



Northeast Region Bulletin

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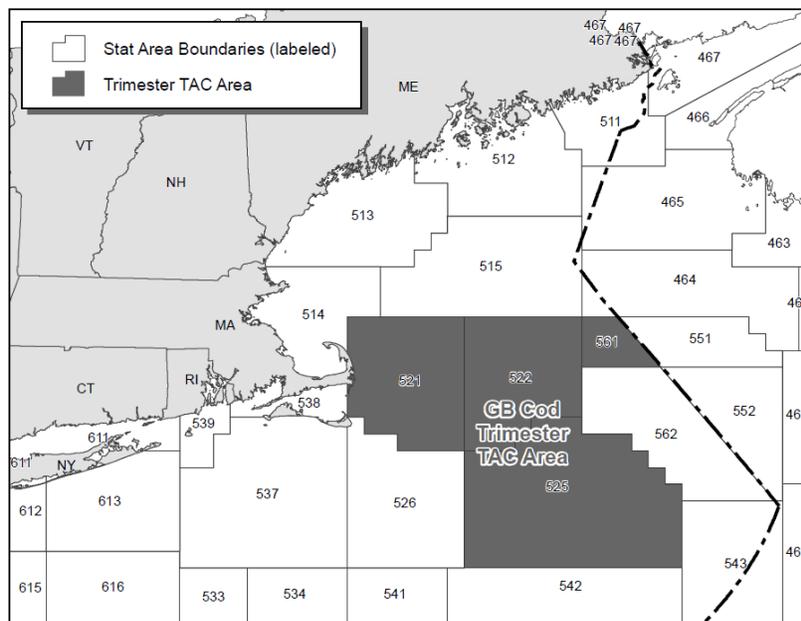
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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Georges Bank Cod Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closed for Trimester 3
Possession and Trip Limit Adjustments for Georges Bank Cod and
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder
Effective: April 9 through April 30, 2014

Based on available data, we have determined that 97% of the Trimester 3 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Georges Bank (GB) cod has been caught. Effective 0001 hours, April 9, 2014, statistical areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 are closed for all of Trimester 3, through April 30, 2014, to all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear, sink gillnet gear, or longline/hook gear. This area will reopen at the beginning of Trimester 1 of the 2014 fishing year, at 0001 hours, May 1, 2014.



Effective April 9, 2014, to prevent the overharvest of GB cod, the possession and trip limit for GB cod is reduced to zero for all common pool vessels. To provide additional fishing opportunities for common pool vessels, and to help allow the common pool fishery to catch more of its quota, the possession and trip limit for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder is increased for all common pool vessels, from 300 lb/trip to 1,000 lb/day at sea, and 2,000 lb/trip.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

Straddle Trips: If you have declared your trip through the vessel monitoring system (VMS) or interactive voice response system, and crossed the VMS demarcation line prior to April 9, 2014, you may complete your trip in part, or all, in the GB cod Trimester TAC Area, and you will not be subject to the new possession and trip limits for that trip. Please contact us at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions. Quota monitoring reports are updated weekly on the internet at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
Why is this action being taken?	We are required to close the trimester TAC Area for a stock once 90% of the Trimester TAC is caught to avoid quota overages. Because GB cod is expected to be caught outside of the trimester TAC area, we are adjusting the trip limits to prevent an overage of the common pool annual quotas.
What happens once a Trimester TAC is exceeded?	A Trimester that has no remaining TAC must be closed.
How much of the quota has been caught of the stock?	Based on recent data, 97% of the GB cod quota has been caught for Trimester 3, and 98% of the full year sub-ACL has been caught.
What happens if the annual quota is exceeded?	Overages of the common pool's sub-Annual Catch Limit (sub-ACL) at the end of the fishing year will be deducted from the common pool's sub-ACL the following fishing year.
What areas are now closed for common pool vessels?	On January 1, 2014, we closed statistical areas 513, 514, 515, in the Gulf of Maine. This action closes statistical areas 521, 522, 525, and 561, in Georges Bank. These areas will open at the beginning of the new fishing year, May 1, 2014. These closures apply to vessels with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear.