



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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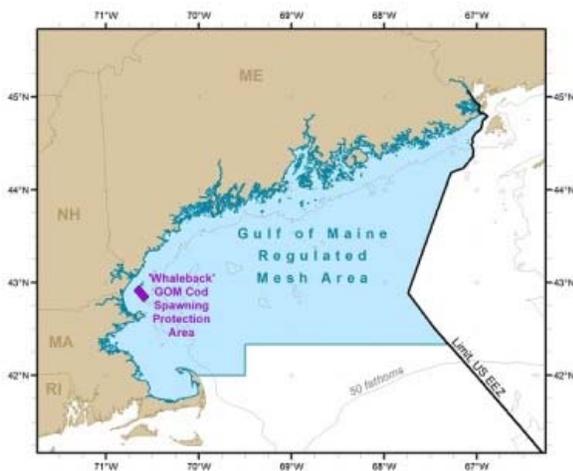
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## NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES (GROUND FISH) FISHING YEAR 2017 RECREATIONAL REGULATIONS

*Effective Date: July 27, 2017*

We have approved new management measures for the remainder of the 2017 fishing year for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock recreational fishery. These changes take effect on July 27, 2017.



### Gulf of Maine Cod Possession Prohibition

This action reinstates the prohibition on recreational possession of GOM cod. In 2016, recreational catch was greater than predicted, and the cod recreational harvest limit was exceeded by 92 percent. Haddock catch exceeded the harvest limit by 15 percent.

### New Recreational Measures for Fishing Year 2017

After consulting with the Council, we are implementing a prohibition on recreational possession of GOM cod. Additionally, we are reducing the bag limit, for GOM haddock, from 15 fish to 12 fish. In addition to the existing spring

closure (March 1 – April 14), a fall closure is being implemented from September 17 through October 31. The minimum size for GOM haddock is unchanged. Recreational measures for cod and haddock outside the GOM Regulated Mesh Area remain unchanged.

### **Fishing Year 2017 Recreational Fishing Measures for GOM cod and haddock**

| Year | GOM Haddock |            |   | GOM Cod   |            |             |
|------|-------------|------------|---|---|------------|-------------|
|      | Bag Limit   | Size Limit | Open Season   | Bag Limit   | Size Limit | Open Season |
| 2017 | 12          | 17 inches  | May 1 – September 16<br>November 1 – February 28<br>and April 15 – April 30 | <b>Recreational GOM Cod Possession Prohibited</b> |            |             |

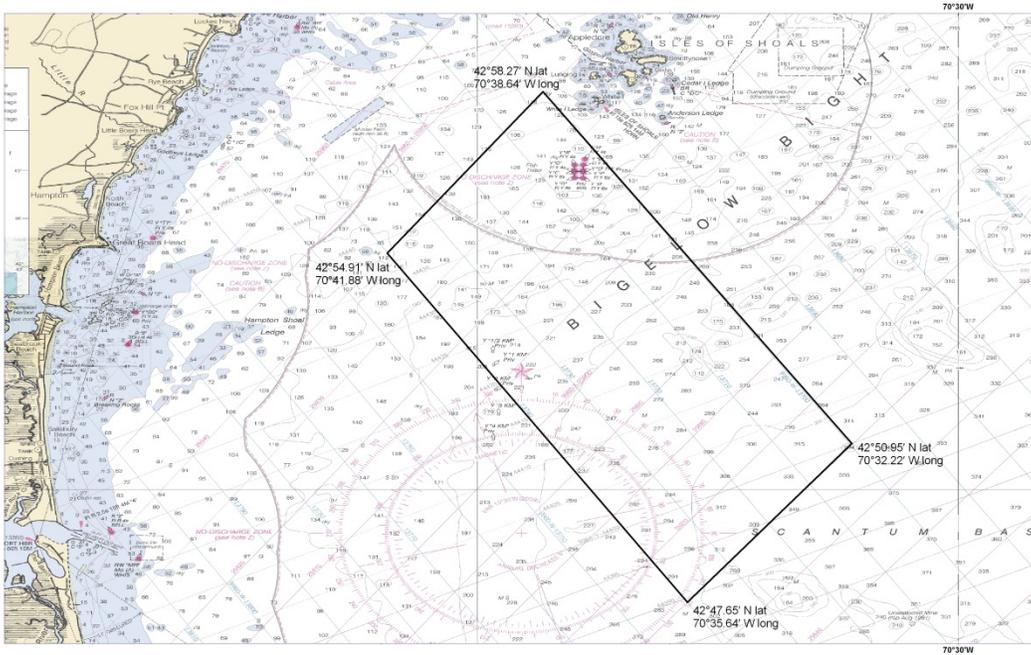
*Bag limits are per person per day and size limits are minimum total length.*

Additional information on the fishing year 2017 recreational measures can be found at:  
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/recfishing/regs/index.html>.

## Whaleback Cod Spawning Protection Area

Recreational vessels remain subject to the Whaleback Cod Spawning Protection Area.

### Whaleback Cod Spawning Protection Area



### **Gear Restrictions**

From April 1 through June 30 of each year, all recreational vessels, including private recreational and charter/party vessels, may only use pelagic hook-and-line gear, as defined below, when fishing in the GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area.

| Point | N. Latitude | W. Longitude |
|-------|-------------|--------------|
| CSPA1 | 42° 50.95'  | 70° 32.22'   |
| CSPA2 | 42° 47.65'  | 70° 35.64'   |
| CSPA3 | 42° 54.91'  | 70° 41.88'   |
| CSPA4 | 42° 58.27'  | 70° 38.64'   |

Pelagic hook-and-line gear is defined as handline or rod and reel gear that is designed to fish for, or that is being used to fish for, pelagic species. No portion of this gear may be operated in contact with the bottom at any time.

### **Possession Restrictions**

Any vessel fishing in the GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area, including pelagic hook-and-line gear by recreational vessels, is prohibited from possessing or retaining regulated species or ocean pout from April 1 through June 30 of each year.

### **Transiting**

Recreational and commercial vessels are allowed to transit the GOM Cod Spawning Protection Area, provided all gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations.