



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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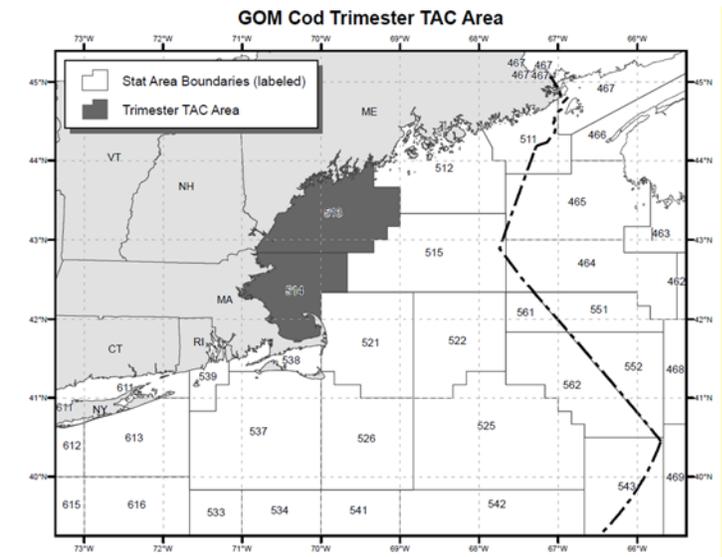
## Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels Closure of the Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area for Gulf of Maine Cod

*Effective Date: April 26, 2018, through April 30, 2018*

Effective at 1615 hours on April 26, 2018, statistical areas 513 and 514 are closed for the remainder of Trimester 3, through April 30, 2018. This closure applies to all common pool vessels fishing on a groundfish trip with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear, including handgear vessels.

The closure is required because 90 percent of the Trimester 3 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod has been caught. This area will reopen at the beginning of Trimester 1 of fishing year 2018, at 0001 hours, May 1, 2018.

If you have crossed the vessel monitoring system demarcation line and are currently at sea on a groundfish trip, you may complete your trip in all or part of the closed areas. If you have set gillnet gear prior to April 26, 2018, you may complete your trip to retrieve that gear.



### *Frequently Asked Questions*

<b>Why is this action being taken?</b>	We are required to close the Trimester TAC Area for a stock when 90 percent of the Trimester TAC is caught.
<b>How much of the quota has been caught?</b>	Based on data through April 23, it is projected that 90 percent of the Trimester 3 quota for GOM cod has been caught. 100 percent of the annual quota is projected to have been caught by April 26. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at: <a href="http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/">http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/</a> .
<b>What happens if the annual quota is exceeded?</b>	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.

*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.*