



David E. Pierce, PhD.
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

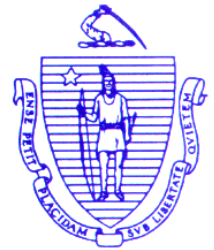
Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617) 626-1520

fax (617) 626-1509



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

Ronald S. Amidon
Commissioner

Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

April 4, 2018

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Regulation Changes Affecting Recreational Groundfish: Gulf of Maine Cod Prohibition and *Status Quo* Haddock Rules Pending Georges Bank Cod Measures

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is announcing the recreational fishing limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock and pending rule changes for the Georges Bank cod caught in southern New England and Georges Bank. Rule changes will be implemented by emergency regulation on May 1, 2018 for a period of 90-days. A public hearing will be held this summer to implement these regulations beyond the 90-day emergency period.

The GOM cod and haddock rules apply within all state-waters north of 42° 00', as well as all state-waters of Cape Cod Bay and the Cape Cod Canal. The Georges Bank cod rules apply to all state-waters east of Cape Cod south of 42° 00' and waters south and west of Cape Cod and the Islands. You may review NOAA Fisheries [recreational fishing information](#) sheet to see where these management area boundaries exist in federal waters.

GOM Cod

The prohibition on the retention and landing of GOM cod by all anglers in federal waters and by anglers on board for-hire vessels in state waters will remain in effect. Effective May 1, 2018, DMF will also be prohibiting the retention and landing of GOM cod by private recreational anglers. Accordingly, it will be unlawful for any recreational angler to retain or land GOM cod while in state or federal waters.

GOM Haddock

Rules governing the harvest of GOM haddock by recreational anglers will remain unchanged. These limits are described in the table below:

2018 Haddock Rules	Private Angler	Aboard For-hire Vessel
Minimum Size	17"	
Bag Limit	12 fish	
Open Season	Year-round	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 Apr. 15 – Sep. 16 Nov. 1 – Dec. 31

Georges Bank Cod

DMF anticipates emergency regulations will also be filed to increase the recreational minimum size from 22" to 24" for Georges Bank cod stock in southern New England. This will complement

federal rules currently under consideration by NOAA fisheries. Pending a final decision by NOAA fisheries, a subsequent notification will be made to update anglers on final rule changes.

For more information regarding the management of groundfish, please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries or call us at 617-626-1620. If you wish to obtain a copy of these regulations, please contact Jared Silva directly (jared.silva@state.ma.us or 617-626-1534).