

## 6.03: Regulated Multi-species Groundfish

### (4) Recreational Fishery Cod Limit.

(a) Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area. ~~Year-round it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess or land any cod taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.~~

1. Open Season. During the period of April 1 – April 14 and September 15 – September 30, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land more than one cod per day taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

2. Closed Season. During the period of April 15 – September 14 and October 1 – March 31, it shall be unlawful for a recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land any cod taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

3. For-Hire Bonus Season. Notwithstanding 322 CMR 6.03(4)(a)(2), during the period of September 8 – October 7, any recreational angler fishing as a patron onboard a for-hire vessel may retain, possess or land one cod per day taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

(b) Southern New England Groundfish Management Area. It is shall be unlawful for recreational fishermen to possess more than ten cod per person, per day.

(c) Exceptions. Customers aboard for-hire vessels fishing in federal waters may possess and land cod in compliance with federal regulations. ~~Customers aboard for hire vessels fishing in federal waters may possess cod taken from the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area in compliance with federal regulations.~~

### (12) Haddock Fishery Limits.

(a) Recreational Fishery in Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area. ~~From April 15 to the last day of February it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess or land more than 15 haddock per calendar day taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.~~

1. Open Season. During the period of April 1 through the last day of February, it shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land more than 15 haddock per day taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

2. Closed Season. During the period of March 1– March 31, it shall be unlawful for a recreational fisherman to retain, possess or land any haddock taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area.

(b) Exceptions. Customers aboard for-hire vessels fishing in federal waters may possess and land cod in compliance with federal regulations.

6.07: Striped Bass Fishery (*Morone Saxatilis*)

(5) Recreational Management Measures. For purposes of conservation and management of the resource, the following measures shall apply to recreational fishermen who harvest, catch, take or possess or attempt to harvest, catch, take or possess any striped bass:

(f) Mandatory Use of Circle Hooks. Recreational fishermen ~~fishing from shore or private vessels~~ shall use circle hooks when fishing for striped bass with whole or cut natural baits. ~~This shall not apply to any artificial lure designed to be trolled, cast and retrieved or vertically jigged with natural bait attached.~~ Any striped bass that is incidentally caught while fishing with whole or cut natural bait and using a hook other than a circle hook must be immediately released back to the water.

This shall not apply to rubber or latex tube rigs as long as they conform with the following: the lure must consist of a minimum of 8" of latex or rubber tubing with a single hook protruding from the end portion of the tubing where natural bait may be attached. Use of treble hooks is not allowed with these rigs. For the purpose of this regulation, "natural baits" shall exclude pork rind attached to an artificial lure.

(g) Exceptions for For-hire Vessels.

1. At-sea Filleting. Operators and crew onboard for-hire vessels permitted under the authority of 322 CMR 7.10(5): *Permit Requirements Applicable to For-hire Vessels* may fillet or process legal sized striped bass for their recreational customers at sea provided that:

- a. The skin is left on the fillet; and
- b. Not more than two fillets taken from legal striped bass are in the possession of each customer of that trip, representing the equivalent of one fish per angler.

~~2. Use of Circle Hooks. Recreational fishermen fishing onboard for hire vessels permitted under the authority of 322 CMR 7.10(5): *Permit Requirements Applicable to For-hire Vessels* are not subject to the provisions set forth at 322 CMR 6.07(5)(f) and therefore are not required to use circle hooks during for-hire trips when fishing with whole or cut natural baits.~~

(7) Prohibitions. It shall be unlawful:

(oo) for any recreational fisherman ~~fishermen fishing from shore or a private vessel~~ to use any type of hook other than a circle hook when fishing for striped bass with whole or cut natural baits. ~~This prohibition shall not apply to any artificial lure designed to be trolled, cast and retrieved, or vertically jigged with a natural bait attached.~~

(pp) for any recreational fisherman to retain an striped bass incidentally caught when fishing with whole or cut natural bait and using a hook other than a circle hook.

6.19: Edible Crab Management

**(10) Prohibitions on the Taking of Blue Crabs. It shall be unlawful to:**

- (a) Retain any blue crabs caught in trap gear.**
- (b) Set or haul traps for the purpose of catching blue crabs.**
- (c) This shall not apply to blue crabs caught while actively fishing with open or collapsible traps.**

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