

**Control Dates for Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries****What is a Control Date?****Date Revised: January 20, 2015**

A control date is a date that may be used by a fishery management council, fisheries commission or by NOAA Fisheries in establishing eligibility criteria for determining levels of future access to fisheries, or sectors of fisheries. Establishing a control date does not commit the Councils, Commission, or NOAA Fisheries to develop any particular management system or criteria for participation in these fisheries. The Councils or Commission or NOAA may choose a different control date, or may choose to establish a management program that does not make use of such a date.

This fact sheet is a summary of the current control dates established for fisheries in the Greater Atlantic Region. Control dates, once established, are rarely rescinded, but new ones can be established, and older dates are sometimes updated. The control dates below have been established and may potentially be used to determine future participation in the fishery. In the event a limited access program is established or modified in the future, you may wish to locate and preserve records to substantiate and verify fishery participation.

Publication of the control dates informs the fishery participants sector that the Council or NOAA Fisheries is considering management measures in its jurisdictional area that could limit eligibility in a fishery. Implementation of any program would require preparation of an amendment to the fishery management plan and publication of a notice of availability and proposed rule with pertinent public comment periods.

**Current Greater Atlantic Fisheries Control dates – see pg. 2 for additional species and information.**

Species	Control Date	Council	Current status of management action
Ocean pout	9/9/96	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Bluefish	5/29/97	MAFMC	No action currently underway.
Spiny Dogfish	5/18/98	MAFMC (lead)/ NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Capacity Control Scallop and Multispecies DAS	9/10/99	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Multispecies Charter/Party	3/30/06	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Multispecies	4/7/11	NEFMC	Amendment 18 to the NE Multispecies FMP is currently under development and it considers, among other things, preventing excessive consolidation and/or excessive shares of fishing privileges that may use the control date in question.
Hagfish	8/28/02	NEFMC	No action currently underway.

## Control Dates for Northeast Fisheries

Date Revised: January 20, 2015

Species	Control Date	Council	Current status of management action
Whiting/ red hake/ offshore hake	11/28/12	NEFMC	An amendment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP is under development and may establish some form of limited access for the whiting (small-mesh multispecies) fishery.
American Lobster	9/1/99	ASMFC	NMFS has completed the process of qualifying Federal lobster permits for Area 2 and the Outer Cape Area trap fishery. Only those permits that were deemed qualified and were allocated traps are eligible to elect Area 2 and/or the Outer Cape Area on the 2015 Federal fisheries permit.
American Lobster	1/27/14	ASMFC	This control date may be applicable, but not limited to, potential future action by NMFS to limit the number of permits or traps a business entity may own in Lobster conservation Management Area 3, or in any other lobster conservation management area.
Skate Bait	7/30/09	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Monkfish	5/9/12	NEFMC MAFMC	Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP is under development by the councils and may include additional measures, such as catch shares, that rely on a control date to determine eligibility or degree of participation in the fishery.
Longfin squid/ butterfish	5/16/13	MAFMC	No action currently underway.
Illex squid	8/2/13	MAFMC	No action currently underway.
Black Sea Bass	6/5/01	MAFMC	Would have established different classes of permits for the fishery; considered in Amendment 13 but not adopted by Council.

For further information, please contact us or the appropriate fishery management council or commission:

New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)  
On the web: [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org)  
Telephone: 978-465-0492

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)  
On the web: [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)  
Telephone: 302-674-2331

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)  
On the web: [www.asafc.org](http://www.asafc.org)  
Telephone: 703-842-0740

National Marine Fisheries Service  
On the web: [www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov)  
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