



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES COMMON POOL FISHERY FISHING YEAR 2014 REGULATIONS

Effective Date: May 1, 2014

We are announcing management measures for the common pool fishery that become effective at the start of fishing year (FY) 2014 on May 1, 2014. We have also partially approved Framework 51 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, and a summary of the approved measures is included in this bulletin.

Trip Limits

Tables 1 and 2 show the trip limits that will apply to common pool vessels beginning on May 1, 2014. We may increase or decrease these limits during the fishing year to ensure that the common pool catch limits are fully caught, but not exceeded. We will announce any necessary changes in a future management action.

Any landings prior to midnight on April 30, 2014, are subject to the landing limits in effect for FY 2013. All landings after 0001 hours on May 1, 2014, are restricted to the FY 2014 limits announced in this bulletin.

Table 1. FY 2014 Cod Trip Limits for Handgear and Small Vessel Category Permits

Permit	Initial FY 2014 GOM Cod Possession/Trip Limit	Initial FY 2014 GB Cod Possession/Trip Limit
Handgear A	200 lb per trip	300 lb per trip
Handgear B	25 lb per trip	75 lb per trip
Small Vessel Category	300 lb of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder combined; Maximum of 200 lb of GOM cod and 25 lb per trip of GOM haddock within the 300-lb combined possession limit	

Table 2. FY 2014 Day-At-Sea Possession and Landing Limits

Stock	FY 2014 Possession and Landing Limits
GB Cod	2,000 lb per DAS, up to 20,000 lb per trip
GOM Cod	200 lb per DAS, up to 600 lb per trip
GB Haddock	10,000 lb per trip
GOM Haddock	25 lb per trip
GB Yellowtail Flounder	100 lb per trip
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	2,000 lb per DAS, up to 6,000 lb per trip
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	1,000 lb per trip
American plaice	Unlimited
Witch Flounder	500 lb per trip
GB Winter Flounder	1,000 lb per trip
GOM Winter Flounder	1,000 lb per trip
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	1,500 lb per DAS up to 2,000 lb per trip
Redfish	Unlimited
White hake	1,000 lb per trip
Pollock	10,000 lb per trip
Atlantic Halibut	1 fish per trip
Windowpane Flounder	Possession Prohibited
Ocean Pout	
Atlantic Wolffish	

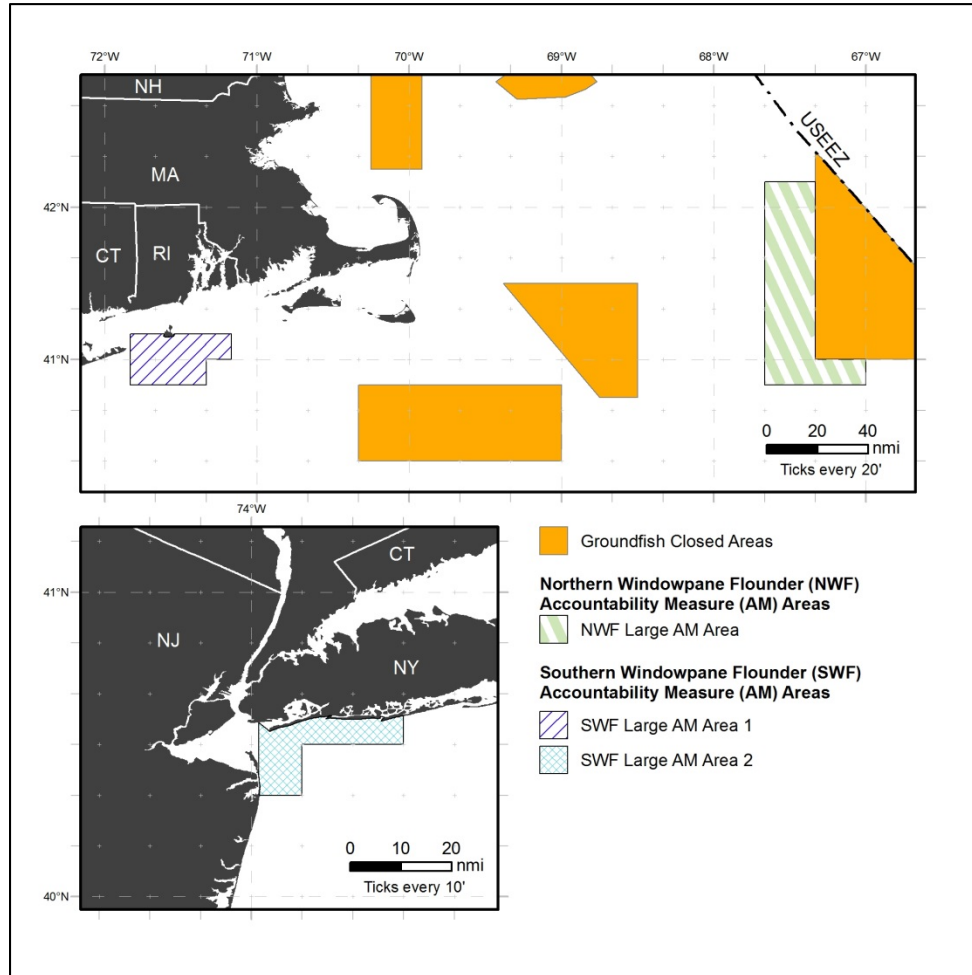
Accountability Measures Due to Windowpane Flounder Overage

