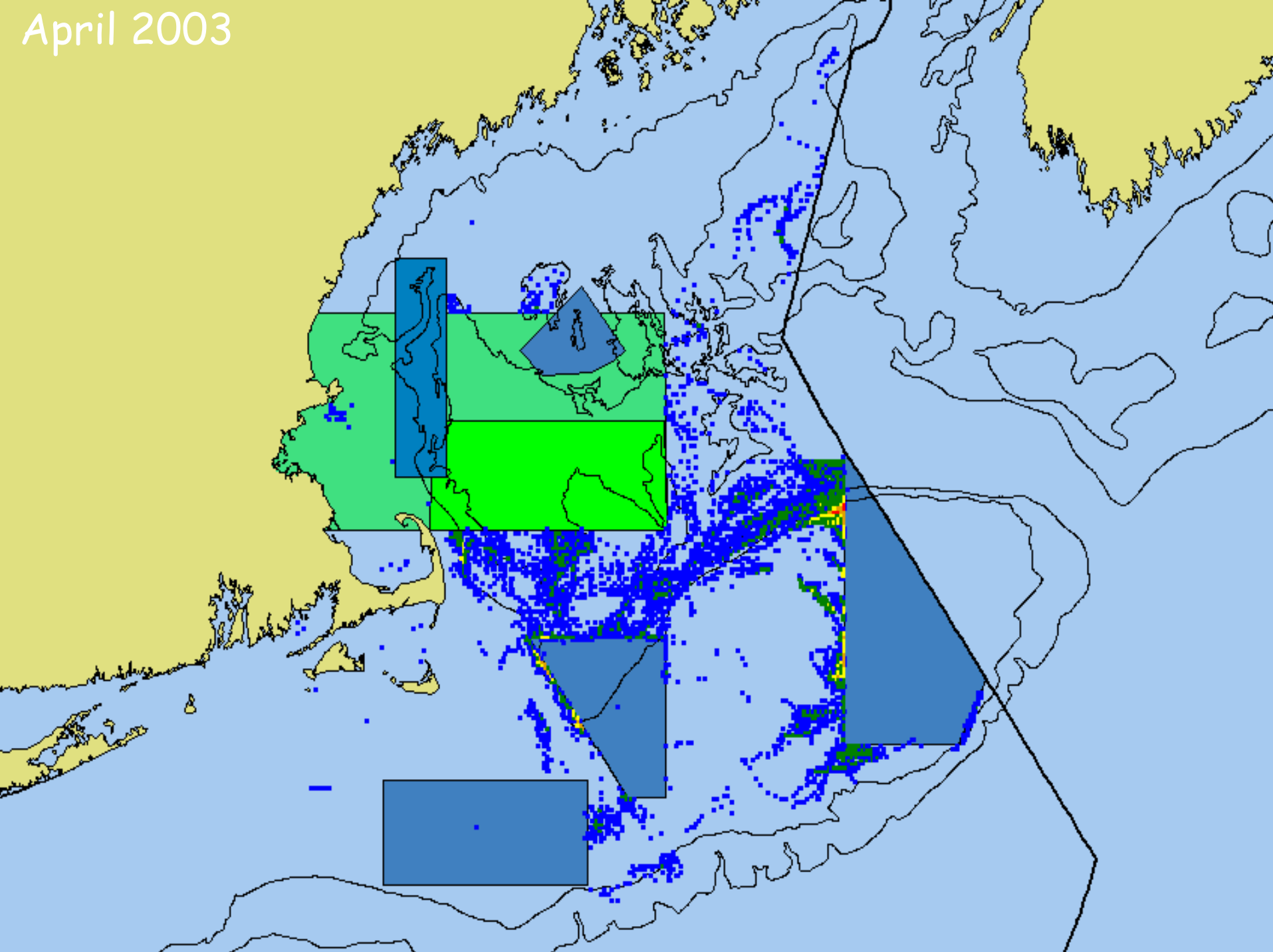
February 2003



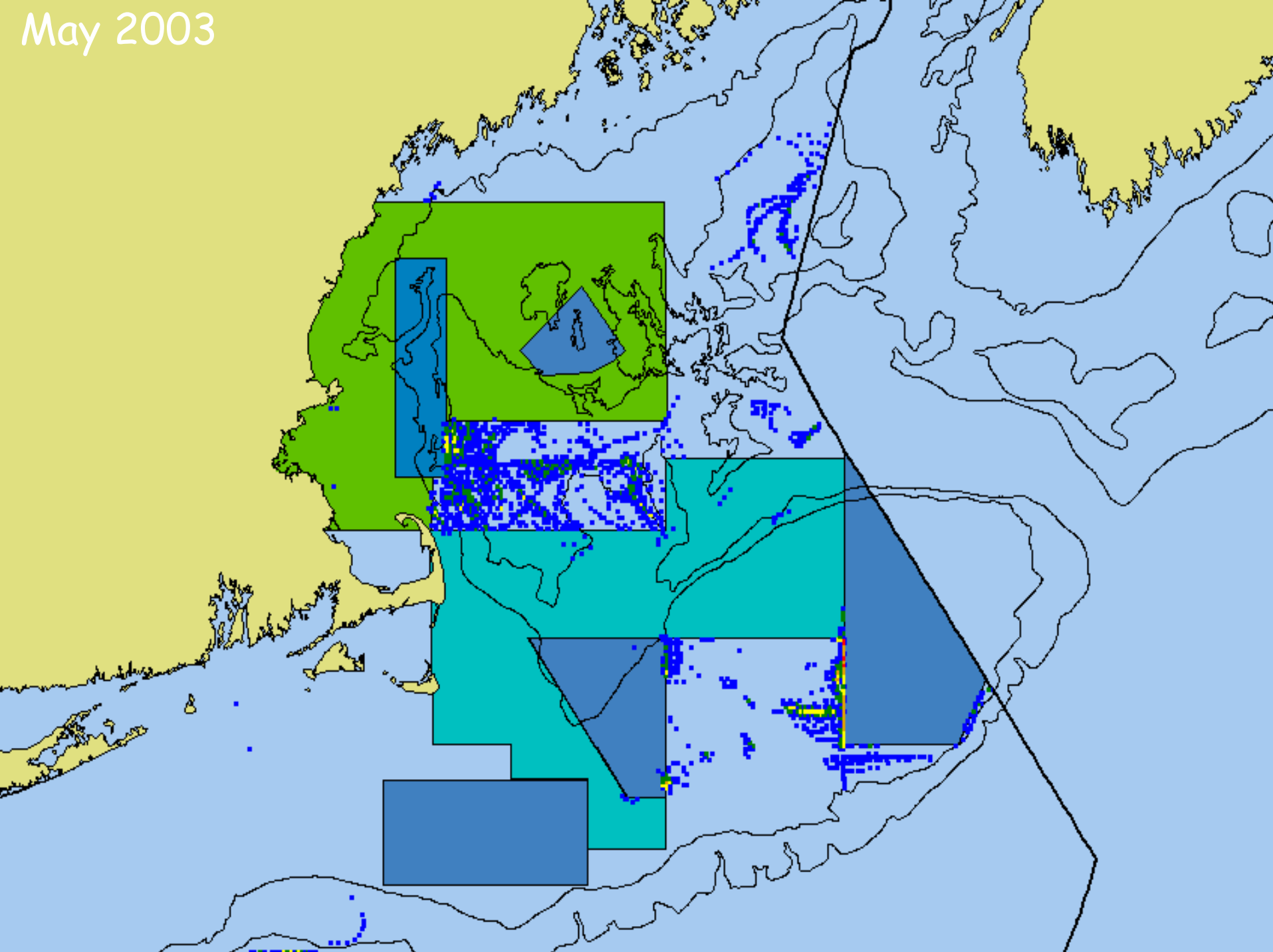
March 2003



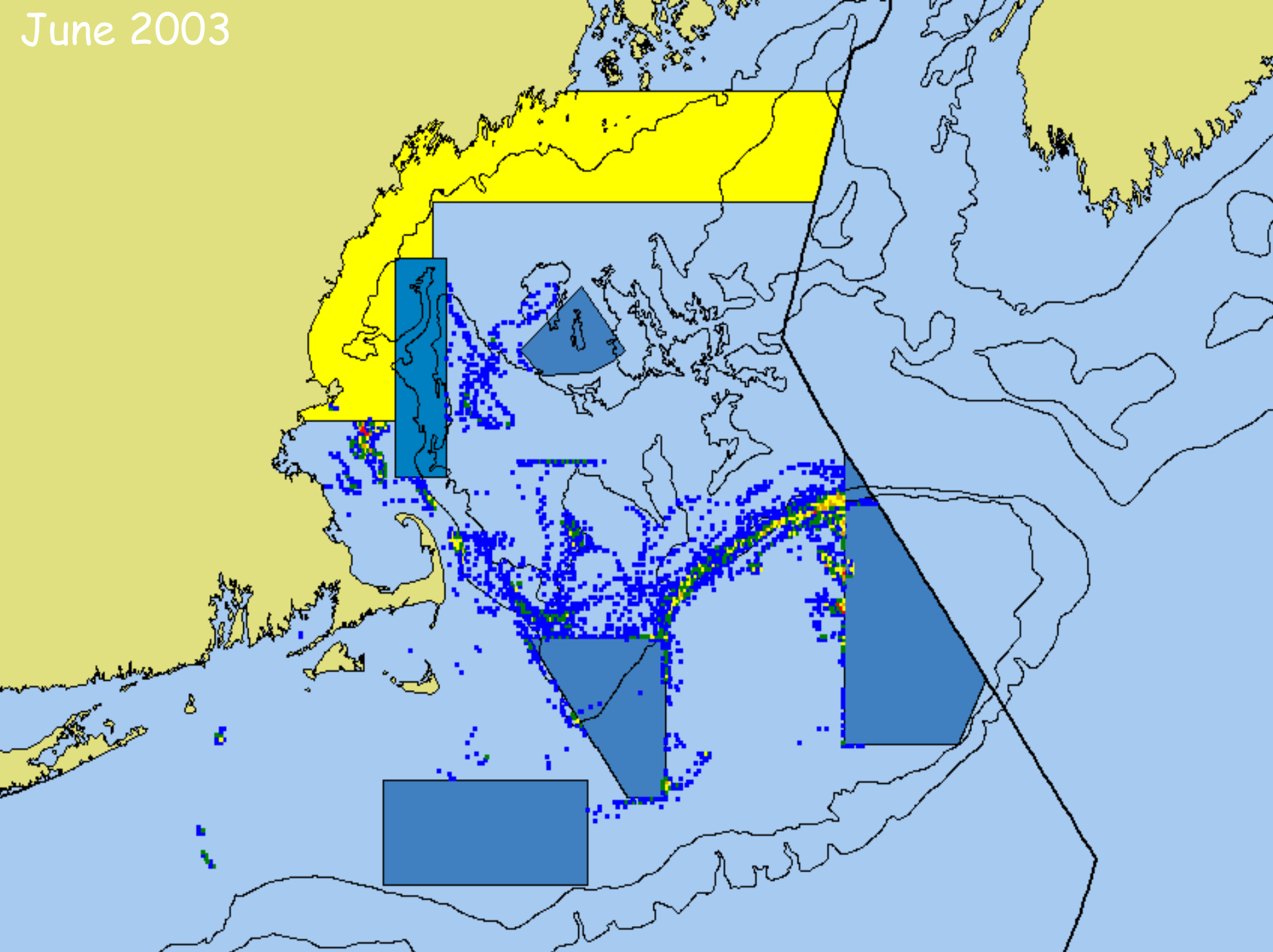
