



Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
Date Issued: 3/8/2012

Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels

Increase in Trip Limits for Georges Bank Cod and Southern New England/Mid Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder

Effective Date: March 8, 2012, through April 30, 2012

Effective immediately, the trip limits for Georges Bank (GB) cod and Southern New England (SNE)/Mid-Atlantic (MA) yellowtail flounder are increased for vessels fishing in the common pool fishery under a Northeast (NE) multispecies day-at-sea (DAS) or Handgear B (HB) permit.

GB Cod

Permit	Old Landing Limit	New Landing Limit
A DAS	300 lb/DAS up to 600 lb/trip	1,500 lb/DAS up to 4,500 lb/trip
HB	25 lb/trip	75 lb/trip

SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder

Permit	Old Landing Limit	New Landing Limit
A DAS	500 lb/DAS up to 2,000 lb/trip	1,500 lb/DAS up to 4,500 lb/trip

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	We make changes to the trip limits to prevent the underharvest or overharvest of common pool sub-annual catch limits (sub-ACLs).
How much of the quota has been caught of these stocks?	As of February 25, 2011, 58.5 % of the GB cod and 1.2 % of the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder has been caught.
What happens if the quota is exceeded?	Accountability measures would be put in place for fishing year (FY) 2012, beginning May 1, 2012. Exceeding the quota could result in differential DAS counting in FY 2012.
Is there a chance that the trip limits will go back down?	If a sub-ACL is projected to be exceeded by the end of FY 2011, in-season adjustments to decrease the trip limit would be considered. The rates of harvest of all NE multispecies stocks are updated weekly on the internet at http://www.nero.noaa.gov .

Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions.

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.