



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

Emergency Regulations Affecting Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock

Effective tomorrow, there are new regulations affecting the recreational fishing limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock. These rules apply to within the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area, which includes all state waters north of Cape Cod, including Cape Cod Bay, the Cape Cod Canal, and those state waters east of Cape Cod north of 42°00' north latitude. DMF is currently conducting a public comment period on adopting these emergency regulations, as well as the recently filed recreational Georges Bank cod limits, as final regulations (see [Notice](#)).

This state regulatory action complements adjustments to federal fishing regulations implemented earlier today by NOAA Fisheries ([Federal Register](#)). By matching the federal limits, DMF is ensuring recreational anglers can lawfully possess and land catch taken in federal waters in the Commonwealth.

Gulf of Maine Cod

For GOM cod, the open seasons will occur from September 1 – October 7 and April 1 – April 14 with a 1-fish bag limit and 22-inch minimum size. This extends the open season during the fall by three weeks and increases the minimum size by 1-inch.

Gulf of Maine Cod	New Rules (Effective 8/31/22)	Previous Rules
Open Season	April 1 – April 14 September 1 – October 7	April 1 – April 14 September 15 – September 30
Minimum Size	22 inches	21 inches
Possession Limit	1-fish per angler per day	1-fish per angler per day

Gulf of Maine Haddock

For GOM haddock, the open season will occur from April 1 – February 28 with a 20-fish bag limit and 17-inch minimum size. This increases the bag limit by 5-fish per angler while maintaining the existing open season and size limit.

Gulf of Maine Haddock	New Rules (Effective 8/31/22)	Previous Rules
Open Season	April 1 – February 28	April 1 – February 28
Minimum Size	17 inches	17 inches
Possession Limit	20-fish per angler per day	15-fish per angler per day

For more information regarding the management of marine fisheries in the Commonwealth, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.