



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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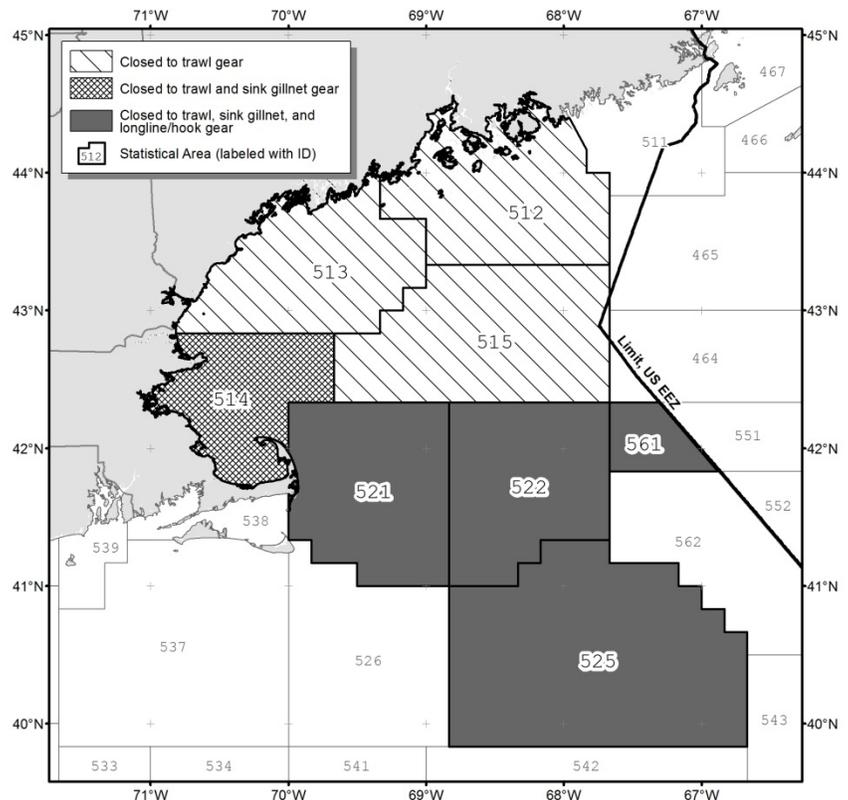
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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels Closure of the Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area for Georges Bank Cod *Effective Date: July 13, 2016, through August 31, 2016*

Effective at 1615 hours on July 13, 2016, statistical areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 are closed for the remainder of Trimester 1 through August 31, 2016, to all common pool vessels on a groundfish trip fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear, including handgear vessels. This closure is required because 90 percent of the Trimester 1 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Georges Bank cod was projected to be caught. This area will reopen at the beginning of Trimester 2, at 0001 hours, September 1, 2016.

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 newly closed areas.

Please see the map for current common pool closures, by gear type. All areas reopen September 1, 2016.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	To avoid quota overages, we are required to close the Trimester TAC Area to gear capable of catching a stock when we project that 90 percent of the Trimester TAC is caught.
How much of the quota has been caught?	Based on recent data, we project 90 percent of the Trimester 1 quota for Georges Bank cod will be harvested the week of July 11, 2016. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at: http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ .
What happens if the Trimester TAC is exceeded? Underharvested?	If the Trimester 1 or Trimester 2 TAC for a stock is exceeded, the overage is deducted from the Trimester 3 TAC. Any unused portion of the Trimester 1 or Trimester 2 TAC for the stock is carried forward to the following Trimester. No unused portion of the Total TAC is carried over to the following fishing year.
What happens if the annual quota is exceeded?	If the 2016 fishing year quota is exceeded, the amount of the overage will be deducted from the common pool's quota next year (i.e., fishing year 2017).

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.