



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Marine Fisheries Advisory

**Emergency Regulations Affecting Recreational Georges Bank Cod Limits -
 Fishery Will Close July 15 – July 31**

Effective Friday, July 15, 2022 there will be new regulations affecting the recreational fishing limits for Georges Bank cod in the state’s Southern New England Groundfish Management Area. As these measures are being implemented in-season, the recreational fishery will close effective tomorrow (7/15/22) for the remainder of July and will re-open on August 1 with the new bag limit and slot limit:

	New Rules (Effective 7/15/22)	Previous Rules
Open Season	August 1 – April 30	Year-round
Closed Season	May 1 – July 31	None
Minimum Size	22 inches	21 inches
Maximum Size	28 inches	None
Possession Limit	5-fish per angler per day	10-fish per angler per day

These rules apply to recreational cod fishing within the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area. This area covers of all state waters south and east of Cape Cod that are south of 42°00’ north latitude, but does not include those waters north of Cape Cod within Cape Cod Bay that are south of 42°00’ north latitude. Additionally, by matching the federal limits, these regulations ensure recreational anglers can lawfully possess and land catch taken in federal waters in the Commonwealth.

This emergency action complements adjustments to federal fishing regulations implemented by NOAA Fisheries through Framework 63 to the Multi-Species Groundfish Fishery Management Plan ([Federal Register](#)) that similarly become effective on July 15. Framework 63 cuts the Georges Bank recreational cod target by about 50% from 304,238 pounds (138 mt) to 164,346 pounds (75 mt) for the 2022 and 2023 federal fishing years (May 1 – April 30). This was done to reduce fishing mortality on this stock and promote its rebuilding. To achieve this cut in the recreational harvest target, NOAA Fisheries also implemented these new recreational fishing limits. The closed season, bag limit reduction, and maximum size are designed to keep recreational fishing mortality below the catch target and prevent potential overages of the overall annual catch limit for this stock.

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