



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
 NORTHEAST REGION  
 55 Great Republic Drive  
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

FEB 25 2011

**SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE**

Subject: Charter/Party and Recreational Vessel Regulations for Cod

Dear Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received a number of questions and concerns from owners/operators of charter/party vessels and private recreational anglers regarding the regulations for charter/party and recreational vessels, specifically related to fishing for cod. This letter clarifies the cod regulations for all NE multispecies permit holders that are either fishing as a charter/party vessel or as a private recreational vessel.

For persons on a charter/party or private recreational vessel fishing within the Gulf of Maine (GOM) Regulated Mesh Area (RMA) (see back of page), possession of cod is prohibited from November 1 to April 15. From April 16 through October 31, the minimum fish size is 24 inches, and there is a bag limit of 10 cod per person, per day.

For persons on a charter/party or private recreational vessel fishing outside of the GOM RMA, the minimum size for cod is 22 inches. For private recreational vessels only, there is a bag limit of 10 cod per person, per day. When fishing in areas outside of the GOM RMA, there is no bag limit for cod for charter/party vessels and no seasonal possession restrictions for either private recreational or charter/party vessels.

**Federal Minimum Fish Sizes and Possession Limits for Charter/Party and Recreational Vessels**

| Species      | Total Length (Inches) | Possession Limit   |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
|              |                       | Charter/Party  | Recreational                      |
| Atlantic cod | Outside GOM RMA       | No Limit   | 10 fish per <u>person</u> per day |
|              | Inside GOM RMA*       | 10 fish per <u>person</u> per day<br>(possession prohibited Nov. 1 - Apr.15) |                                   |

\*GOM RMA = Gulf of Maine Regulated Mesh Area (see back of page for chart)

This letter is only a summary of the actual regulations and is not considered a substitute for the regulations. The full regulations, which you are encouraged to read, are available on the Northeast Regional Office website ([www.nero.noaa.gov](http://www.nero.noaa.gov)), or by calling 978-281-9315.

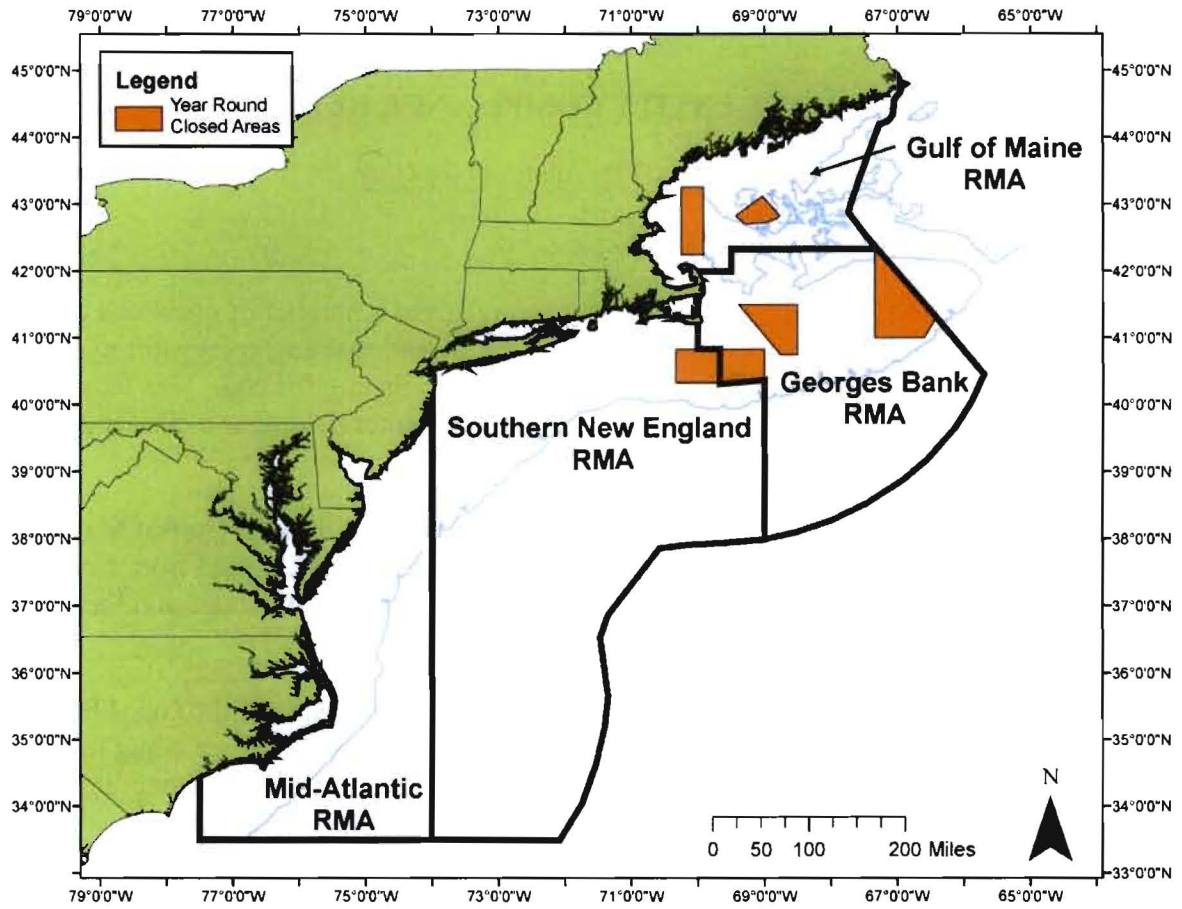
Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
 Regional Administrator

*This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.*



**FIGURE 1. Gulf of Maine Regulated Mesh Area (RMA)**



Bounded on the east and south by a line connecting the following points:

| Point | N. Latitude | W. Longitude |
|-------|-------------|--------------|
| G1    | (1)         | (1)          |
| G2    | 43° 58'     | 67° 22'      |
| G3    | 42° 53.1'   | 67° 44.4'    |
| G4    | 42° 31'     | 67° 28.1'    |
| CII3  | 42° 22'     | 67° 20'      |
| G6    | 42° 20'     | 67° 20'      |
| G7    | 42° 20'     | 69° 30'      |
| G8    | 42° 00'     | 69° 30'      |
| G9    | 42° 00'     | (2)          |

1The intersection of the shoreline and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.

2The intersection of the Cape Cod, MA, coastline and 42°00' N. lat.