



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Whiting Fishery Quotas and Management Measures for 2015-2017

Effective Date: May 28, 2015

This bulletin announces the following quotas for the whiting fishery effective for the 2015-2017 fishing years:

Stock	Overfishing Limit (mt)	Acceptable Biological Catch (mt)	Annual Catch Limit (mt)	Total Allowable Landings (mt)
N. Silver Hake	43,608	24,383	23,161	19,948.7
N. Red Hake	331	287	273	104.2
S. Whiting*	60,148	31,180	29,621	23,833.4
S. Red Hake	3,400	3,179	3,021	1,309.4

*Southern whiting includes southern silver hake and offshore hake

In addition, the following changes to the northern red hake possession limits and trigger points for further reducing the possession limit are implemented. Possession limits and trigger points for the other small-mesh multispecies are unchanged.

- The northern red hake possession limit is reduced from 5,000 lb to 3,000 lb per trip;
- When 45 percent of the total allowable landings are reached, the possession limit will be reduced to 1,500 lb; and
- The northern red hake accountability measure trigger point for reducing the possession limit to 400 lb is corrected from 45 to 62.5 percent of the total allowable landings due to a prior calculation error.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens when 45 percent of the TAL is reached for northern red hake?	The northern red hake possession limit will be reduced to 1,500 lb per trip. We will notify you by bulletin and a notice in the <u>Federal Register</u> if this occurs.
What happens when 62.5 percent of the TAL is reached for northern red hake?	The northern red hake possession limit will be reduced to 400 lb per trip. We will notify you by bulletin and a notice in the <u>Federal Register</u> if this occurs.
I thought the northern red hake accountability trigger measure for reducing the possession limit to 400 lb was 45 percent of the TAL?	It was. However, when the quotas in this bulletin were being developed it was discovered that the 2012-2014 acceptable biological catch was underestimated, which resulted in the 45 percent rate. We have corrected the trigger from 45 to 62.5 percent to account for the underestimate.
Are there changes to the possession limits for any other small mesh multispecies?	No, these changes are only for northern red hake. The southern red hake possession limit remains 5,000 lb. The silver hake/whiting possession limits are unchanged and vary depending on mesh size.

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.