



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

THOMAS O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

September 13, 2023

Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period: Recreational Fishing Limits for Cod and Haddock

Under the provisions of G.L. c. 30A and pursuant to the authority found at G.L. c. 30A, §2 and 130 § 17, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is taking public comment on recently enacted emergency regulations amending 322 CMR 6.03 to implement recreational cod and haddock limits. A description of the emergency regulations are described below and a full text of the emergency regulations may be found on [DMF's website](#) along with additional relevant background information.

1. Georges Bank/Southern New England Cod. Adopt a September 1 – May 31 open season with a 5-fish bag limit and 23” minimum size. Effectively this adjusts the timing of the open season by one month, as it was previously August 1 – April 30; eliminates the 22” to 28” slot limit in favor of a 23” minimum size; and maintains the 5-fish bag limit.
2. Gulf of Maine Cod. Adopt a September 1 – October 31 open fishing season with a 1-fish bag limit and 22” minimum size. Effectively, this extends the fall season closure date from October 8 to November 1, eliminates the April 14 – April 30 open season, and maintains the existing size limit and bag limit.
3. Gulf of Maine Haddock. Adopt a April 1 – February 28 open season with a split mode bag limit and size limit. Anglers fishing from shore or a private vessel will have a 10-fish bag limit and 17” minimum size, whereas anglers on for-hire vessels will have a 15-fish bag and 18” minimum size. Effectively, this maintains the current open season for all anglers and the minimum size for private anglers, while decreasing the bag limit from 20-fish for all anglers and raising the minimum size by 1” for for-hire anglers to offset the higher bag limit.

Public Hearing and Comment Schedule

DMF will host a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6PM. To attend the virtual public hearing you must pre-register at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Pi94APL_SOW8Zif5IoivUQ.

DMF will accept written public comment through 5PM on Friday October 13, 2023. Please submit written comments to Director Daniel McKiernan by e-mail (marine.fish@mass.gov).