For FY 2014, common pool vessels fishing on a groundfish trip with trawl gear are required to use selective trawl gear when fishing in the windowpane flounder accountability measure (AM) areas. Approved selective trawl gears include the: 1) Haddock separator trawl; 2) Ruhle trawl; 3) mini-Ruhle trawl; or 4) rope separator trawl. These gear restrictions will apply in the large AM areas for both northern and southern windowpane flounder (see **Figure 1** for a map of these restricted gear areas). Coordinates for these areas are included on the last page of this bulletin. There are no restrictions on longline or gillnet gear.

These AMs are being implemented due to recent overages of the total catch limit for both northern and southern windowpane flounder, and the necessary gear restrictions apply to all commercial groundfish vessels (common pool and sector). More information on the AMs and the recent overages can be found here:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/regis/infodocs/windowpaneaminfosheet.pdf>.

Figure 1. FY 2014 Northern and Southern Windowpane Flounder Gear Restricted Areas



Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock Special Access Program

Starting on May 1, 2014, common pool vessels can fish in the Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock Special Access Program (SAP) to target haddock using a haddock separator trawl, a Ruhle trawl, or hook gear. Vessels may not fish in this SAP using flounder nets. The SAP will close on January 31, 2015.

Eastern U.S./Canada Area

Starting on May 1, 2014, common pool vessels using trawl gear may fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area. Common pool vessels must use a haddock separator trawl, a Ruhle trawl, or a flounder trawl in this area.

Framework Adjustment 51

Below is a brief summary of the approved Framework 51 measures that become effective on May 1, 2014. More detailed information can be found in the Framework 51 final rule here:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmulti.html>. Approved measures include:

1. Rebuilding programs for Gulf of Maine cod and American plaice
We adopted new 10-year rebuilding programs for both of these stocks. The new rebuilding plans are scheduled to rebuild the stocks by 2024.

2. Accountability measures for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for the small-mesh fisheries
If the small-mesh fisheries (squid/whiting) exceed their GB yellowtail flounder catch limit, small-mesh trawl vessels (codend mesh size less than 5 inches) will be required to use selective gear when fishing in the GB yellowtail flounder stock area. The gear restrictions would only be implemented at the start of the fishing year (May 1), either in the year immediately following an overage, or 2 years after the overage, depending on how soon we can determine that an overage occurred. For example, if we determine after the end of FY 2013 that the small-mesh fisheries exceeded their allocation, we would implement the required gear restrictions at the start of FY 2015, beginning on May 1, 2015.

3. FY 2014 catch limits
These catch limits are shown in **Table 3**. Because there may be changes to sector rosters through April 30, 2014, it is possible that the sector and common pool allocations included in this bulletin may change. In addition, after we finalize FY 2013 catch information, we are required to deduct any common pool overages from the respective FY 2014 common pool catch limit. We will make any necessary adjustments to the FY 2014 common pool catch limits in a future management action as close to May 1 as possible.

Common Pool Trimester Total Allowable Catches

The common pool catch limit for each stock is divided into trimester total allowable catches (TACs): Trimester 1 (May 1-August 31); Trimester 2 (September 1-December 31); and Trimester 3 (January 1-April 30). The FY 2014 trimester TACs are listed in **Table 4**.

Area closures

Once we project that 90 percent of a trimester TAC for a stock is caught, we will close the respective Trimester TAC Area to common pool vessels fishing with gears capable of catching the respective stock. The area will remain closed until the end of that trimester, and will re-open at the start of the next trimester. The areas that will close for each stock, and the gears that the closure will apply, are listed in **Table 5**. During the fishing year, we will post weekly quota monitoring reports here: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/MultiMonReports.htm>.

