



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

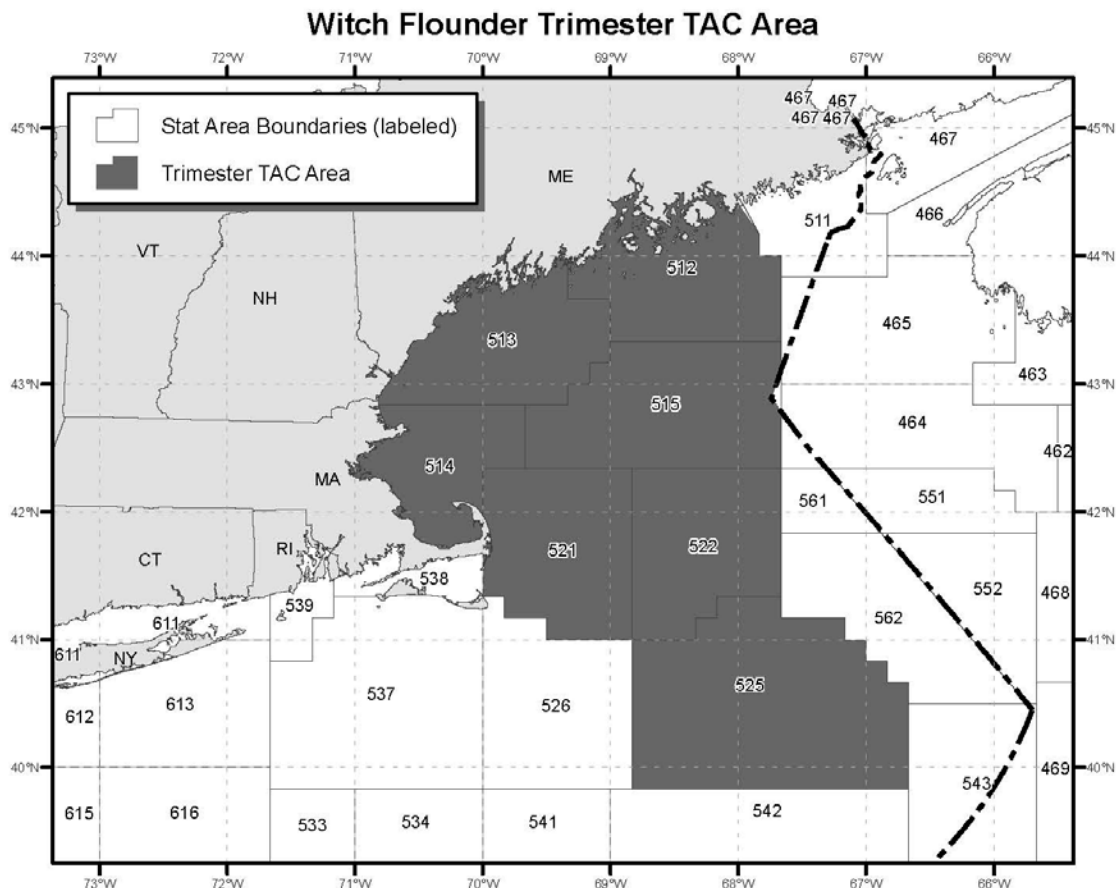
### **CORRECTION:** Closure of the Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area for Witch Flounder

*Effective Date: June 8, 2016, through August 31, 2016*

Effective June 8, 2016, statistical areas 512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, and 525 are closed for the remainder of Trimester 1 through August 31, 2016, to all common pool vessels on a groundfish trip fishing with trawl gear. This closure is required because over 90 percent of the Trimester 1 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for witch flounder is 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 closed areas.

**Below is a corrected map of the closure area.**



*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.*

*Frequently Asked Questions*

<b>Why is this action being taken?</b>	We are required to close the Trimester TAC Area for a stock when we project that 90 percent of the Trimester TAC is caught to avoid quota overages.
<b>How much of the quota has been caught?</b>	As of June 8, 90 percent of the quota for witch flounder is projected to be caught. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at: <a href="http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/">http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/</a> .
<b>What happens if the Trimester TAC is exceeded? Underharvested?</b>	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.
<b>What happens if the annual quota is exceeded?</b>	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).