

Existing Fishing Activity in Study Area:

Scientists participating in the workshops raised questions about the existing fishing activity in the study area, including what types of gear are used, when fishing occurs, how many vessels are involved, and the species that are targeted. In response, fishing industry participants provided the following summary information: [Note: In the table below, F stands for fathoms.]

Figure 8 – Fishing Activity Chart:

PIONEER ARRAY

An analysis of the Fishing activity impacted inside the designated macro site. Broken down by fishery, gear type, number of vessels, average number of crew / vessel, timeframe, depth and targeted fish species.

TRAWLERS: bottom trawl 60-80 vessels avg. crew 4 year round
30F – 250F

Mixed species: Squid (loligo, ilex), silver hake, red hake, butterfish, tilefish, scup, Black sea bass, summer flounder, jon dory, mackerel, monkfish

Monkfish: Directed fishery

LOBSTERING: lobster pots 19 vessels avg. crew 4 year round
Offshore 50F – 200F

Lobsters, Crabs

Inshore lobster pots 20 vessels avg. crew 2.5 year round
30F – 50F

Lobsters, Crabs

RED CRABBING: Crab pots 4 vessels avg. crew 5 year round
250F – 400F

Red Crabs

LONGLINERS: 30-50 miles longline 4 vessels avg. crew 4 year round
Bottom 50F – 150F 7 vessels avg. crew 4 Nov. – March

Tilefish

Pelagic	30 miles longline	30 vessels	avg. crew 4	May – Nov.
	150F – 1500F			

Swordfish, Tuna, Shark, Mahi Mahi

GILLNETTERS:	6-10 miles Gillnets	30 – 40vessels	avg. crew 4	Dec. – May
	100F – 50F			

	Gillnets	15 – 20 vessels	avg. crew 4	May – Dec.
	30F – 60F			

Monkfish, Summer Flounder

ROD & REEL	Rod & Reel	80 – 100 vessels	avg. crew 6	June – Oct.
	40F – 250F			

Swordfish, Tuna, Sharks, Marlin, Mahi Mahi

TOTAL VESSELS: 334

TOTAL CREW: 1225

In addition, fishermen made note of the gear regulations that are currently in place to help mitigate gear conflicts among fishing sectors (trawling, lobster traps, gillnets, etc.). This information is included in Appendix N.