



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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August 18, 2020

STATEMENT OF PERMIT CONDITIONS AND LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION: EXTENSION OF 2020 FOR-HIRE RECREATIONAL GULF OF MAINE COD FALL SEASON

On August 13, 2020, NOAA Fisheries enacted a [final interim rule](#) to adjust recreational groundfish measures in the Gulf of Maine for the period of May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021 (FY2020). This action adjusts the recreational fishing seasons for Gulf of Maine cod and haddock during the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021. Of specific interest, NOAA Fisheries has extended the for-hire recreational fall season for Gulf of Maine cod from September 15 – September 30 to September 8 through October 7. Consistent with this federal action, and in order to have these measures in place by the fall open season, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is adjusting its for-hire recreational fishing season for Gulf of Maine cod through this Letter of Authorization and Statement of Permit Conditions. Changes affecting recreational cod and haddock fishing in the Gulf of Maine in April 2021 will be implemented via regulation over the coming winter.

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 2020 For-Hire Permits. Effective September 8, 2020, all 2020 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 Gulf of Maine cod during the period of September 8, 2020 through October 7, 2020.
2. During this authorized period, anglers fishing aboard your vessel during for-hire trips shall not retain, possess, or land more than one Gulf of Maine 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).
3. These conditions shall only apply when taking patrons fishing on for-hire trips. This shall not apply to any private recreational fishing activity done by the permit holder or onboard the vessel named on the for-hire permit.

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 2020 Massachusetts’ For-Hire Permit shall be on board the vessel at all times while participating in this seasonal extension. This Statement of Permit Conditions shall remain in effect through October 7, 2020, unless otherwise

notified or sooner revoked for cause. Beginning October 8, 2020 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, 2020

Effective Date