April 2003



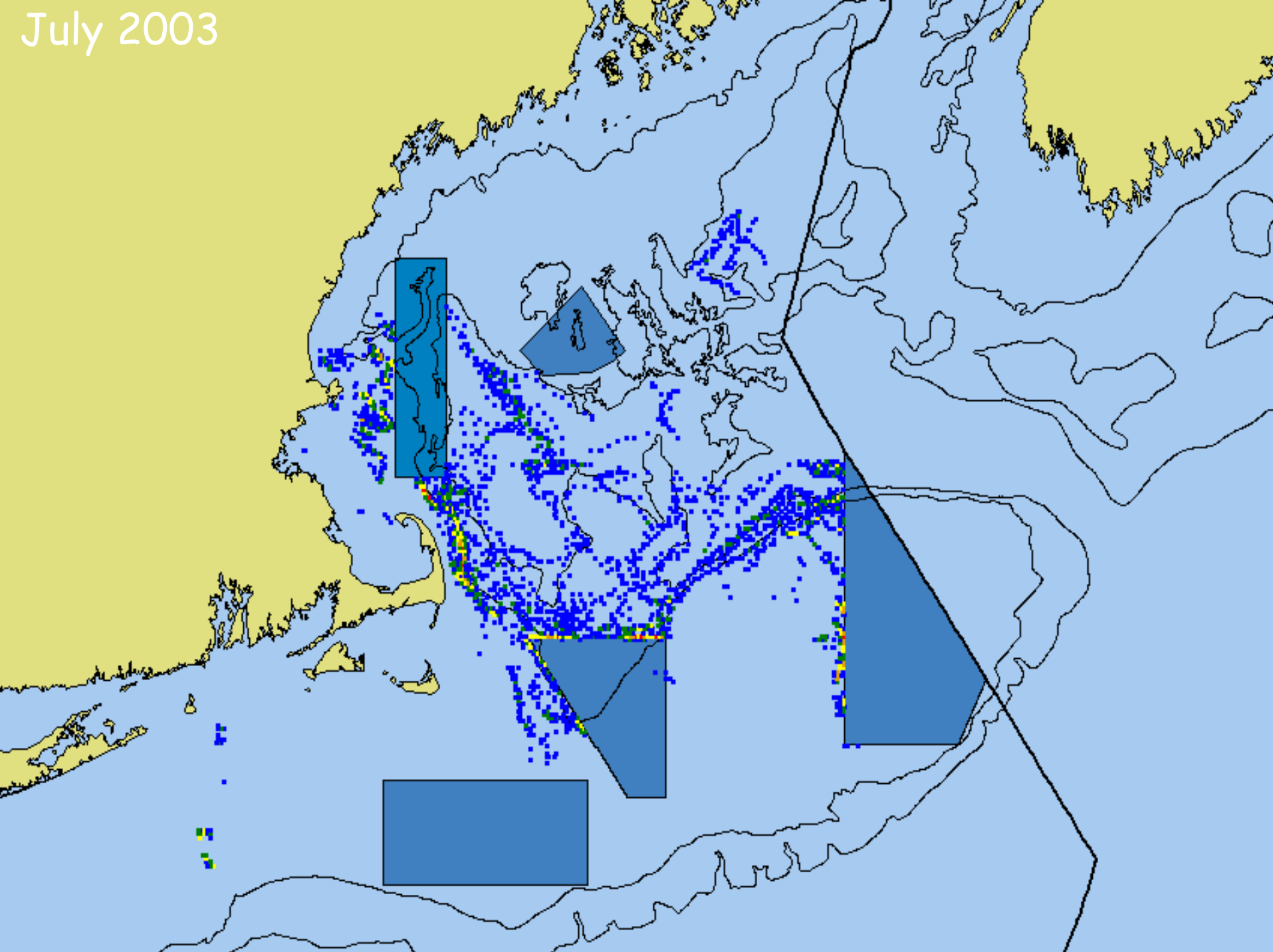
May 2003



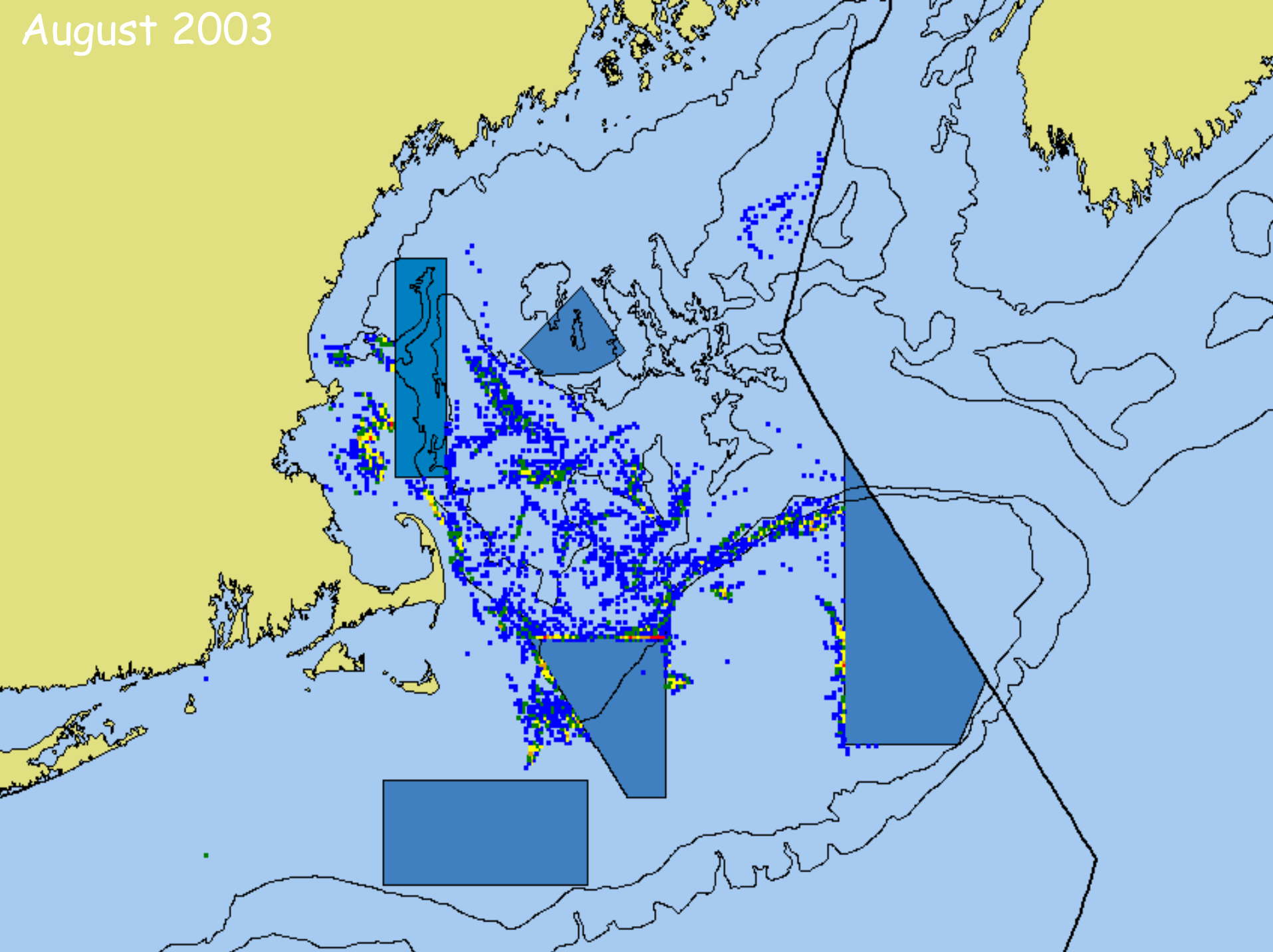
June 2003



