



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
 John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 14, 2017
CC: Groundfish Committee
FROM: Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT)
SUBJECT: **Evaluating Common Pool Trimester Total Allowable Catches (TACs)**

The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) met on August 3, 2017 in Plymouth, MA and discussed **modifying common pool trimester total allowable catches (TACs)**. The Council indicated that changes would be considered within the range of alternatives in Framework Adjustment 57 (FW57).

The Groundfish PDT compiled information and analysis for the Committee to discuss when evaluating and potentially modifying common pool trimester TACs. The PDT documents its work in several attachments to this memo.

Background

At the June 2017 Council meeting, the Council unanimously passed the following motion:

That the Council have the PDT limit the development of revisions to the trimester TACs in Framework 57 to those stocks that have experienced early closures in trimesters 1 or 2 since the implementation of Amendment 16.

PDT Analysis and Discussion

To address the Council's motion, the PDT completed the following analysis:

- Drafted the alternatives (Attachment 1)
- Summarized recent management of the common pool fishery (Attachment 2)
- Identified the stocks that experienced early closures in trimester 1 or 2 since FY 2012 (Attachment 3)
- Provided recommendations for the Committee to consider (see below)

PDT Discussion and Recommendation

- Based on the PDT’s analysis (see Attachment 3), these stocks meet the Council’s motion:
 - Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, Georges Bank cod, Cape Cod/GOM yellowtail flounder, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder, American plaice, and witch flounder
 - White hake had closures in Trimester 1 and 2 of FY 2012, in which 91.6% of the common pool sub-ACL for white hake was utilized. But since then, utilization of the common pool sub-ACL for white hake has decreased substantially while the sub-ACL has increased slightly from 26 mt in FY 2012 to 32 mt in FY 2015. This change in utilization of the sub-ACL and increase in sub-ACL provides support for not adjusting the common pool trimester TAC for white hake.
 - GOM haddock had a closure in Trimester 1 of FY 2013, in which 108.9% of the common pool sub-ACL for GOM haddock was utilized. The common pool sub-ACL for GOM haddock had decreased from 5 mt in FY 2012 to 2 mt in FY 2013; the sub-ACL then doubled to 4 mt in FY 2014 and has continued to increase, with a FY 2016 sub-ACL of 25.6 mt. Utilization of the common pool sub-ACL for GOM haddock has remained relatively stable since FY 2013. This change in utilization of the sub-ACL and increase in sub-ACL provides support for not adjusting the common pool trimester TAC for GOM haddock.
- **Additional considerations** are summarized for the Committee to discuss
 - When considering adjustments to common pool TACs, several stocks are commonly caught together including witch and plaice (trawl); plaice and cod (trawl); and cod and haddock (all gears). Therefore, adjustment to one stock commonly encountered with another could have unintended impacts on fishing effort, or create unforeseen “choke” stock relationships. The Committee could consider options to link changes to the Trimester TACs for certain stocks (e.g., if stock X changes by some percent we also modify stock Y by that (or another) percentage), or options to limit changes to co-occurring stocks to some reasonable percentage to minimize potential for unforeseen impacts.
 - The Committee may wish to consider if adjustments to TACs and AM areas could be allowed under NMFS administrative authority through an administrative measure in the framework. Below are some examples discussed to date:
 - *Broaden NMFS authority to modify TACs and/or AM closures* – This approach would allow greater flexibility in adapting TAC’s and AM closures without requiring Council action. Bounds for scope and use of this authority should be specified to support NMFS actions. It may encompass additional examples below.
 - *Creating trimester TACs for SNE Winter Flounder* - This is the only allocated stock without trimester TAC’s. Accordingly management/communication can be complicated as not all stocks are treated similarly. This may also help avoid closures occurring early in the fishing year that must remain in place through multiple trimesters, should this stock become limiting.
 - *Adding statistical areas 537 and/or 539 to the GB cod TAC closure area* - Catch of cod is increasing in Southern New England waters the last few years so the current TAC AM area may no longer account for enough catch to be effective when closures are needed. This may also have a seasonal component, as most cod fishing in Southern New England is a winter (cold water season) activity.

- *Consideration of capping the change allowed to a maximum reallocation between trimesters of X % (e.g., 10%) and/or when recalculating Trimester TAC's consider total number of trips for that stock or other metric to determine utility of data for decision making* - Because of limited common pool activity there may not be enough data available to make useful determinations about the nature of the fishery for some stocks i.e., the data is made up of only a few trips, limited landings, or driven by other factors and therefore may give a highly skewed perspective on the nature of the fishery.

Attachment #1: Draft Alternatives

DRAFT ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION

Commercial Fishery Measures - Common Pool Measures

Updates to Common Pool Vessel Accountability Measures – Target (Trimester) Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

Option 1: No Action

No action. There would be no revisions to the Common Pool Vessel Trimester Total Allowable Catch (TAC) apportionments. Trimester TAC apportionments would not change from those determined in Amendment 16.

