



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Possession and Trip Limit Increase for Gulf of Maine Cod

Effective Date: September 16, 2015, through April 30, 2016

The possession and trip limit for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod is increased for all common pool vessels from zero to **25 lb per trip** for the remainder of the 2015 fishing year.

If you are currently at sea, you may land the increased limit of GOM cod.

REMINDER: As of September 1, 2015, the possession and trip limits for American plaice returned to unlimited and the possession and trip limits for Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder returned to 1,500 lb per day, up to 3,000 lb per trip. These trip limits were temporarily decreased in Trimester 1.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
Why is this action being taken?	As of August 25, 31% of the annual quota for GOM cod has been caught. We are increasing the trip limit to allow for additional harvest of the stock.
Is there a chance that the trip limit will go back down?	If the GOM cod quota is projected to be caught, we would consider decreasing the trip limit to prevent quota overages. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ .

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.