



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## **NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES (GROUNDFISH)** **FISHING YEAR 2017 REGULATIONS**

*Effective Date: August 1, 2017*

We approved Framework Adjustment 56 to the groundfish plan and are announcing final fishing year 2017 management measures for the groundfish fishery. Detailed information can be found at: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies/>.

### **Framework Adjustment 56**

#### **Fishing Year 2017 Catch Limits**

This action increases the 2017 catch limit for Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod (+6%), Eastern GB haddock (+94%), and witch flounder (+91%), but decreases the catch limit for GB yellowtail flounder (-23 percent). The 2017 catch limits are provided in Tables 1 and 2.

#### **Allocation of Northern Windowpane Flounder to the Scallop Fishery**

This action allocates northern windowpane flounder to the scallop fishery. The scallop fishery allocation is 21 percent of the overall quota for northern windowpane flounder. Any overage of the 2017 scallop fishery allocation will be subject to an accountability measure (AM) in a future year.

#### **Increase to Georges Bank Haddock Allocation for the Midwater Trawl Fishery**

This action increases the GB haddock allocation for the Atlantic herring midwater trawl fishery from 1 percent of the overall quota to 1.5 percent.

### **Common Pool Measures and Trip Limits**

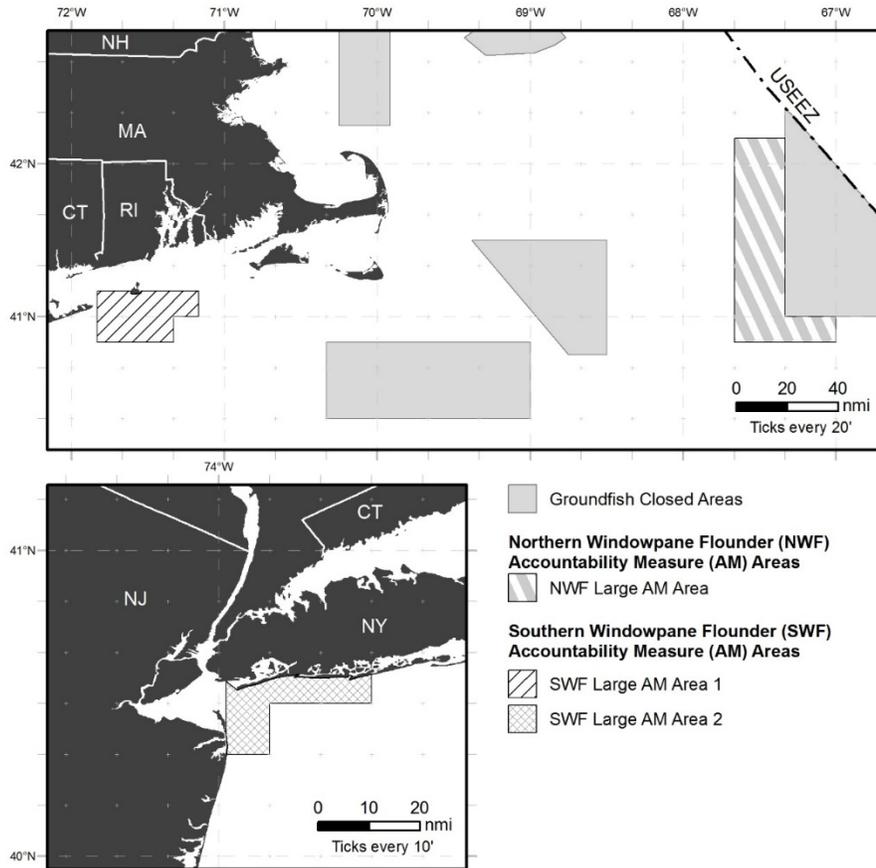
This action increases the trip limit for witch flounder and decreases the trip limit for American plaice (Table 3). All other trip limits implemented on May 1, 2017, remain the same. The 2017 common pool catch limits for each trimester are included in Table 4.

## Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measure

Effective August 1, 2017, through August 31, 2017, all trawl vessels on a groundfish trip must use selective trawl gear (Haddock separator trawl, rope separator trawl, or Ruhle trawl) when fishing in the large AM areas for northern and southern windowpane flounder. There are no restrictions on common pool or sector vessels fishing with hook or gillnet gear.

Fishing year 2015 catch exceeded the total quota for northern and southern windowpane flounder. Due to these overages, we must implement the large AM areas for both stocks. However, because 2016 catch of northern and southern windowpane flounder did not exceed the overall quota, the gear-restricted areas will only be required for 1 month in 2017. On September 1, 2017, groundfish vessels may fish in the AM areas without selective gear.

More information on windowpane flounder AMs can be found here:  
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/regis/infodocs/windowpaneaminfosheet.pdf>.



**Table 1. Fishing Year 2017 Catch Limits (mt, live weight)**

Stock	Total Annual Catch Limit	Total Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational Fishery	Midwater Trawl Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small-Mesh Fisheries	State Waters sub-component	Other sub-component
GB Cod	637	531	521	10					20	86
GOM Cod	473	437	271	9	157				27	10
GB Haddock	54,568	52,620	52,253	367		801			574	574
GOM Haddock	4,285	4,177	2,985	33	1,160	42			33	33
GB Yellowtail Flounder	201	163	160	2			32	4	0	2.1
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	256	187	151	36			34		5	29
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	409	341	326	15					43	26
American Plaice	1,272	1,218	1,196	23					27	27
Witch Flounder	839	734	718	16					35	70
GB Winter Flounder	683	620	615	5					0	63
GOM Winter Flounder	776	639	607	32					122	16
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	749	585	515	70					70	94
Redfish	10,514	10,183	10,126	56					111	221
White Hake	3,467	3,358	3,331	27					36	73
Pollock	20,374	17,817	17,704	113					1,279	1,279
N. Windowpane Flounder	170	129	na	129			36		2	4
S. Windowpane Flounder	599	104	na	104			209		37	249
Ocean Pout	155	130	na	130					2	23
Atlantic Halibut	119	91	na	91					25	4
Atlantic Wolffish	77	72	na	72					1	3

**Table 2. 2017 Fishing Year U.S./Canada Quotas (mt, live weight) and Percent of Quota Allocated to Each Country**

Quota	Eastern GB Cod	Eastern GB Haddock	GB Yellowtail Flounder
Total Shared Quota	730	50,000	300
U.S. Quota	146 (20%)	29,500 (59%)	207 (69%)
Canada Quota	584 (80%)	20,500 (41%)	93 (31%)

**Table 3. Fishing Year 2017 Common Pool Trip Limits for Witch Flounder and American Plaice**

Stock	2017 Trip Limit
American plaice	500 lb per trip
Witch Flounder	400 lb per trip

**Table 4. Fishing Year 2017 Trimester Total Allowable Catches (mt)\***

Stock	2017		
	Trimester 1 (May 1 – Aug 31)	Trimester 2 (Sep 1 – Dec 31)	Trimester 3 (Jan 1 – Apr 30)
GB Cod	2.5	3.6	3.7
GOM Cod	2.5	3.3	3.4
GB Haddock	99.0	120.9	146.6
GOM Haddock	8.8	8.5	15.4
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.5	0.7	1.3
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	7.6	13.4	15.2
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	5.2	5.2	4.5
American Plaice	5.5	8.2	9.1
Witch Flounder	4.4	5.1	6.9
GB Winter Flounder	0.4	1.2	3.5
GOM Winter Flounder	11.7	12.0	7.9
Redfish	14.0	17.4	24.7
White Hake	10.2	8.3	8.3
Pollock	31.6	39.5	41.8

\* SNE Winter Flounder is not managed under a trimester quota