



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Modified Red Hake Fishery Quotas for 2016 and 2017

Effective Date: June 28, 2016

We have modified the catch limits for northern and southern red hake for the 2016 and 2017 fishing years based on new stock assessment information. This action increases the northern red hake total allowable landings (TAL) by 15 percent and decreases it for southern red hake by 43 percent.

Final Red Hake Specifications for the 2016 and 2017 Fishing Years (in metric tons)

	Northern Red Hake			Southern Red Hake		
	Existing	Revised	% Change	Existing	Revised	% Change
Annual Catch Limit	273	471	+73%	3,021	1,631	-46%
Total Allowable Landings	104.2	120	+15%	1,309.4	746	-43%

Frequently Asked Questions

What does this rule do?	This rule increases the TAL and annual catch limits (ACL) for the northern red hake stock and decreases the TAL and ACL for the southern red hake stock, effective immediately.
What prompted the change in the red hake catch limits?	A recently updated stock assessment prompted the New England Fishery Management Council to recommend that we modify the catch limits for the two red hake stocks to better reflect the new stock information.
How will these changes in catch limits affect the northern and southern red hake stocks and fishery?	The increase in the northern red hake catch limits will help extend the fishing season and reduce red hake discards, helping to avoid reductions in possession limits earlier than necessary. The decrease in the southern red hake catch limits is necessary to reduce the risk of overfishing, even though landings are not expected to exceed the reduced catch limits.
What is the difference between the ACL and TAL?	The ACL is a higher number than the TAL because it sets the limit for all fish taken in the fishery and accounts for fish that are discarded during fishing. The TAL is the amount of fish that can be landed. This rule also modifies the Overfishing Limit and the Acceptable Biological Catch for the two red hake stocks.
Are there changes to the catch limits or other management measures for any other small mesh multispecies?	No, these changes only modify the catch limits for northern and southern red hake. The silver hake and offshore whiting specifications remain unchanged.
How can I get more information on the modified catch limits?	The final rule and other supporting documentation are available on our website www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ or on the Council's website www.nefmc.org .

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.