



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

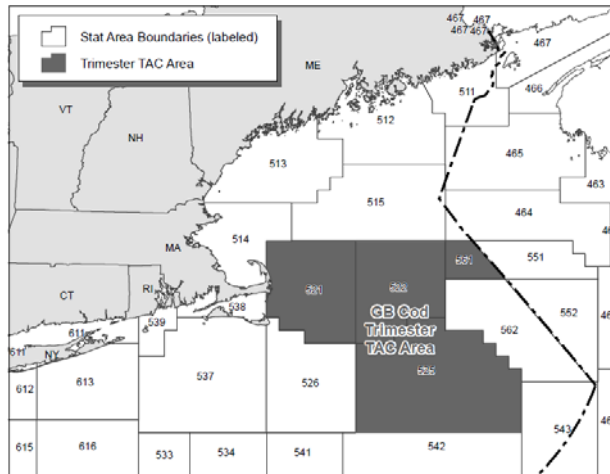
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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Closure of the Georges Bank Cod Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area

Effective Date: August 18, 2014, through August 31, 2014

Effective immediately, August 18, 2014, statistical areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 are closed for the remainder of Trimester 1, through August 31, 2014, to all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear, sink gillnet gear, and longline/hook gear. This closure is required because based on available information, we have determined that 90% of the Trimester 1 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Georges Bank (GB) cod has been caught. This area will reopen at the beginning of Trimester 2, at 0001 hours, September 1, 2014. If you have crossed the vessel monitoring system (VMS) demarcation line and are currently at sea on a groundfish trip, you may complete your trip in all or part of the closed areas.



REMINDER: Previously announced Trimester 1 closures due to overages of Gulf of Maine cod and American plaice remain in effect. Beginning on September 1, 2014, at 0001 hours (the start of Trimester 2), all Trimester TAC Areas will once again open to common pool vessels fishing with approved gear. Additionally, on September 1, the prohibition on retaining American plaice will be removed. Please contact us at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	We are required by regulation to close the Trimester TAC Area for a stock once 90% of the Trimester TAC is caught to avoid quota overages.
How much of the quota has been caught of each stock?	As of August 14, 118% of the quota for GB cod had been caught.
What happens if the Trimester TAC is exceeded? Underharvested?	If the Trimester 1 TAC for GB cod is exceeded, the overage will be deducted from the Trimester 3 TAC. Any unused portion of the Trimester 1 TAC for GB cod will be carried forward to Trimester 2.

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.