Amendment 16 adopted a “hard” TAC backstop for common pool vessels in the commercial groundfish fishery as the AM to ensure that overfishing does not occur. For each stock, the total annual TAC is apportioned to trimesters. Each trimester is four months in duration. The trimesters are divided as follows:

1st trimester: May 1-August 31

2nd trimester: September 1-December 31

3rd trimester: January 1-April 30

The target TACs, or percentages of total TAC allocated to each trimester, as determined in Amendment 16 are shown in Table 1. The initial distribution was developed by the Council after taking into account the influence of regulatory changes on recent landings patterns. Amendment 16 specified that subsequent calculations, which may be adjusted on a biennial basis, will use the most recent five year periods available when the calculations are performed. For other stocks, the distribution of landings has been heavily influenced by management measures and the distribution shown in the table represented a preferred distribution of landings.

SNE/MA winter flounder is the only allocated stock not managed under the trimester TAC system. This stock was later allocated in Framework Adjustment 50, and the common pool receives a sub-ACL.

Table 1 – No action: Final apportionment of common pool TAC to trimesters

Stock	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
GOM Cod	27%	36%	37%
GB Cod	25%	37%	38%
GOM Haddock	27%	26%	47%
GB Haddock	27%	33%	40%
CC/GOM Yellowtail	35%	35%	30%
GB Yellowtail	19%	30%	52%
SNE/MA Yellowtail	21%	37%	42%
GOM Winter	37%	38%	25%
GB Winter	8%	24%	69%
Witch Flounder	27%	31%	42%
Plaice	24%	36%	40%
Pollock	28%	35%	37%
Redfish	25%	31%	44%
White Hake	38%	31%	31%

Option 2: Revised Common Pool Vessel Trimester Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Apportionments

Updated Common Pool Trimester Catch by Percentage

This option is the strict output resulting from the process outlined in Amendment 16 which specified that subsequent calculations will use the most recent five year periods of data available when the calculations are performed.

Table 2 - Common pool trimester catch by percentage (average) for FY2012 – FY2016 (FY2016 is preliminary).

Stock	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
GOM Cod	53%	35%	12%
GB Cod	29%	35%	36%
GOM Haddock	67%	15%	18%
GB Haddock	61%	27%	12%
CC/GOM Yellowtail	59%	26%	15%
GB Yellowtail	50%	46%	4%
SNE/MA Yellowtail	20%	29%	51%
GOM Winter	26%	48%	26%
GB Winter	57%	42%	1%
Witch Flounder	56%	20%	24%
Plaice	76%	8%	16%
Pollock	43%	50%	7%
Redfish	51%	31%	18%
White Hake	34%	47%	19%

There can be a lot of variation in trimester catch percentage from one year to the next within a stock, which may make the use of an average less useful for calculating trimester TAC apportionments.

Table 3 - Common pool trimester catch by percentage by year for FY2012 – FY2016 (FY 2016 is preliminary).

Stock	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
GOM Cod			
2012	71%	23%	6%
2013	35%	64%	1%
2014	58%	41%	1%
2015	38%	19%	43%
2016	63%	29%	8%
Median	58%	29%	6%
Average	53%	35%	12%
GB Cod			
2012	31%	32%	37%
2013	22%	23%	55%
2014	50%	40%	10%
2015	12%	15%	73%
2016	29%	64%	7%
Median	29%	32%	37%
Average	29%	35%	36%

GOM Haddock			
2012	80%	8%	12%
2013	89%	10%	1%
2014	75%	23%	2%
2015	27%	13%	60%
2016	65%	20%	15%
Median	75%	13%	13%
Average	67%	15%	18%
GB Haddock			
2012	36%	45%	19%
2013	22%	43%	35%
2014	56%	42%	2%
2015	92%	4%	4%
2016	98%	1%	1%
Median	56%	42%	4%
Average	61%	27%	12%
CC/GOM Yellowtail			
2012	54%	12%	34%
2013	25%	73%	2%
2014	87%	9%	4%
2015	74%	11%	15%
2016	55%	26%	19%
Median	55%	12%	15%
Average	59%	26%	15%
GB Yellowtail			
2012	67%	18%	15%
2013	9%	90%	1%
2014	24%	76%	0%
2015	100%	0%	0%
Median	45%	47%	1%
Average	50%	46%	4%
SNE/MA Yellowtail			
2012	1%	4%	95%
2013	17%	15%	68%
2014	37%	55%	8%
2015	40%	37%	23%
2016	8%	32%	60%
Median	17%	32%	60%
Average	20%	29%	51%
GOM Winter			
2012	42%	43%	15%
2013	6%	93%	2%
2014	27%	34%	39%
2015	34%	20%	46%
2016	23%	48%	29%
Median	27%	43%	29%
Average	26%	48%	26%
GB Winter			
2012	97%	2%	1%
2013	10%	89%	1%
2014	24%	76%	0%
2015	100%	0%	0%
Median	60%	39%	1%
Average	57%	42%	1%