Table 1. FY 2014 Total Annual Catch Limits and Fishery Allocations (mt)

Stock	Total Annual Catch Limit	Groundfish Fishery	Preliminary Sector	Preliminary Common Pool	Recreational Groundfish	Midwater Trawl Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small-Mesh Fisheries	State Waters sub-component	Other sub-component
GB Cod	1,867	1,769	1,738	31					20	78
GOM Cod	1,470	1,316	812	18	486				103	51
GB Haddock	18,312	17,171	17,116	56		179			192	769
GOM Haddock	323	307	218	2	87	3			5	7
GB Yellowtail Flounder	318.1	254.5	251.5	3.1			50.9	6.1	na	6.6
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	665	564	469	95			66		7	28
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	523	479	466	13					33	11
American Plaice	1,442	1,382	1,357	24					30	30
Witch Flounder	751	610	599	11					23	117
GB Winter Flounder	3,493	3,385	3,364	21					na	108
GOM Winter Flounder	1,040	715	688	26					272	54
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	1,612	1,210	1,074	136					235	168
Redfish	10,909	10,565	10,523	42					115	229
White Hake	4,417	4,278	4,247	30					46	93
Pollock	15,304	13,224	13,131	93					960	1,120
Northern Windowpane Flounder	144	98	na	98					2	44
Southern Windowpane Flounder	527	102	na	102			183		55	186
Ocean Pout	220	197	na	197					2	21
Atlantic Halibut	106	57	na	57					44	5
Atlantic Wolffish	65	62	na	62					1	3

Table 2. FY 2014 Trimester TACs (mt)

Stock	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
GB Cod	7.6	11.3	11.6
GOM Cod	4.9	6.6	6.8
GB Haddock	15.0	18.3	22.2
GOM Haddock	0.51	0.49	0.88
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.6	0.9	1.6
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	19.9	35.0	39.7
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	4.7	4.7	4.0
American Plaice	5.8	8.7	9.7
Witch Flounder	2.9	3.3	4.5
GB Winter Flounder	1.7	5.1	14.7
GOM Winter Flounder	9.8	10.0	6.6
Redfish	10.5	13.0	18.4
White Hake	11.6	9.4	9.4
Pollock	26.0	32.5	34.3

Table 3. Common Pool Trimester TAC Area Closures

Stock	Statistical Area	Gear
GOM cod	513, 514	Trawl, gillnet, longline/hook
GB cod	521, 522, 525, 561	Trawl, gillnet, longline/hook
GOM haddock	513, 514, 515	Trawl, gillnet, longline/hook
GB haddock	521, 522, 525, 561, 562	Trawl, gillnet, longline/hook
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder	514, 521	Trawl, gillnet
GB yellowtail flounder	522, 525, 561, 562	Trawl, gillnet
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder	537, 539, 538, 613	Trawl, gillnet
GOM winter flounder	514	Trawl, gillnet
GB winter flounder	522, 525, 561, 562	Trawl
Witch flounder	512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, 525	Trawl
American plaice	512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, 525	Trawl
Pollock	513, 514, 515, 521, 522	Gillnet, trawl, longline/hook
Redfish	513, 514, 515, 521, 522	Trawl
White hake	513, 514, 515, 521, 522	Gillnet, trawl

Windowpane Flounder AM Area Coordinates

Northern Windowpane Flounder Large AM Area		
<i>Point</i>	<i>N. Latitude</i>	<i>W. Longitude</i>
1	42°10'	67°40'
2	42°10'	67°20'
3	41°00'	67°20'
4	41°00'	67°00'
5	40°50'	67°00'
6	40°50'	67°40'
1	42°10'	67°40'

Southern Windowpane Flounder Large AM Area 1		
<i>Point</i>	<i>N. Latitude</i>	<i>W. Longitude</i>
1	41°10'	71°50'
2	41°10'	71°10'
3	41°00'	71°10'
4	41°00'	71°20'
5	40°50'	71°20'
6	40°50'	71°50'
1	41°10'	71°50'

Southern Windowpane Flounder Large AM Area 2		
<i>Point</i>	<i>N. Latitude</i>	<i>W. Longitude</i>
1	(¹)	73°30'
2	40°30'	73°30'
3	40°30'	73°50'
4	40°20'	73°50'
5	40°20'	(²)
6	(³)	73°58.5'
7	(⁴)	73°58.5'
8	40°32.6' (⁵)	73°56.4' (⁵)
1	(¹)	73°30'

(¹) The southern-most coastline of Long Island, NY at 73°30' W. longitude.
 (²) The eastern-most coastline of NJ at 40°20' N. latitude, then northward along the NJ coastline to Point 6.
 (³) The northern-most coastline of NJ at 73°58.5' W. longitude.
 (⁴) The southern-most coastline of Long Island, NY at 73°58.5' W. longitude.
 (⁵) The approximate location of the southwest corner of the Rockaway Peninsula, Queens, NY, then eastward along the southern-most coastline of Long Island, NY (excluding South Oyster Bay), back to Point 1.