

**Control Dates for Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries****What is a Control Date?****Date Revised: April 20, 2018**

A control date is a date that may be used by a fishery management council, fisheries commission or by NOAA Fisheries in establishing eligibility criteria for determining levels of future access to fisheries, or sectors of fisheries. Establishing a control date does not commit the Councils, Commission, or NOAA Fisheries to develop any particular management system or criteria for participation in these fisheries. The Councils or Commission or NOAA may choose a different control date, or may choose to establish a management program that does not make use of such a date.

This fact sheet is a summary of the current control dates established for fisheries in the Greater Atlantic Region. Control dates, once established, are rarely rescinded, but new ones can be established, and older dates are sometimes updated. The control dates below have been established and may potentially be used to determine future participation in the fishery. In the event a limited access program is established or modified in the future, you may wish to locate and preserve records to substantiate and verify fishery participation.

Publication of the control dates informs the fishery participants sector that the Council or NOAA Fisheries is considering management measures in its jurisdictional area that could limit eligibility in a fishery. Implementation of any program would require preparation of an amendment to the fishery management plan and publication of a notice of availability and proposed rule with pertinent public comment periods.

Current Greater Atlantic Fisheries Control dates

Species	Control Date	Council	Current status of management action
Ocean pout	9/9/96	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Bluefish	5/29/97	MAFMC	No action currently underway.
Spiny dogfish	5/18/98	MAFMC/ NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Capacity Control Scallop and Multispecies DAS	9/10/99	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Multispecies charter/party	3/19/18	NEFMC	For 2018, the Council included a multi-year priority to scope for the development of a limited access permit program for the charter/party fishery. As of March 19, 2018, however, it has not yet initiated an action to control access to or participation in the fishery.
Multispecies	4/7/11	NEFMC	In December 2016, NOAA Fisheries proposed regulations to implement Amendment 18 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This action includes accumulation limits to prevent excessive consolidation and/or excessive shares of fishing privileges, which would be grandfathered based on the control date.
Hagfish	8/28/02	NEFMC	No action currently underway.

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Whiting/ red hake/ offshore hake	11/28/12	NEFMC	An amendment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP is under development and may establish some form of limited access for the whiting (small-mesh multispecies) fishery.
Jonah crab	6/2/15	ASMFC	We are considering developing regulations for the Jonah crab fishery in federal waters that may include permitting. This control date may be used in determining historical or traditional participation in the Jonah crab fishery.
American lobster	11/15/17	ASMFC	This control date may be applicable, but not limited to, potential future action by NMFS to limit the number of permits or traps a business entity may own in Lobster conservation Management Areas 2 and 3, or in any other lobster conservation management area.
Skate bait	7/30/09	NEFMC	The Council's list of priorities includes the preparation of an amendment to consider limited access in the skate fishery. In early 2017, the Council published a Scoping Document for Amendment 5 to the Northeast Skate Complex FMP and conducted a number of public scoping meetings. The intent of Amendment 5 is to consider adopting limited access in the skate fisheries to prevent unrestrained increases in fishing effort by new entrants to the fishery. Further action on Amendment 5 has been delayed as the Council has worked on other Framework Amendments for the skate fishery.
Skate non-bait	3/31/14	NEFMC	
Monkfish	5/9/12	NEFMC MAFMC	Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP is under development by the councils and may include additional measures, such as catch shares, that rely on a control date to determine eligibility or degree of participation in the fishery.
Longfin squid/ butterfish	5/16/13	MAFMC	The Council is developing a squid capacity amendment primarily to reduce the capacities of the longfin squid and <i>Illex</i> squid fleets. The Council is considering this action because there is considerable latent capacity in both fisheries - a small portion of vessels with limited access squid permits account for the majority of landings in most years, and the Council is concerned that activation of latent capacity in the squid fisheries could lead to excessive fishing effort and increased catch of non-target species. For information about this amendment, please see: http://www.mafmc.org/actions/squid-capacity-amendment
<i>Illex</i> squid	8/2/13	MAFMC	
Black sea bass	6/5/01	MAFMC	Would have established different classes of permits for the fishery; considered in Amendment 13 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP but not adopted by Council.

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Blueline tilefish	12/14/15	MAFMC	The Council may consider an action to limit the number of participants in the fishery in the future. The control date applies to any commercial fisherman or party/charter vessel owner who has caught blueline tilefish north of the VA/NC border.
Summer flounder	8/1/14	MAMFC	This control date is for potential use in the development of federal permit requalification alternatives, as part of an ongoing summer flounder amendment. For more information on this amendment, please see: http://www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment

For further information, please contact us or the appropriate fishery management council or commission:

<p>New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) On the web: www.nefmc.org Telephone: 978-465-0492</p>	<p>Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) On the web: www.mafmc.org Telephone: 302-674-2331</p>
<p>Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) On the web: www.asmfc.org Telephone: 703-842-0740</p>	<p>National Marine Fisheries Service On the web: www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov Telephone: 978-281-9315</p>