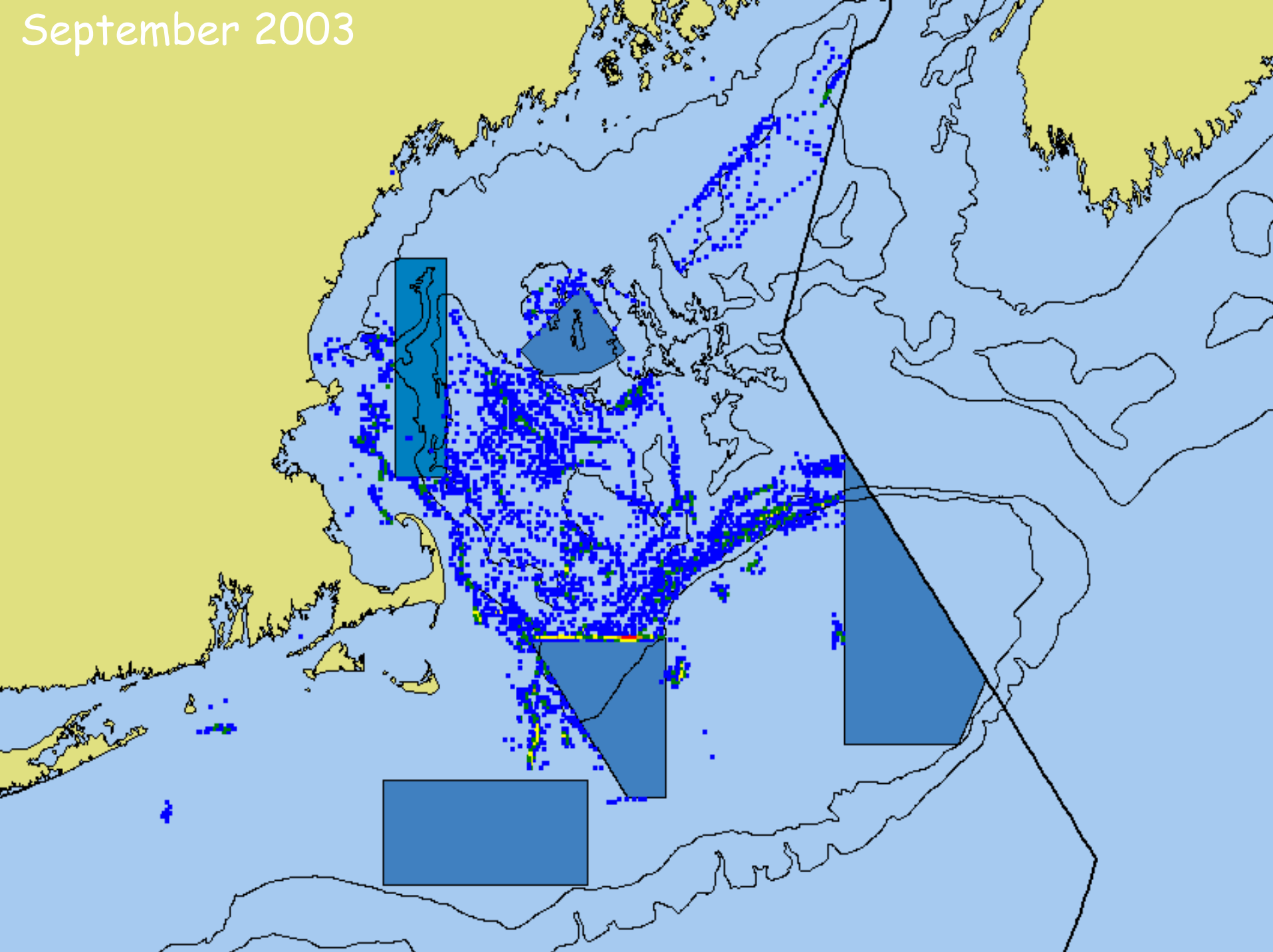
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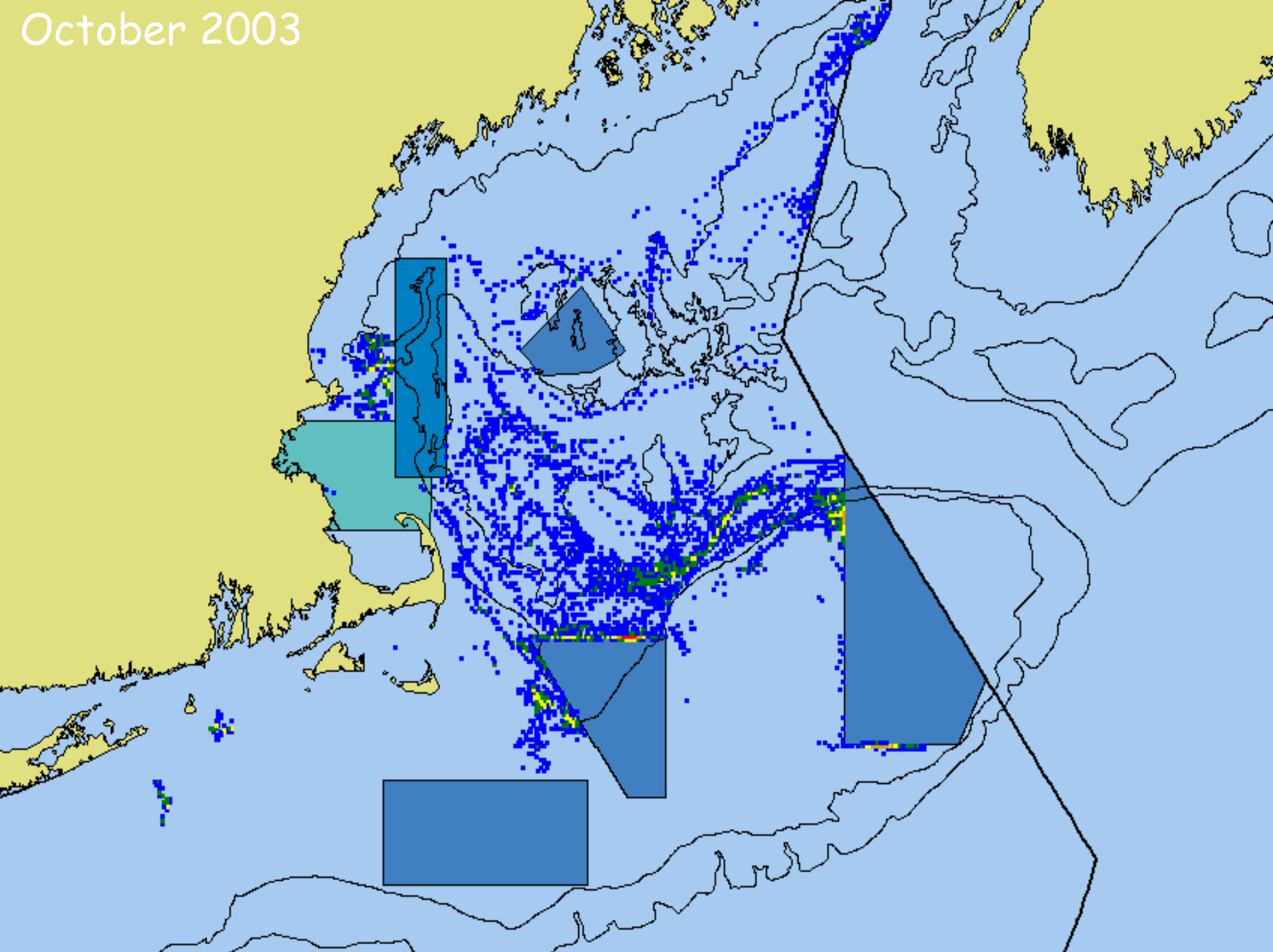
