



# Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

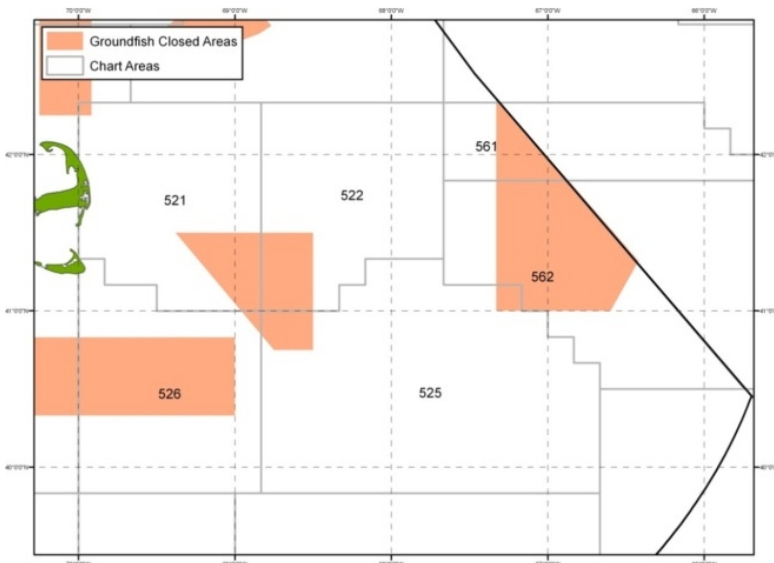
For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
Date Issued: 7/29/2013

## Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Closure of the Georges Bank Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area  
*Effective: July 30 through August 31, 2013*

Based on available information, we have determined that 90% of the Trimester 1 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Georges Bank (GB) cod has been caught. Effective 0001 hours, July 30, 2013, statistical areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 are closed for the remainder of Trimester 1, through August 31, 2013, to all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear, sink gillnet gear, and longline/hook gear. This area will reopen at the beginning of Trimester 2, at 0001 hours, September 1, 2013.



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 July 30, 2013, you may complete your trip in the GB Trimester TAC Area. Please contact us at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
<b>Why is this action being taken?</b>	We are required to close the Trimester TAC Area for a stock once 90% of the Trimester TAC is caught to avoid quota overages.
<b>Can I fish for groundfish species other than cod in the GB TAC Area?</b>	No. The GB TAC Area is closed to all fishing by common pool vessels on a commercial groundfish trip.
<b>Does this closure apply to recreational vessels?</b>	No. The GB Area remains open to recreational and party/charter vessels. As a reminder, you cannot sell groundfish species caught on a recreational or party/charter trip.
<b>What happens if the Trimester TAC is exceeded? Underharvested?</b>	If the Trimester 1 TAC for GB cod is exceeded, the overage will be deducted from the Trimester 3 TAC. Any unused portion of the Trimester 1 TAC for GB cod will be carried forward to Trimester 2.

*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, Northeast Region.*