



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Possession and Trip Limit Increase for
Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock

Effective Date: March 16, 2017, through April 30, 2017

The possession and trip limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and GOM haddock are increased for the remainder of the 2016 fishing year, as summarized in the table below. If you are currently at sea, you may land the increased limit of GOM cod and haddock. Common pool groundfish vessels that have crossed the Vessel Monitoring System demarcation line prior to March 16, 2017, may land the new possession and trip limits for that trip.

Stock	Permit type	Current Possession/Trip Limits	New Possession/Trip Limits
GOM Cod	Day-At-Sea	25 lb/DAS, up to 100 lb/trip	100 lb/trip
	Handgear A	25 lb/trip	100 lb/trip
	Handgear B	25 lb/trip	unchanged
	Small Vessel Category	25 lb/trip, within combined 300 lb trip limit for GOM cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder	unchanged
GOM Haddock		200 lb/DAS, up to 600lb/trip	500 lb/DAS, up to 1,000 lb/trip

Reminder: The possession of Georges Bank cod by any common pool vessel is prohibited for the remainder of the 2016 fishing year. This includes cod caught in Georges Bank and Southern New England.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
Why is this action being taken?	As of February 18, 2017, 42 percent of the GOM cod annual quota and 25 percent of the GOM haddock annual quota has been caught. We are increasing the trip limits for these stocks to provide additional fishing opportunities for common pool vessels.
Is there a chance that the trip limit will go back down?	We will continue to monitor common pool catch relative to quotas, and could further adjust possession and trip limits if necessary to prevent an overage. Up-to-date quota monitoring reports can be found on the internet at: http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ .
What happens if the annual quota is exceeded?	If the fishing year 2016 quota is exceeded for any stock, the amount of the overage will be deducted from the common pool's quota next year (i.e. fishing year 2017). We will announce any overage adjustments as close to May 1, 2017, as possible.

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, Greater Atlantic Region.