



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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GROUNDFISH FISHERMEN

NOAA Fisheries Clarifies Gulf of Maine Cod Interim Management Measures
Gillnet Vessels Can Change Category
Gulf of Maine Cod Trip Limits in Gulf of Maine Broad Stock Area
Effective Date: December 29, 2014 through May 12, 2015

Gillnet Vessels Allowed One-Time Opportunity To Change Category Designation

The interim rule to increase protections for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod modified gillnet management measures mid-season for vessels fishing in the GOM by reducing the number of nets that may be fished by Day gillnet vessels. Because vessel owners did not have a prior opportunity to consider this change when they made their 2014 annual designation as a Day or Trip gillnet vessel, we are allowing gillnet vessel owners a one-time opportunity to change their fishing year 2014 designation. All groundfish gillnet vessels should have received a letter announcing this opportunity. For additional information, or if you have not received a letter, contact our Permit Office by phone at (978)-282-8438 or email us at NMFS.GAR.Permits@noaa.gov.

200-lb Trip Limit Applies to Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Maine Broad Stock Area

We are clarifying that the 200-lb cod trip limit applies to the entire Gulf of Maine (GOM) Broad Stock Area. The 200-lb trip limit does not apply to that portion of the GOM Regulated Mesh Area off Cape Cod that overlaps the Inshore Georges Bank Broad Stock Area. Please see the map on the reverse.

We also made several other minor clerical changes to the interim measure. Information on the GOM cod interim measures can be found at:
www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/stories/2014/GOM_cod_interim_management_measures.html

Additional information on the corrections made to the rule can be found at
www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies under the “Federal Register Actions” tab.

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.

GOM Broad Stock Area Where 200 lb GOM Cod Trip Limit Applies

