



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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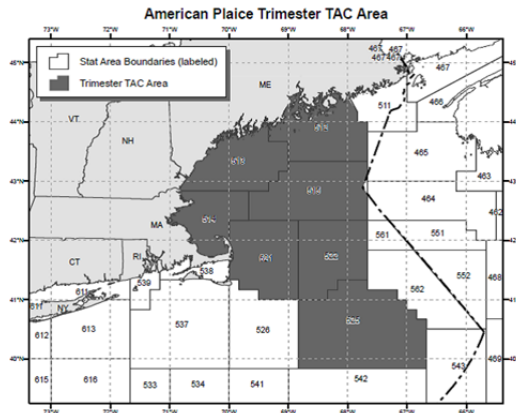
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>
Date Issued: 7/31/2014

Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area for American Plaice Closed for the Remainder of Trimester 1
Possession and Trip Limit Adjustments for American plaice
Effective: August 6, 2014, through August 31, 2014

Effective August 6, 2014, the American plaice Trimester 1 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Area (statistical areas 512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, and 525) is closed to common pool vessels on a groundfish trip using trawl gear for the remainder of Trimester 1, through August 31. This closure is required because we have determined that 120 percent of the American plaice Trimester 1 TAC was harvested as of July 26. The areas will reopen at the start of Trimester 2 on September 1.

In addition, effective August 6, 2014, the possession of American plaice is prohibited for all common pool vessels in all areas, through August 31. The possession limit of American plaice will be unlimited at the start of Trimester 2 on September 1.



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, and you will not be subject to the new possession limit. 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/>.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
Why is this action being taken?	We must close the Trimester TAC Area to all common pool trawl vessels when it is projected that 90% of the Trimester TAC will be caught. The possession and trip limit for American plaice is adjusted to zero for the remainder of Trimester 1 for all common pool vessels to prevent further overharvest.
How much of the quota has been caught of each stock?	As of July 26, 2014, 120% of the quota for American plaice had been caught.
When will the GOM Trimester TAC Area reopen?	Areas 512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, and 525 will reopen on September 1, 2014, to common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear. Until then, you may not be fishing on a groundfish trip in those areas with trawl gear, even if you are not targeting American plaice.
Can I still fish if I use gillnets or longline/hook gear?	Yes, the closure only applies to vessels using trawl gear. However, Areas 513 and 514 remain closed to all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, gillnet, or longline/hook gear, which includes handgear vessels, due to the closure of the GOM Cod Trimester TAC 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.