



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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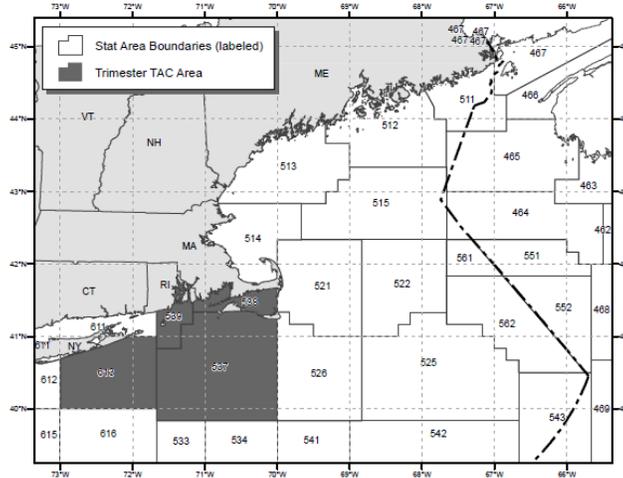
## Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

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

*Effective Date: July 29, 2015, through August 31, 2015*

Effective July 29, 2015, statistical areas 537, 538, 539, and 613 are closed for the remainder of Trimester 1 through August 31, 2015, to all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear and sink gillnet gear. This closure is required because over 90% of the Trimester 1 Total Allowable Catch (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, 2015.

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



**REMINDER:** Gulf of Maine cod, American plaice, and Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder Trimester closures and zero possession limits remain in effect. On September 1, 2015, all Trimester TAC Areas re-open to common pool vessels, and possession and trip limits for American plaice and Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder returns to previous levels. The possession and trip limit for Gulf of Maine cod remains at zero for the remainder of the 2015 fishing year.

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

<b>Why is this action being taken?</b>	We are required to close the Trimester TAC Area for a stock when we project that 90% of the Trimester TAC is caught to avoid quota overages.
<b>How much of the quota has been caught?</b>	As of July 21, 109% of the quota for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder has been caught. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at <a href="http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/">http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/</a> .
<b>What happens if the Trimester TAC is exceeded? Underharvested?</b>	If the Trimester 1 TAC for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder is exceeded, the overage is deducted from the Trimester 3 TAC. Any unused portion of the Trimester 1 TAC for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder is 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, Greater Atlantic Region.*