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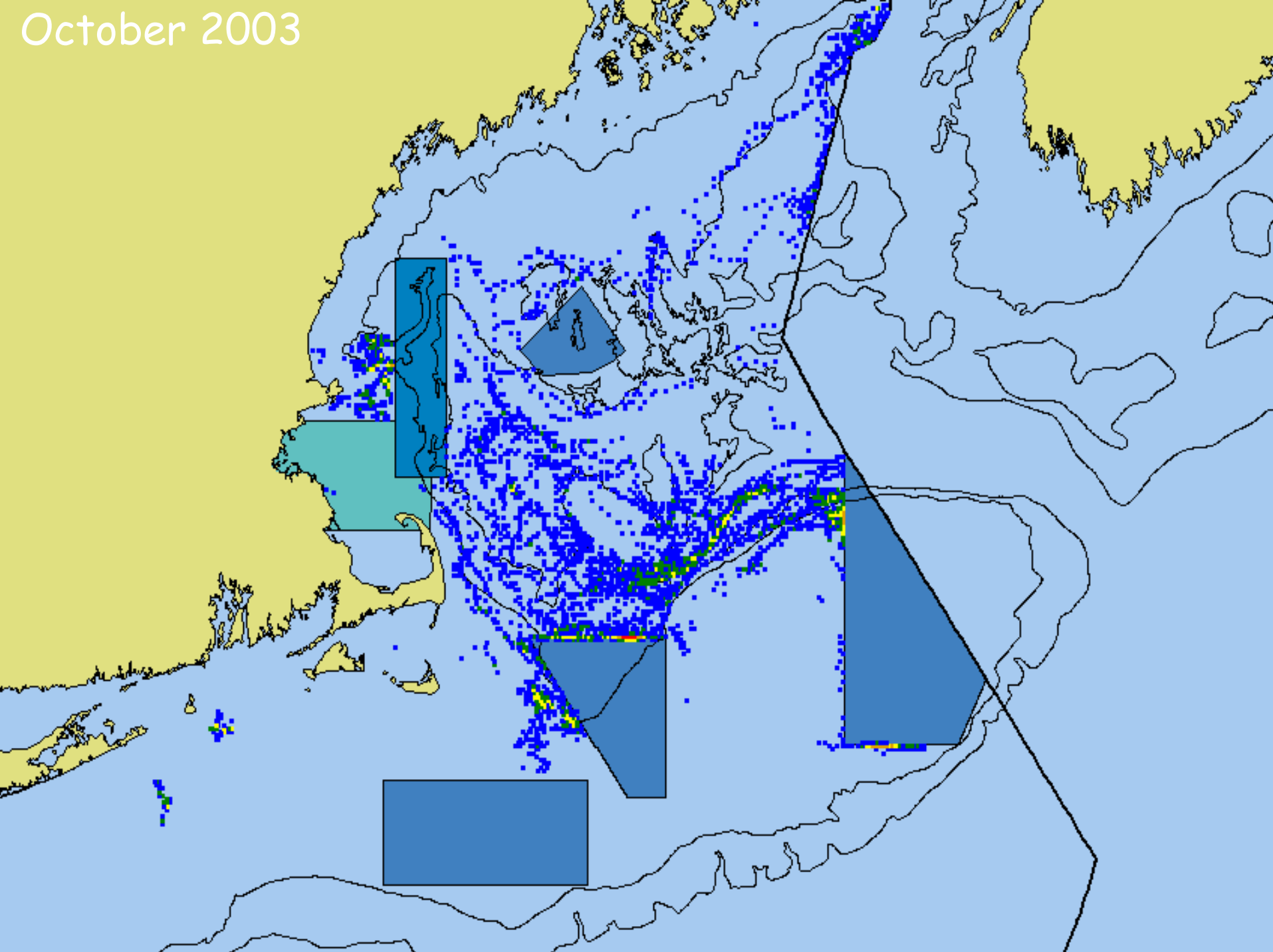
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October 2003

