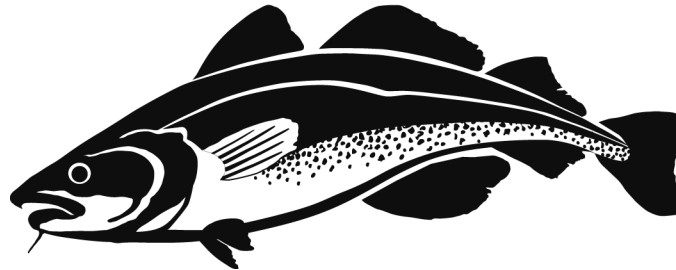


Public Hearing: Amendments to Recreational Fishing Limits for Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock and Georges Bank Cod

September 13, 2022

MarineFisheries
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Public Hearing

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, and pursuant to the authorities found at M.G.L. c. 130 §§ 17A, and 104, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is taking public comment and holding virtual public hearings on: (1) emergency regulations at 322 CMR 6.00 that implemented the 2022 recreational fishing Southern New England (Georges Bank) cod and Gulf of Maine cod and haddock consistent with federal proposed rules.



September 13, 2022

Division of Marine Fisheries

Slide 2



Virtual Rules of Engagement

- Purpose of the hearing is to afford interested parties an opportunity to submit data, opinions, comments, or arguments on the specific amendments being proposed, or to offer how the proposed amendment can be changed to minimize the impact on those affected while still achieving goals.
- Comments on matters outside of the scope of the specific amendments being proposed will be accommodated upon the conclusion of the hearing and if time permits.
- All members of the public will be muted throughout the presentation. At the conclusion of the presentation, DMF will first accept clarifying questions regarding the proposals, and then once all the questions are addressed, DMF will invite public comment on the various proposals.
- The written “chat” and “question and answer” functions have been disabled. DMF will respond to verbal questions at the end of the hearing. Additionally, you can follow up with DMF staff after the hearing by e-mail (marine.fish@mass.gov).
- When participating in the question and comment forums, the public is required to use the raise hand function. This creates a queue and DMF will recognize and unmute individuals when it is their turn to speak. Individuals will be provided three (3) minutes for questions and comments per hearing item. Follow-up comments may be allowed after all other persons have had an opportunity to speak.
- This public hearing will be recorded, and questions and comments are part of the public record. The recording of the public hearing will also be posted to [DMF's YouTube Channel](#).



Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod

Year	Mode	Open Season	Bag Limit	Minimum Size
2021	Private	September 15 – September 30 April 1 – April 14	1-fish per angler	21"
	For-Hire	September 8 – October 7 April 1 – April 14	1-fish per angler	21"
2022	All	September 1 – October 7 April 1 – April 14	1-fish per angler	22"

- For FY22, NEFMC has determined additional harvest of GOM cod may be allowed in order to achieve but not exceed sub-ACL for stock (423,288-pounds).
- NEFMC approved open season of September 1 – October 7 and April 1 – April 14 with a 1-fish bag limit and 22" minimum size.
- NOAA Fisheries currently reviewing recommendation for implementation.
- DMF intends to adopt complementary measures for its recreational cod fishery in the Gulf of Maine Management Area.
- MA harvest predominantly comes from federal waters. Complementary measures will allow vessels fishing lawfully in federal waters to land in Massachusetts.
- Also allows vessels fishing in state waters to retain the resource consistent with the rules in adjacent federal waters.



Recreational Gulf of Maine Haddock

Year	Open Season	Bag Limit	Minimum Size
2021	May 1 – February 28/29 April 1 – April 30	15-fish per angler	17"
2022	May 1 – February 28/29 April 1 – April 30	20-fish per angler	17"

- For FY22, NEFMC has determined additional harvest of GOM haddock may be allowed in order to achieve but not exceed sub-ACL for stock (8,011,599-pounds).
- NEFMC approved increasing bag limit by 5-fish while maintaining the open seasons and size limits.
- NOAA Fisheries currently reviewing recommendation for implementation.
- DMF intends to adopt complementary measures for its recreational haddock fishery in the Gulf of Maine Management Area.
- MA harvest predominantly comes from federal waters. Complementary measures will allow vessels fishing lawfully in federal waters to land in Massachusetts.
- Also allows vessels fishing in state waters to retain the resource consistent with the rules in adjacent federal waters.



Recreational Georges Bank Cod

Year	Open Season	Bag Limit	Size Limit
2021	January 1 – December 31	10-fish per angler	≥21"
2022	August 1 – April 30	5-fish per angler	≥22" and ≤28"

- FY22 Recreational Georges Bank cod sub-ACL is set at 163,347-pounds.
- ~50% reduction in the sub-ACL (304,282-pounds) in recent years.
- Reduction in sub-ACL is driven by an overall decline in the GB cod resource.
- Recreational fishing limits to become more restrictive to achieve this conservation.
- Framework 63: NEFMC approved open season of August 1 – April 30, a slot limit of 22" to 28" and a 5-fish per angler bag limit.
- NOAA Fisheries currently reviewing Framework 63 for final implementation.
- DMF intends to adopt complementary measures for its recreational cod fishery in the Southern New England Management Area.
- MA harvest predominantly comes from federal waters. Complementary measures will allow vessels fishing lawfully in federal waters to land in Massachusetts.
- Also allows vessels fishing in state waters to retain the resource consistent with the rules in adjacent federal waters.



Questions and Comments

Instructions for Public Hearing Questions and Comments

1. Meeting moderator will now recognize members of the public.
2. DMF will first recognize individuals with questions regarding the presentation and proposals.
3. Upon conclusion of the question period, DMF will accept verbal public comment.
4. To ask a question or submit a verbal comment, please use the “raise hand” function. This will create a queue of participants.



Overview of Proposed 2022 Limits

Species/Stock	Open Season	Bag Limit	Size Limit
Gulf of Maine Cod (FY: May 1 – April 30)	September 1 – October 7 April 1 – April 14	1 fish per angler	Min: 22"
Gulf of Maine Haddock (FY: May 1 – April 30)	May 1 – February 28 April 1 – April 30	20 fish per angler	Min: 17"
Georges Bank Cod (FY: May 1 – April 30)	August 1 – April 30	5 fish per angler	Min: 22" Max: 28"

