

HANDGEAR B PERMIT INFORMATION SHEET



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements; the regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR part 648. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 for more information.



The Sustainable Fisheries Division provides stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy marine ecosystems.

What is a Handgear B permit?

- A Handgear B (HB) permit is an open access Northeast multispecies permit that allows vessels to target groundfish using handgear. This permit may be obtained for free at any time by anyone from our permit office at **978-282-8438**. Handgear B permits typically have smaller catch limits than Handgear A permits.

What are the gear requirements?

- You can only have handgear onboard the vessel (rod/reel, tub trawl). You are not allowed to use an automatic jigger. You are allowed an absolute maximum of 250 hooks, 12/0 minimum size.

What area closures apply to this permit?

- HB vessels are required to take a mandatory spawning block out of the fishery and may not fish for, possess, or land regulated multispecies from **March 1 through March 20** of each year.
- Please refer to our Closed Area Information Sheet on our website.

What are the reporting requirements?

- You must submit a vessel trip report (VTR) for all trips, even if it is not a groundfish trip (e.g., lobster).
- In addition, by holding a groundfish permit, you are required to report weekly. As of August 26, 2015, you are **not** required to submit a "Did Not Fish" VTR for weeks that you do not fish.

What are the cod possession limits?

- The Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GB) cod trip limits are set annually, and mid-year adjustments can be made to either or both stocks; we will notify you of any trip limit adjustments. For current groundfish possession limits, please see the Landings/Possessions and Size Limits information sheet at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/multipossessionlimits.pdf>.

How will the cod possession limits be adjusted?

- If the GOM or GB cod trip limit for common pool days-at-sea (DAS) vessels is increased or reduced, the cod trip limit will be adjusted proportionally and rounded to the nearest 25 lb. For example, if the GOM cod DAS trip limit is reduced by 50 percent, then 75 lb is reduced by 50 percent (equals 37.5 lbs), then rounded up to a 50 lb trip limit.

What are the possession limits of other species (e.g., haddock, pollock)?

- You are subject to the same possession limits as DAS vessels for all other regulated species.

This information sheet was last updated on June 20, 2016