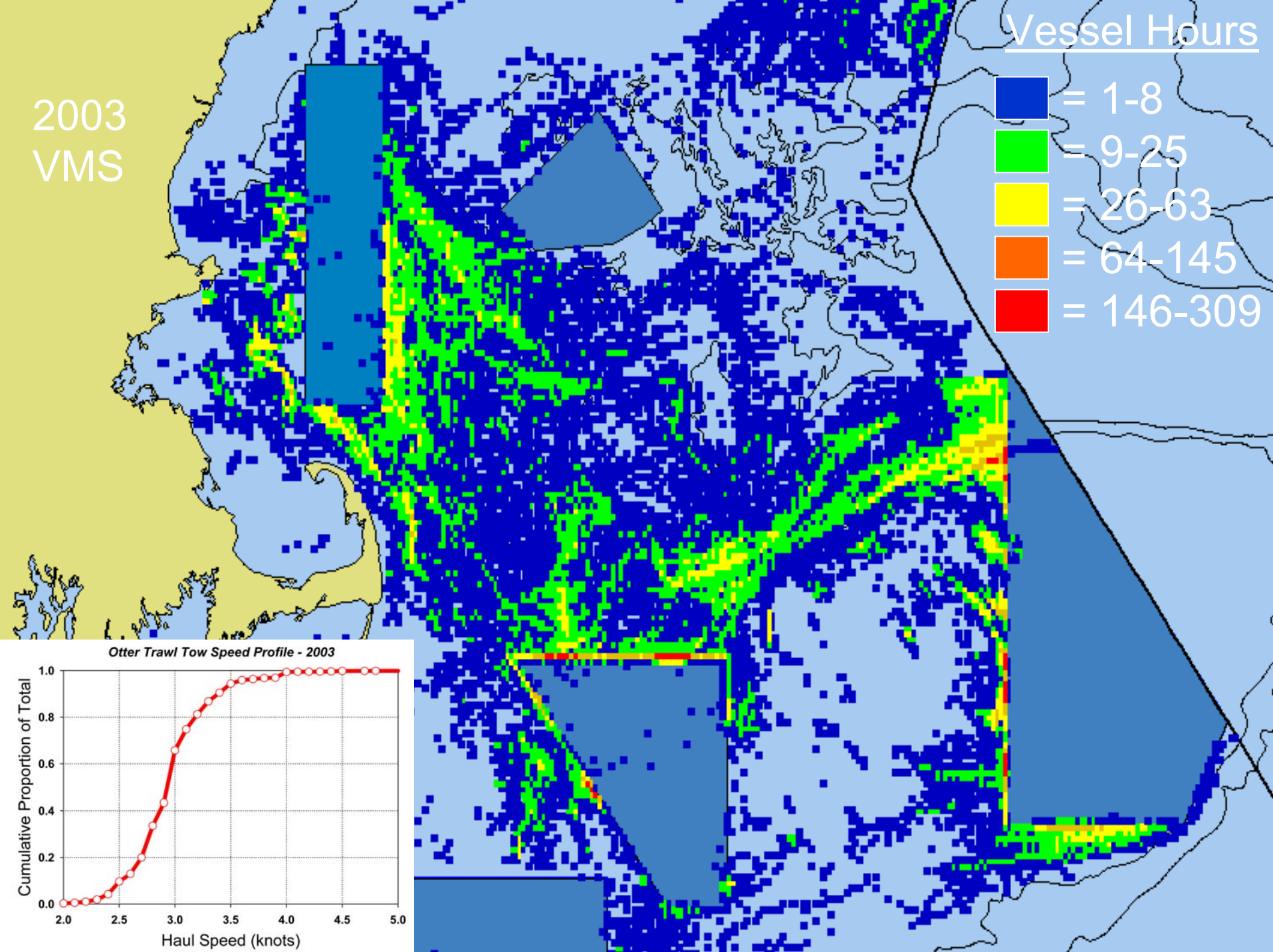
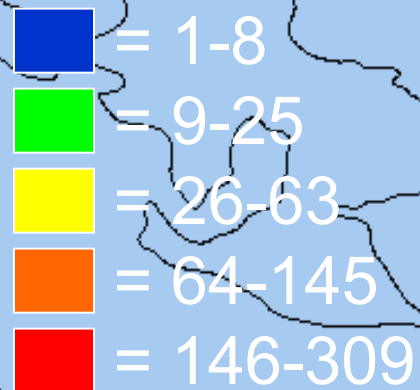


