



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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August 26, 2021

Statement of Permit Conditions and Letter of Authorization: **2021 Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod Bonus Season for For-Hire Permit Holders**

On August 18, 2021 NOAA Fisheries announced that the recreational fishing limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock for the period of May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021 will continue to remain in place for the period of May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022 (see [Bulletin](#)). For the for-hire fishery, this action renews the fall season afforded to them last year, authorizing a September 8 – October 7 open season for Gulf of Maine cod.

Consistent with this federal action—and in order to have these measures in place by the September season—the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is taking action to adjust its for-hire recreational fishing season for GOM cod. Given the late timing of this federal announcement, the September for-hire season for GOM cod will be implemented through this Statement of Permit Conditions and Letter of Authorization.

In accordance with the authority at G.L. c. 130, § 80 and 322 CMR 7.01(7) and 7.10(7), this Letter of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions is being applied to 2021 For-Hire Permits. Effective September 8, 2021, all 2021 For-Hire Permits are hereby exempt from the recreational Gulf of Maine cod fishing limits set forth at 322 CMR 6.03(4)(a), subject to the permit conditions enumerated below.

- 1. Anglers fishing aboard your vessel during for-hire trips may retain, possess, and land GOM cod during the period of September 8, 2021 through October 7, 2021.**
- 2. During this authorized period, anglers fishing aboard your vessel during for-hire trips shall not retain, possess, or land more than one GOM cod per angler measuring at least 21” during any calendar day. If a multi-day for-hire trip is being conducted in federal waters, then anglers may possess and land Gulf of Maine cod consistent with federal rules, as authorized at 322 CMR 6.03(4)(c).**

Except as explicitly provided herein, this Letter of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions does not exempt the permit holder from any marine fishery laws and regulations of the Commonwealth. This written authorization, and the applicable 2021 Massachusetts’ For-Hire Permit, shall be on board the vessel at all times while participating in this September’s GOM cod bonus season hereby authorized. This Statement of Permit Conditions shall remain in effect through October 7, 2021, unless otherwise notified or sooner revoked for cause. Beginning

October 8, 2021 anglers fishing aboard your vessel during for-hire trips shall be prohibited from retaining, possessing, or landing any Gulf of Maine cod.

The Director may amend this Statement of Permit Conditions at any time. Any amendments shall become effective upon written notice. Violation(s) of any condition or restriction as contained herein shall result in an adjudicatory hearing to suspend or revoke the for-hire permit, as well as any other fines and penalties provided in G.L. c.130.



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
Division of Marine Fisheries

September 8, 2021
Effective Date