

# FEIS for Final Whale Rule

[https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/public/nema/apsd/2021FEIS\\_Volume%20I.pdf](https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/public/nema/apsd/2021FEIS_Volume%20I.pdf)

Summary of Risk Reduction Credit from FEIS		
Measure	Credit	Source
Restricted Areas	53.3%	Pg 76, table 3.1 (pasted below)
MRA (credit)	10.6	8.8% to 12.5%; Pg 218, Table 5.7
LMA 1 SRA	6.5%	6% to 7%; Pg 277 (Avg 6.5)
South Island SRA	36.2%	?
MRA (north)		?
Trawl Length	5.9%	Pg 76, table 3.1;
Other line Reduction	2.6	Pg 76, table 3.1; (18% trap reduction Area 2 and 12% trap reduction Area 3)
Weak Line (lower bound)	7% (4.1% to 8.4%)	Pg 76, table 3.1 (includes weak insertions in ME exempt waters)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68.8%</b>	
Weak Line (upper bound)	10.9% (4.7% to 14%)	Pg 76, table 3.1 (includes weak insertions in ME exempt waters) Not used to due to uncertainty
Line reduction	7%	Pg 218, Table 5.7 (and pg 15 Table 1.2)
Change in line strength	7%	Pg 218, Table 5.7 (and pg 15 Table 1.2); text pg 19
Change in gear strength	17%	Pg 218, Table 5.7; text pg 19
Percent reduction rope strength	9%	Pg 18, Table 1.4

## Pg 218 - Table with risk reduction % (table 5.7)

- Credit for LMA 1 closure 5% to 6% (pg 277); (was 10.8% in DEIS), “The seasonal closure of LMA 1 is estimated to make up approximately 5 to 6 percent of the risk reduction achieved by the risk reduction elements of Alternative 2 (Preferred).”
- Credit for MRA 9% to 13% (was 9.9% in DEIS)

Table 3.1, page 76 of DESI

**Table 3.1:** The total risk reduction estimated for the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) and Non-preferred Alternative (Alternative 3). Given the uncertainty in risk reduction for the insert intervals proposed by the states, upper and lower bounds were also provided, as described in section 3.1.2.2, as was the uncertainty provided by the gear threat model within the DST. Elements that do not result in significant risk reduction (e.g. weak link and gear marking modifications) are not included.

Combination of Measures	Alternative 2 (Preferred)	Alternative 3*
<b>Risk Reduction:</b> Restricted Areas	53.3%	33.6%
<b>Risk Reduction:</b> Restricted Areas + Trawl Length	59.2%	34.4%
<b>Risk Reduction:</b> Restricted Areas + Trawl Length + Other Line Reduction**	61.8%	59.4%
<b>Total Risk Reduction - lower:</b> Restricted Areas + Trawl Length + Other Line Reduction + Weak Line: lower bound estimate for inserts (DST Gear Threat Uncertainty)	68.8% (65.9% - 70.2%)	72.5%*** (61.8% - 77.9%)
<b>Total Risk Reduction - upper:</b> Restricted Areas + Trawl Length + Other Line Reduction + Weak Line - upper bound estimate for inserts (DST Gear Threat Uncertainty)	72.7% (66.5% - 75.8%)	

\*Alternative 3 uses a different baseline line model than the Preferred Alternative because it does not include the Massachusetts Restricted Area Credit.

\*\* Other line reduction for Alternative 2 represents line reduction via trap reductions in LMA 2 and 3. Other line reduction for Alternative 3 represents the risk reduction from the line cap.

\*\*\* No bounds calculated because only full weak line was included and analyzed