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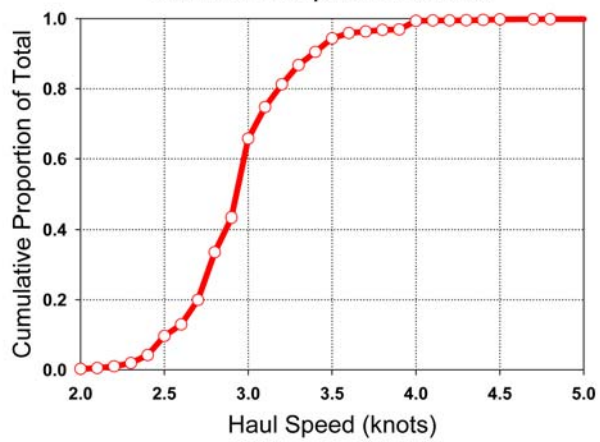


2003
VMS

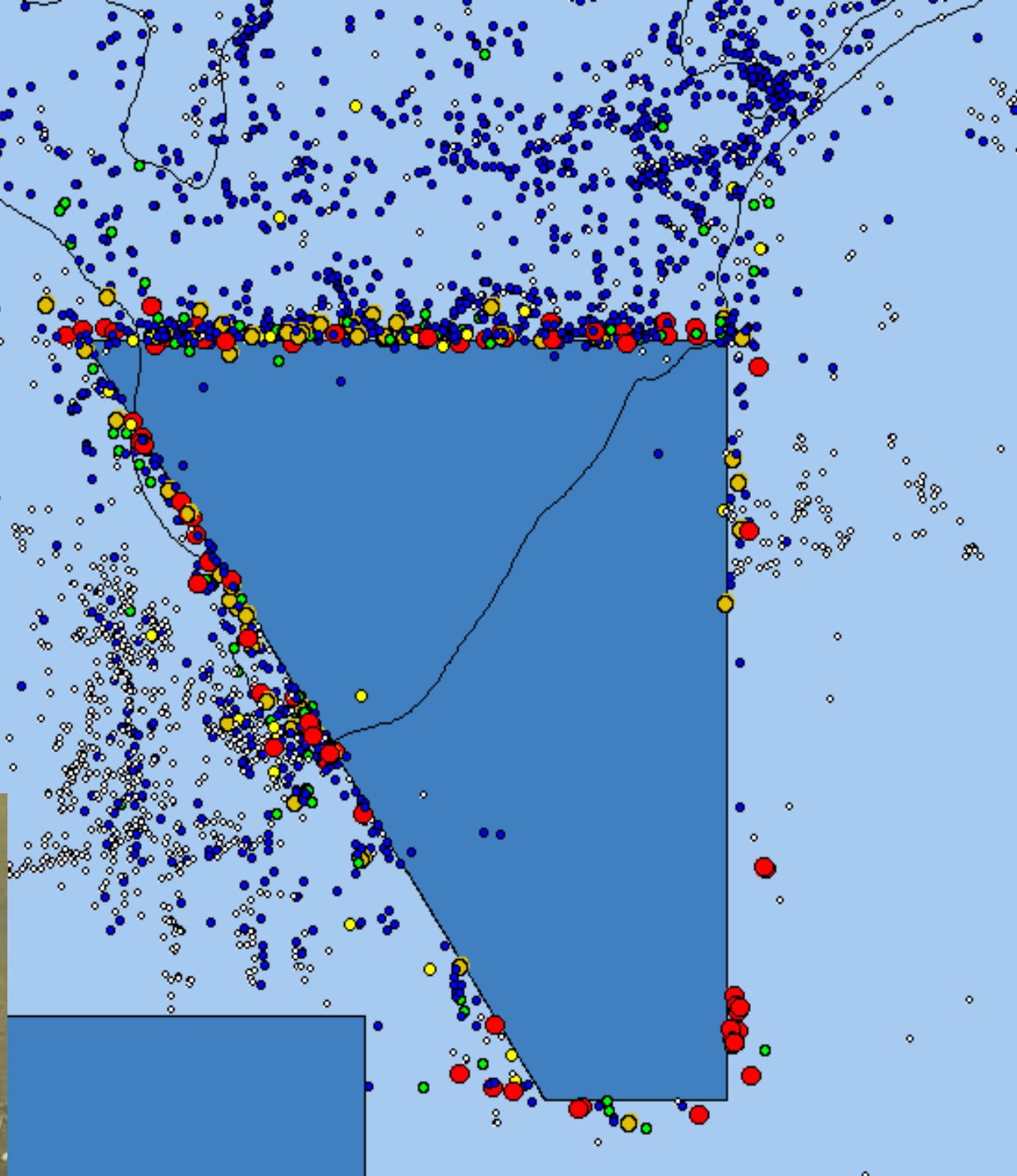
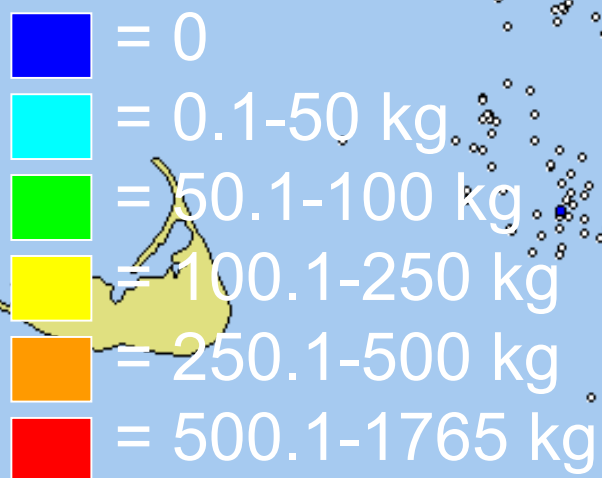
Vessel Hours



