



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

### Possession and Trip Limit Increases

*Effective Date: April 14, 2016, through April 30, 2016*

The possession and trip limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, GOM haddock, and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder are increased for days-at-sea (DAS) common pool vessels for the remainder of the 2015 fishing year. If you are currently at sea, you may land the increased limits of these stocks.

Stock	Current Possession/Trip Limit	New Possession/Trip Limit
GOM Cod	25 lb per trip	100 lb per trip
GOM Haddock	50 lb per DAS up to 200 lb per trip	500 lb per DAS up to 1,000 lb per trip
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	50 lb per trip	500 lb per DAS up to 1,000 lb per trip

Handgear A and B vessels in the Common Pool are allowed to land, per trip, up to the DAS limit for GOM haddock (500 lb) and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder (500 lb). GOM cod limits are specified below.

Permit	Trip Limit for GOM cod
Handgear A	100 lb per trip
Handgear B	25 lb per trip
Small Vessel Category	Maximum of 100 lb of GOM cod within the 300-lb combined possession limit of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

<b>Why is this action being taken?</b>	As of April 5, the common pool fishery has caught 61% of the annual quota for GOM cod, 11% of its GOM haddock quota, and 88% of its quota for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder. We are increasing the trip limits for these stocks to provide additional fishing opportunities for the remainder of the fishing year.
<b>Is there a chance that the trip limit will go back down?</b>	We will set initial trip limits for the 2016 fishing year beginning on May 1, 2016, in a separate upcoming action based on the final annual catch limits approved. More information on the proposed 2016 trip limits is available here: <a href="http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/">http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/</a> .
<b>What happens if the annual quota is exceeded?</b>	If the fishing year 2015 quota is exceeded for any stock, the amount of the overage will be deducted from the common pool's quota next year (i.e., fishing year 2016). We will announce any overage adjustments as close to May 1, 2016, as possible.

*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.*