



Paul J. Diodati  
Director

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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### **Republication: Notice of Public Comment Period 2014 Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod Limits**

This is a republication of the public comment notice disseminated to the public on August 13, 2014 and the proposals cited in this notice do not differ from the proposals cited in the earlier published notice.

Pursuant to the notice and public comment requirements of G.L. c.30A, § 2 and under the authority of G.L. c.130, §17A and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFC) are accepting public comment on draft regulations at 322 CMR 6.03 affecting the recreational catch of Gulf of Maine cod in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. This action is being taken to complement recently established federal limits for Gulf of Maine cod.

**Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod (322 CMR 6.03)**. *Marine Fisheries* is proposing to the following regulations affecting the recreational catch of Gulf of Maine cod in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth:

#### **1. For-Hire Vessels**

- a. **Minimum Size**: Increase the recreational minimum size for Gulf of Maine cod from 19 inches to 21 inches.
- b. **Seasons and Trip Limits**:
  - i. From April 15 through August 31, patrons aboard a for-hire vessel will be allowed to possess or land up to 9 cod per angler per day.
  - ii. From September 1 through April 14, patrons aboard a for-hire vessel will be prohibited from possessing or landing any cod.

#### **2. Private Recreational Anglers**

- a. **Minimum Size**: Increase the recreational minimum size for Gulf of Maine cod from 19 inches to 21 inches.
- b. **Seasons and Trip Limits**:
  - i. From April 15 through August 31, persons fishing as private recreational anglers will be allowed to possess and land up to 9 cod per calendar day.
  - ii. From September 1 through April 14, persons fishing as private recreational anglers will be allowed to possess and land up to 1 cod per calendar day.

#### **Public Comment Period**

Written public comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM on Friday, November 28, 2014. Please address all comments to Director Paul Diodati. Comments can be sent by e-mail to [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us) or by mail to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114.

To obtain a copy of the proposed regulations please visit the public hearing notice section on our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)). For more information regarding the public hearing or the regulatory proposals, contact Jared Silva by phone (617-626-1534) or through e-mail ([jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us)).