Otter Trawl Tow Speed Profile - 2003



Haddock catch rates



Use and Effectiveness of MPA's

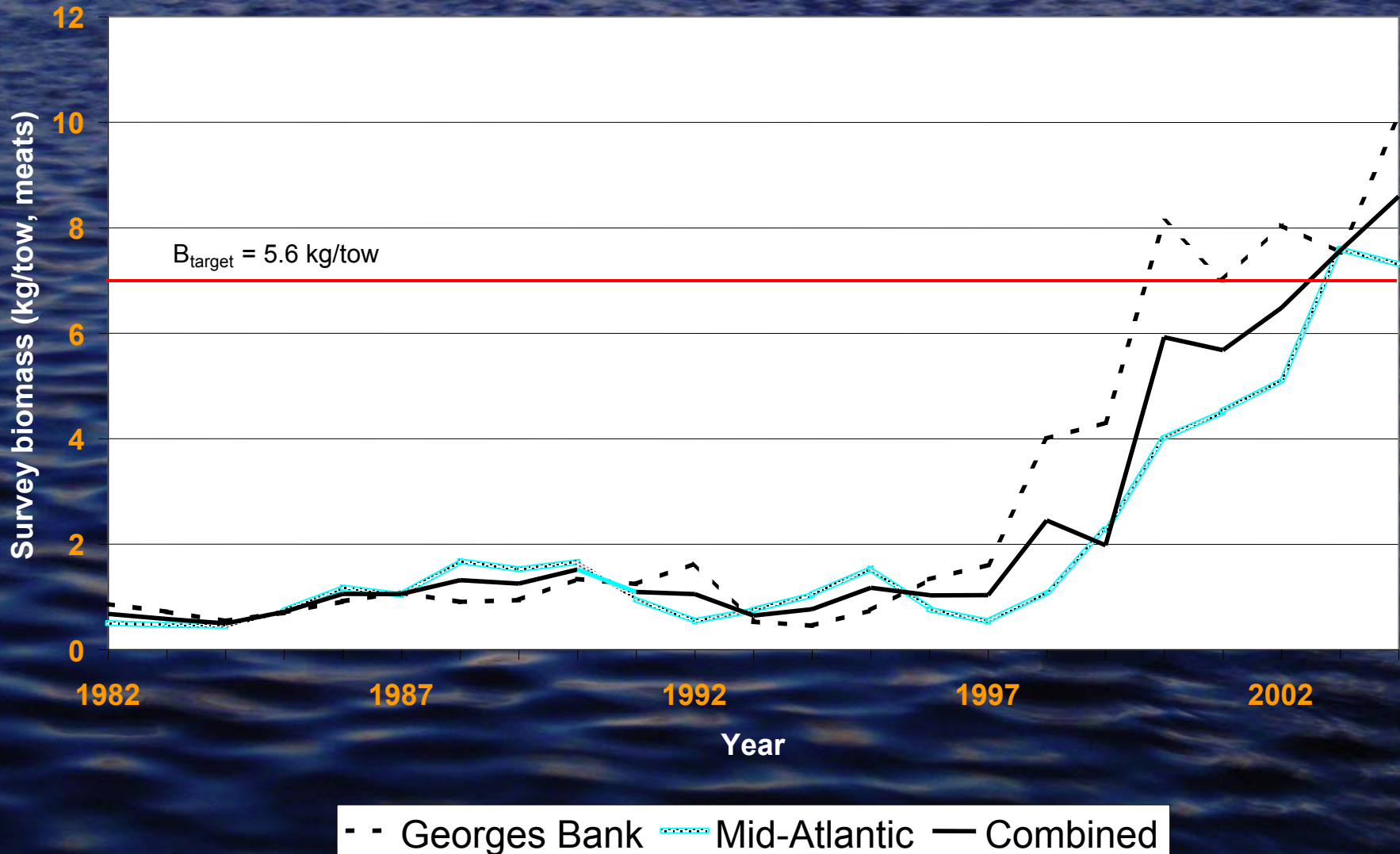
- Beginning in 1994, the Council increased its use and reliance on closed areas as a management tool to enhance rebuilding and protect habitat.
- The Council's closed areas on Georges Bank and in the Gulf of Maine have contributed to stock rebuilding.

Use and Effectiveness of MPA's

- In combination with effort reductions and controls, gear restrictions, and other measures, stocks have shown remarkable recovery.
- Additional research is encouraged to quantify effectiveness of closed areas as management tool.

