



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Closure of the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder
Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area

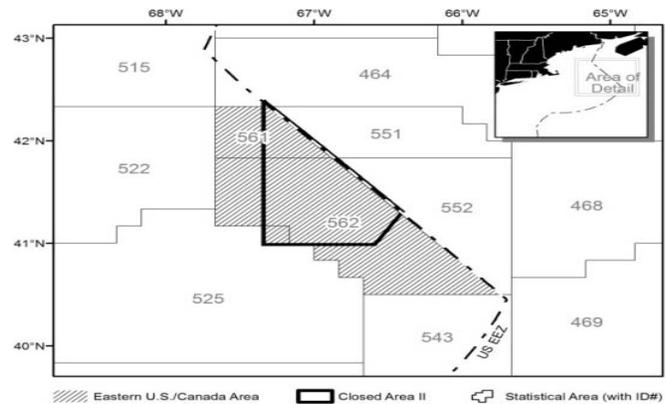
Effective Date: August 27, 2014, through August 31, 2014

Closure of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area

Effective Date: August 26, 2014, through April 30, 2015

Effective immediately, statistical areas 537, 538, 539, and 613 are closed for the remainder of Trimester 1, through August 31, 2014, to all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear and sink gillnet gear. This closure is required because, based on available information, we have determined that 150% of the Trimester 1 TAC for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder has been caught. This area will reopen at the beginning of Trimester 2, at 0001 hours, September 1, 2014.

Also effective immediately, the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, including any Special Access Programs within the area, is closed for the remainder the 2014 fishing year, through April 30, 2015, to all Northeast multispecies common pool vessels. The closure is required because, based on available information, we have determined that approximately 130% of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Eastern Georges Bank cod has been caught. The area will reopen at the beginning of the 2015 fishing year, May 1, 2015. See the chart on the right for the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.



If you have crossed the vessel monitoring system (VMS) demarcation line and are currently at sea on a groundfish trip, you may complete your trip in all or part of the areas being closed.

REMINDER: Previously announced Trimester 1 closures due to overages of Georges Bank cod, Gulf of Maine cod, and American plaice remain in effect. Beginning on September 1, 2014, at 0001 hours (the start of Trimester 2), all Trimester TAC Areas will once again open to common pool vessels fishing with approved gear, but the Eastern U.S./Canada Area will remain closed. Additionally, on September 1, the prohibition on retaining American plaice will be removed. Please contact us at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	We are required by regulation to close the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, or a Trimester TAC Area, if we project that the associated TAC will be caught, to avoid further quota overages.
How much of the quota has been caught of each stock?	As of August 19, 130% of the quota for EGB cod had been caught. As of August 20, 150% of the quota for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder had been caught.
What happens if the TAC is exceeded?	Because the annual TAC for Eastern Georges Bank cod has been exceeded, the overage will be deducted from the following fishing year. Because the Trimester 1 TAC for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder has been exceeded, the overage will be deducted from the Trimester 3 TAC.

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.