



Northeast Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Trip Limit Increases for Five Stocks

Effective Date: October 30, 2013, through April 30, 2014

Effective immediately, the trip limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, Cape Cod (CC)/GOM yellowtail flounder, GOM winter flounder, white hake, and pollock are increased for common pool vessels. Common pool vessels that are already at sea may land fish at the increased trip limit levels. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions.

Stock	Permit	Old Possession Limit	New Possession Limit
GOM Cod	A DAS	100 lb/DAS up to 300 lb/trip	650 lb/DAS up to 2,000 lb/trip
	Handgear A	100 lb/trip	300 lb/trip
	Handgear B	25 lb/trip	75 lb/trip
	Category C	100 lb cod within the 300-lb combined trip limit of cod/yellowtail flounder	300 lb/trip within the 300-lb combined trip limit of cod/yellowtail flounder
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	A DAS	500 lb /DAS up to 2,000 lb/trip	2,000 lb/trip
GOM Winter Flounder	A DAS	500 lb/trip	2,000 lb/trip
White Hake	A DAS	500 lb/trip	1,000 lb /DAS up to 3,000 lb/trip
Pollock	A DAS	10,000 lb/trip	Unlimited

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	As of October 16, 2013, less than 20% of the quotas for GOM cod, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, GOM winter flounder, white hake, and pollock have been caught. These trip limit increases will provide additional fishing opportunities and allow the common pool fishery to catch more of its quota for these stocks.
Is the GOM haddock possession limit still zero?	Yes, possession of GOM haddock remains prohibited. The current possession limits for all groundfish stocks can be found here: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/multipossessionlimits.pdf
Is there a chance that the trip limits will go back down?	If a quota is projected to be exceeded, we would consider decreasing trip limits to prevent quota overages. Weekly quota monitoring reports for the common pool fishery can be found here: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/MultiMonReports.htm .

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.