



# Northeast Region Bulletin

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[www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultifr.html](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultifr.html)  
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## Northeast Multispecies Recreational Fishery

### Change to Regulations

New Possession Limit and Revised Size Limit for Gulf of Maine Haddock

*Effective Date: January 6, 2012*

We are implementing a 9-fish possession limit (reduced from unlimited) and increasing the minimum fish size to 19 inches total length (up from 18 inches) for all haddock caught within federal waters in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) by recreational anglers aboard private or charter/party vessels. These measures will remain in effect from January 6, 2012, through December 30, 2012, unless otherwise notified.

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

<b>Can I comment on these measures?</b>	<p>Yes. <b>Public comments must be received by 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on January 17, 2012.</b> Public comments can be submitted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Electronic Submissions:</b> Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a>. Click the “Submit a Comment” icon, then enter “NOAA-NMFS-2011-0252” in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list, and click on the “Submit a Comment” icon on the right of that line.</li> <li>• <b>Mail:</b> Submit written comments to Daniel Morris, Acting Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2276. Mark the outside of the envelope: “Comments on NE Multispecies Recreational AMs.”</li> <li>• <b>Fax:</b> (978) 281-9135; Attn: Douglas Christel.</li> </ul>
<b>Why is this action necessary?</b>	Based on available information, we determined that the recreational fishery exceeded its 2010 allocation of the GOM haddock sub-annual catch limit by 22.3 percent. As required by the current regulations, these measures were developed to prevent a similar overage from occurring in the future.
<b>How were these measures developed?</b>	As required by the current regulations, we consulted with the New England Fishery Management Council and its Recreational Advisory Panel in developing these measures.

*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.*