



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## Northern Red Hake Possession Limit Reduction

*Effective Date: 0001 hours, August 5, 2014, through April 30, 2015*

We have determined that 45 percent of the total allowable landings for northern red hake will be landed as of August 5, 2014. Therefore, effective 0001 hours, August 5, 2014, the northern red hake possession limit is reduced to 400 lb. This possession limit reduction applies to the northern red hake stock area, which covers the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Exemption Area.

If you have declared your trip through the vessel monitoring system (VMS) or interactive voice response system, and crossed the VMS demarcation line, prior to August 5, 2014, you will not be subject to the new reduced trip limit for that trip, and you may complete your trip under the previous possession limit of 5,000 lb.

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

<b>Does this reduction apply only to vessels targeting whiting and that are fishing in one of the whiting exempted fishing areas?</b>	No, this applies to all vessels in possession of northern red hake.
<b>Is it possible for the possession limit to go back up if landings slow down?</b>	No, once 45 percent of the total allowable landings has been reached and a trip limit reduction is implemented, the reduction is in place for the remainder of the fishing year.
<b>I thought the percent trigger was 90 percent, not 45 percent?</b>	It was 90 percent in 2012 and 2013 and still is 90 percent for small-mesh stocks other than northern red hake. The northern red hake quotas were exceeded by 45 percent in 2012, which triggers the accountability measure for 2014. Thus, the trigger is reduced from 90 to 45 percent. The other small-mesh multispecies stocks remain at 90 percent.
<b>Does this change the possession limits for other small-mesh multispecies stocks?</b>	No.

*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, Northeast Region.*