Sea Scallop Recovery

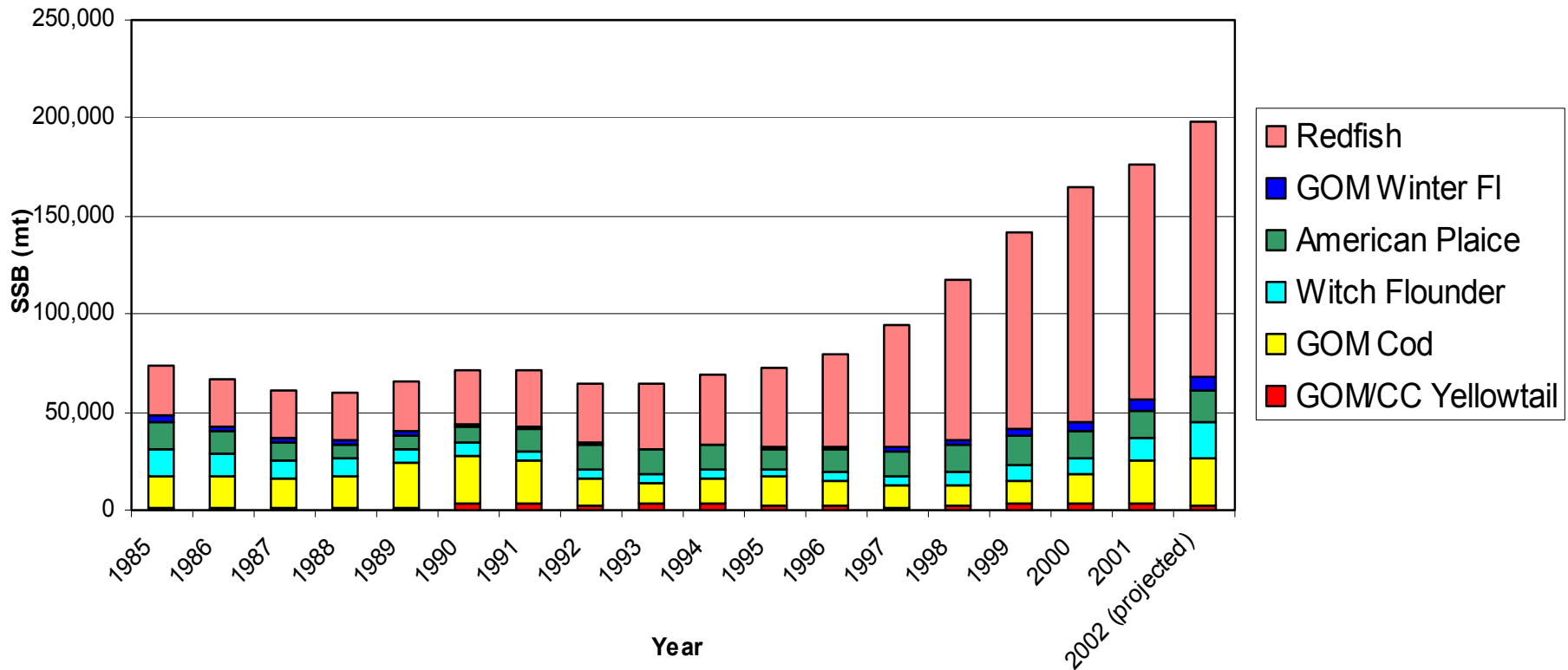
Trends in scallop biomass, 1982-2004



- - Georges Bank ···· Mid-Atlantic — Combined

Gulf of Maine Groundfish Rebuilding

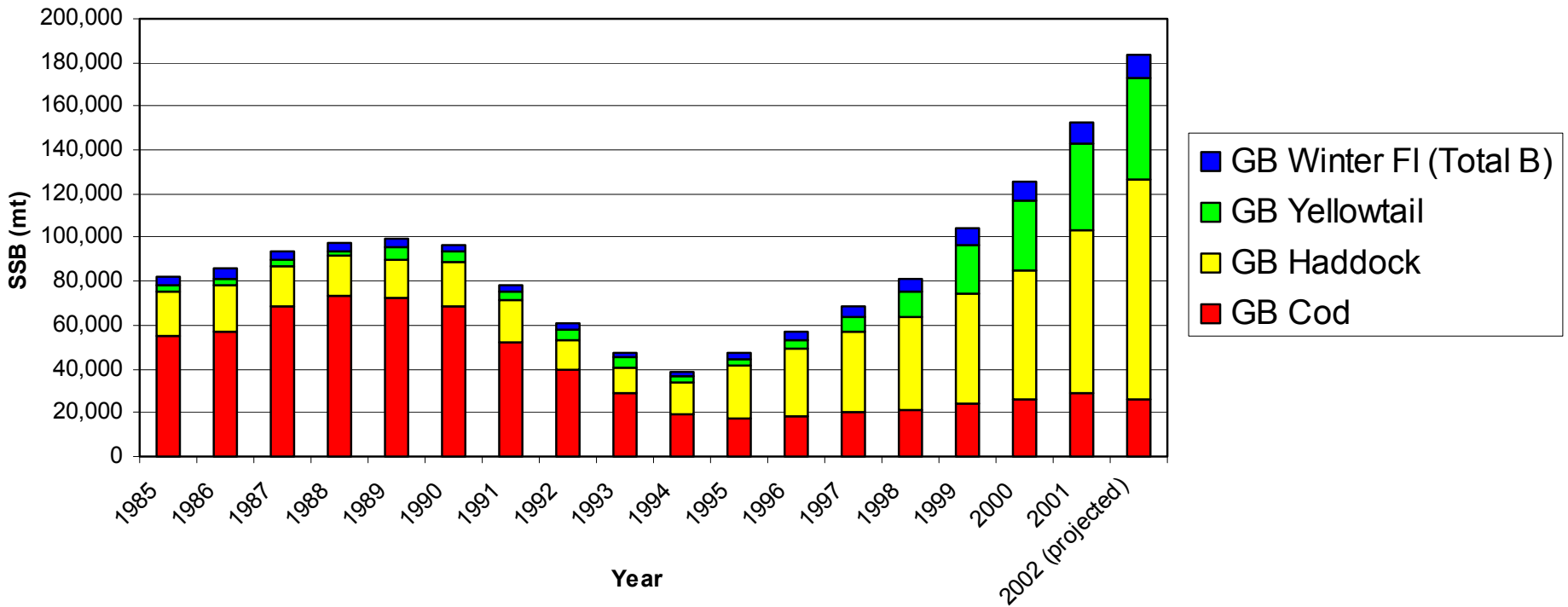
SSB for 6 GOM Groundfish Stocks, 1985-2002



*2002 projections are from Groundfish PDT work for Amendment 13.

George's Bank Groundfish Rebuilding

SSB for 4 GB Groundfish Stocks, 1985-2002



*2002 projections are from Groundfish PDT work for Amendment 13.

*2002 total B estimate for GB winter flounder from short-term projections in NMFS GARM Report (2002).

MPA's in Fisheries Management

- Closed and restricted areas are an important element of most fishery management programs in the Northeast U.S.
- The continued use of closed and restricted areas demonstrates that the concept of an MPA is not new to fisheries managers.
- What may be new to some is the term MPA to describe these common management actions.

Regional MPA Network Development

- Councils manage and control fishing activities, but currently have no control over many non-fishing related activities.
- Other agencies with management authority include: ACOE (dredging), MMS (oil, gas, mineral exploration), and EPA (ocean dumping).

Regional MPA Network Development

- Ideal MPA system would integrate and coordinate management authority.
- Recommend a regional advisory board: Council, NMFS, NOS, EPA, ACOE, MMS, and USFWS (DOI).

Role of the Regional Councils

- Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Regional Fishery Management Councils will continue to protect fish stocks and habitats in most appropriate ways, including use of closed and restricted areas.
- The use of management areas closed and restricted to fishing activities at the sole discretion of the Regional Councils is consistent with an integrated approach for implementation and management of MPA's.

Need for a Council-MPA Policy

- No formal Council policy, strategy, or official position on MPAs as a management tool
- Council completed two MPA education and outreach workshops in May 2005 to solicit input from the public on a Council-MPA policy
- Legitimacy afforded MPAs by the Executive Order indicates Council should increase its involvement

Role of Council-MPA Policy

- Develop strategy on MPAs
- Better coordinate fishery and non-fishery related MPA activities
- Establish a formal link between Council & relevant MPA activities and Federal advisory panel
- Ensure coordination with DOC and DOI
- Keep the public and other agencies informed of Council roles and responsibilities

Marine Protected Areas in New England

Leslie-Ann McGee
NEFMC Staff