



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Possession and Trip Limit Decrease for

Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder

Effective Date: January 15, 2016, through April 30, 2016

The possession and trip limit for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder is decreased for all common pool vessels to **50 pounds per trip** for the remainder of the 2015 fishing year.

If you have declared your trip through the vessel monitoring system (VMS) or interactive voice response system, and crossed the VMS demarcation line prior to January 15, 2016, you are not subject to the new trip limits for those trips.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
Why is this action being taken?	We are adjusting the possession and trip limits to help prevent an area closure for portions of Southern New England and to help prevent an overage of the common pool’s annual quota for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder.
How much of the quota has been caught?	As of January 12, 2016, 84 percent of the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder annual quota has been caught. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ .
What happens if the annual quota is exceeded?	If the fishing year 2015 quota is exceeded, the amount of the overage will be deducted from the common pool’s quota next year (i.e., fishing year 2016).

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.