



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov
Date Issued: 9/28/2017

Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Possession and Trip Limit Decrease
for Georges Bank Cod

Effective Date: September 28, 2017, through April 30, 2018

Effective at 1615 hours on September 28, 2017, the possession and trip limits for Georges Bank (GB) cod is decreased for all common pool vessels to **25 pounds per day**, and up to **50 pounds per trip** for the remainder of the 2017 fishing year.

Recent catch data reported through September 19, 2017, indicates that the common pool fishery has already caught 2.4 metric tons, or 65.7 percent, of the Trimester 2 GB cod Total Allowable Catch (TAC) since the second trimester began on September 1, 2017. The current GB cod possession and trip limit for GB cod is 250 pounds per DAS, and up to 500 pounds per trip. Under these possession limits, the common pool fishery caught its Trimester 1 TAC and triggered an area closure for GB cod on July 27, 2017. We project that, at its current trajectory, the common pool will catch its Trimester 2 TAC well before the end of the second trimester, and is also at risk of exceeding its annual 2017 quota.

An adjustment decreasing the common pool possession and trip limits is necessary to prevent the common pool from exceeding its GB cod allocation for fishing year 2017.

Table 1. New Possession and Trip Limits for GB Cod

Permit Type	Current Possession/Trip Limits	New Possession/Trip Limits
Days-At-Sea (A DAS)	250 lb (113.4 kg) per DAS, up to 500 lb (226.8 kg) per trip	25 lb (11.3 kg) per DAS, up to 50 lb (22.6 kg) per trip
Handgear A	250 lb (113.4 kg) per trip	25 lb (11.3 kg) per trip
Handgear B	25 lb (11.3 kg) per trip	Unchanged
Small Vessel Category	25 lb (11.3 kg) per trip, within combined 300 lb (136.1 kg) trip limit for cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder	Unchanged

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.

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 1615 hours on September 28, 2017, you are not subject to the new trip limits for that trip.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
Why is this action being taken?	We are adjusting the possession and trip limits to help prevent an overage of the common pool's annual quota allocation for GB cod.
How much of the quota has been caught?	As of September 19, 2017, 65.7 percent of the Trimester 2 GB cod TAC has been caught. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at: http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ .
What happens if the Trimester TAC is exceeded? Underhar vested?	If the Trimester 1 or Trimester 2 TAC for a stock is exceeded, the overage is deducted from the Trimester 3 TAC. Any unused portion of the Trimester 1 or Trimester 2 TAC for the stock is carried forward to the following trimester. No unused portion of the total annual quota may be carried over to the following fishing year.
What happens if the annual quota is exceeded?	If the 2017 fishing year quota is exceeded, the amount of the overage will be deducted from the common pool's quota for fishing year 2018.