



Northeast Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Trip Limit Adjustments for Five Stocks

Effective Date: February 11, 2013, through April 30, 2013

Effective immediately, the trip limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, Georges Bank (GB) cod and Southern New England (SNE)/Mid-Atlantic (MA) yellowtail flounder are increased for common pool vessels fishing under a Northeast (NE) multispecies day-at-sea (DAS). Also effective immediately, the trip limits for white hake and pollock are decreased for common pool vessels. Lastly, proportional trip limit adjustments have been made for the Handgear B (HB) permit for GOM and GB cod, as required by the regulations.

Permit	Stock	Old Landing Limit	New Landing Limit
A DAS	GOM Cod	650 lb/DAS up to 2,000 lb/trip	2,000 lb/DAS up to 6,000 lb/trip
HB	GOM Cod	75 lb/trip	200 lb/trip
A DAS	GB Cod	2,000 lb /DAS up to 20,000 lb/trip	3,000 lb/DAS up to 30,000 lb/trip
HB	GB Cod	75 lb/trip	125 lb/trip
A DAS	SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	1,500 lb/DAS up to 4,500 lb/trip	5,000 lb/DAS up to 15,000 lb/trip
A DAS	White Hake	1,500 lb/trip	500 lb/trip
A DAS	Pollock	Unlimited	10,000 lb/trip

NE multispecies common pool vessels that have submitted required 48-hour Pre-Trip Notification, declared a trip through the vessel monitoring system (VMS), and crossed the VMS demarcation line prior to 0001 hours February 11, 2013, will not be subject to the new limits for white hake and pollock and are subject to the old landing limits for that trip. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	We make changes to the trip limits to prevent the underharvest or overharvest of common pool sub-annual catch limits (sub-ACLs).
How much of the quota has been caught of each stock?	As of February 7, 2013, 20.3 % of the GB cod, 35.5 % of the GOM cod, 6.1 % of the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, 88.7 % of white hake, and 77.8 % of pollock has been caught.
What happens if the quota is exceeded?	Accountability measures would be put in place for fishing year (FY) 2013, beginning May 1, 2013, this includes a pound-for-pound payback in FY 2013.
Is there a chance that the trip limits will go back down?	If a sub-ACL is projected to be exceeded by the end of FY 2013, in-season adjustments to decrease the trip limit would be considered. The rates of harvest of all NE multispecies stocks are updated weekly on the internet at http://www.nero.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, Northeast Region.