



# Greater Atlantic Regional Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

## Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishing Year 2019 Recreational Rules

July 03, 2019

New rules open Gulf of Maine cod season, increase Gulf of Maine haddock possession limits, and reduce Georges Bank cod minimum size.

We are implementing new management measures for Gulf of Maine cod, Gulf of Maine haddock, and Georges Bank cod recreational fisheries. These changes take effect on July 5, 2019.

### Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock

We are opening a 2-week season (September 15-30) for Gulf of Maine cod, the possession limit will be 1 fish per person, and the minimum size will be 21 inches. We are also increasing the possession limit for Gulf of Maine haddock from 12 to 15 fish and have removed the fall closure to increase access to this healthy stock.

Haddock			Cod		
Possession Limit	Minimum Fish Size	Open Season	Possession Limit	Minimum Fish Size	Open Season
15 fish per angler	17 inches	May 1-Feb 28/29 Apr 15-30	1 fish per angler	21 inches	Sept 15-30

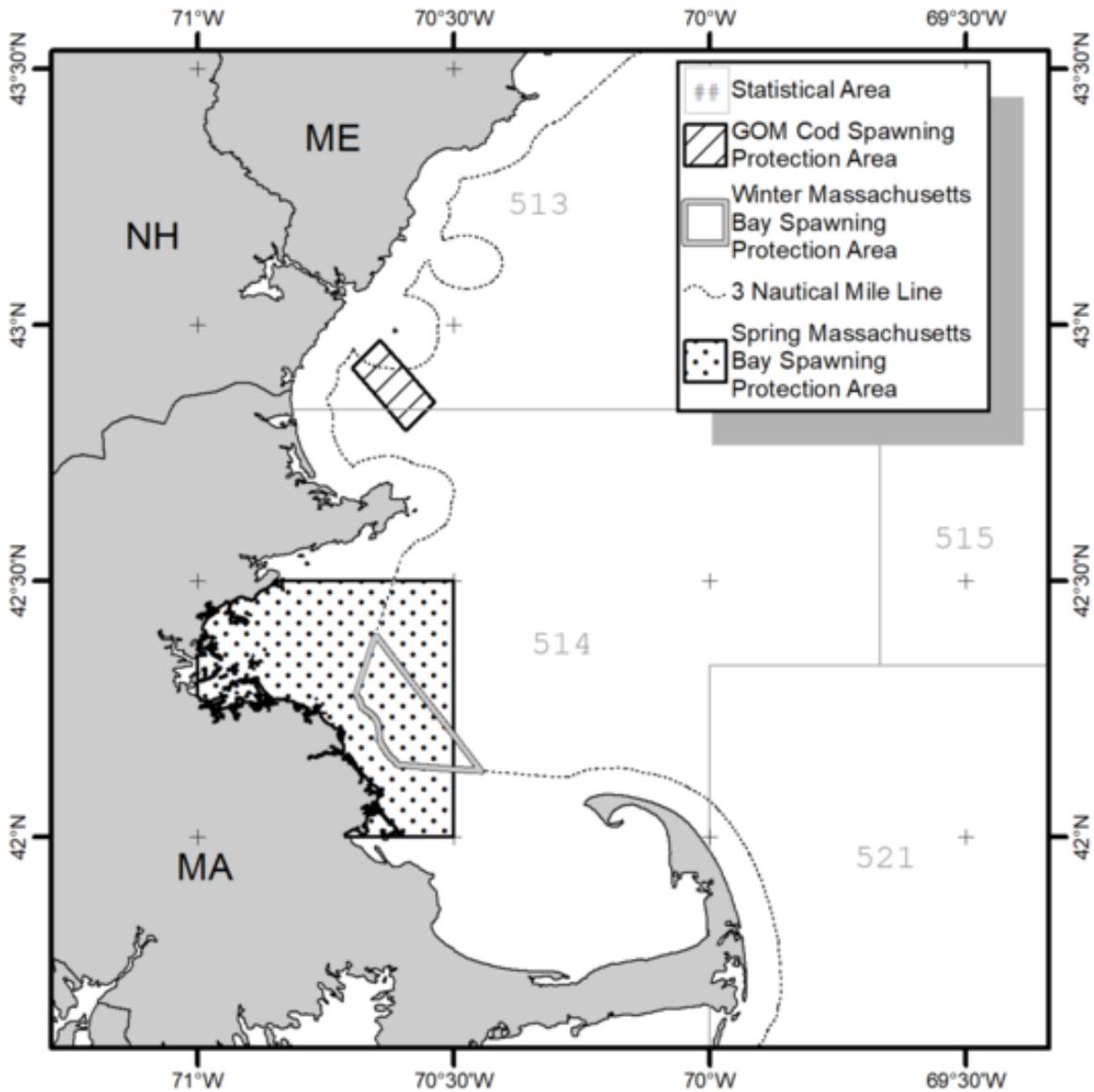
### Georges Bank Cod

We are decreasing the minimum size of Georges Bank cod from 23 to 21 inches. The 10-fish per person per day possession limit will remain in place.

Possession Limit	Minimum Fish Size	Open Season
10	21 inches	All Year

Find out more about [recreational measures in the Greater Atlantic Region](#).

## Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Areas



Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Area

<b>Point</b>	<b>N. Latitude</b>	<b>W. Longitude</b>
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'

Winter Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area

<b>Point</b>	<b>N. Latitude</b>	<b>W. Longitude</b>
WSPA1	42° 23.61'	70° 39.21'
WSPA2	42° 07.68'	70° 26.79'

Spring Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area

<b>Point</b>	<b>N. latitude</b>	<b>W. longitude</b>	<b>Note</b>
SSPA1	42°30'N	The intersection of 42°30' N. lat. and the coastline at Marblehead, Mass.	
SSPA2	42°30'N	70°30'W	
SSPA3	42°00'N	70°30'W	
SSPA4	42°00'N	The intersection of 42°00' N. lat. and the coastline at Kingston, Mass.	From Point SSPA4 to Point SSPA5 following the coastline of Massachusetts
SSPA5	The intersection of 71°00' W. long and the coastline at Quincy, Mass.	71°00'W	From Point SSPA4 to Point SSPA5 following the coastline of Massachusetts

## Spring Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area

Point	N. latitude	W. longitude	Note
SSPA6	The intersection of 71°00' W. long and the northernmost coastline at East Boston, Mass.	71°00'W	From Point SSPA6 back to Point SSPA 1 following the coastline of Massachusetts
SSPA1	42°30'N	The intersection of 42°30' N. lat. and the coastline at Marblehead, Mass.	From Point SSPA6 back to Point SSPA 1 following the coastline of Massachusetts

## More Information

### Pelagic Hook-and-Line Gear

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.

### Gulf of Maine (Whaleback) Cod Spawning Protection Area

**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 when fishing in the Whaleback Cod Spawning Protection Area.

### Winter Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area

**November 1 through January 31** of each year, all recreational vessels, including private recreational and charter/party vessels, may only use pelagic hook-and-line gear when fishing in the Winter Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area.

## **Possession Restrictions**

Any vessel fishing in the Gulf of Maine Whaleback Cod or Winter Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Areas, 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 vessels are allowed to transit the Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Area and Winter Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area provided all gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations.

## **Spring Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area**

**April 15-30:** Charter and party vessels may fish in this area provided they have a Letter of Authorization from the Regional Administrator (additional requirements also apply). Call the Permit Office if you need a Letter of Authorization at 978-281-9370. Private recreational vessels are allowed to fish in this area.

*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.*