Witch Flounder			
2012	58%	6%	36%
2013	73%	3%	24%
2014	69%	14%	17%
2015	38%	35%	27%
2016	39%	43%	18%
Median	58%	14%	24%
Average	56%	20%	24%
Plaice			
2012	71%	6%	23%
2013	94%	4%	2%
2014	86%	13%	1%
2015	65%	9%	26%
2016	65%	7%	28%
Median	71%	7%	23%
Average	76%	8%	16%
Pollock			
2012	26%	58%	16%
2013	36%	57%	7%
2014	39%	57%	4%
2015	49%	50%	1%
2016	65%	25%	10%
Median	39%	57%	7%
Average	43%	50%	7%
Redfish			
2012	38%	27%	35%
2013	50%	20%	30%
2014	39%	58%	3%
2015	77%	11%	12%
2016	53%	38%	9%
Median	50%	27%	12%
Average	51%	31%	18%
White Hake			
2012	58%	36%	6%
2013	27%	67%	6%
2014	38%	61%	1%
2015	25%	52%	23%
2016	21%	19%	60%
Median	27%	52%	6%
Average	34%	47%	19%

Attachment #2: Recent management of the common pool fishery

2010	
May 26: Adjustments to the common pool and sector annual catch limit (ACL) specifications of Framework Adjustment 44 - based on updated sector rosters as of April 30, 2010, resulted in an increased amount of fish for the common pool for FY 2010	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/10/10MulCommonPoolSectorACLACEs.pdf
May 27: New possession limits for common pool vessels, for all vessels under a NE multispecies DAS, NE multispecies Small Vessel or Handgear A or B category permit, as of May 27, 2010 for FY 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOM haddock: 1,000lb/trip (decrease from unlimited) • GB haddock: 10,000lb/trip (decrease from unlimited) • GOM winter flounder: 250lb/trip (decrease from unlimited) • GB winter flounder: 1,000lb/trip (decrease from 5,000lb/trip) • GB yellowtail flounder: 1,000lb/trip (decrease from 2,500lb/trip) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/10/10Mul5StockPosLimit.pdf
July 30: Common pool trip limit adjustment for one stock through April 30, 2011 (end of FY 2010) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOM cod: reduced to 200lb/DAS and 1,000lb/trip for limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels (decrease from 800lb/DAS and 4,000lb/trip), 75lb/trip for Handgear A vessels, 25lb/trip for Handgear B vessels, and 75lb/trip for Small Vessel (Category C) vessels <p>Also, US/CA trawl gear restriction to reduce catch of GB yellowtail Common pool DAS vessels prohibited from using trawl gear, except for haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl, on any trip fishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South of 41°40' N. latitude in the Western U.S./Canada Area (Area 4) • The Eastern U.S./Canada Area (Area 2), when it opens to trawl gear on August 1, 2010 <p>Restricted to gear performance possession limits for entire trip: flounders (all species combined), monkfish, and skates is limited to 500lb (whole weight) each</p>	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/10/10MultiCommonPoolTripLimitReduction&GearRestriction.pdf
August 6: Common pool trip limit adjustment for one stock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollock – trip limit removed <p>Also, correction for landing limit for all stocks of cod for Handgear A vessels to 100lb/trip (increase from 75lb/trip)</p>	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/10/10PollockWitchFldCodTriplimit.pdf
August 9: Common pool trip limit adjustment for one stock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witch flounder: 130lb/trip 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/10/10PollockWitchFldCodTriplimit.pdf
September 2: Common pool trip limit adjustment for one stock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witch flounder: no possession for all common pool vessels 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/10/10MulComPoolVesDASRateNoWFld.pdf
September 7: Reduction of 2010 total allowable catch (TAC) of GB yellowtail flounder – reduced due to overage of 2009 TAC to 1,047mt (decrease from 1,200mt) for FY2010, reduction in ACE for sectors and sub-ACLs for common pool	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/10/10GBYTTACReductionPHL.pdf

<p>September 27: Common pool trip limit adjustment for three stocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOM cod: 100lb/DAS and 1,000lb/trip (decrease from 200lb/DAS and 1,000lb/trip) • GB yellowtail flounder: 100lb/trip (down from 1,000lb/trip) • White hake: 100lb/DAS and 500lb/trip (decrease from 2,000lb/DAS and 10,000lb/trip) <p>Also, changes to US/CA trawl gear restrictions Current restriction on the use of trawl gear in US/CA Management Area is expanded to include entire Western US/CA Area (not just area south of 41°40' N. lat.), and list of trawl gear types allowed is modified to allow the use of a rope separator trawl</p>	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/10/10GOMGBTripLimitsUSCANTrawlRest.pdf
<p>October 21: Common pool Handgear A trip limit adjustment for cod</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOM and GB cod: 50lb/trip (decrease from 100lb/trip) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/10/10MultiComPoolHandgearACodLimit.pdf
2011	
<p>March 31: Common pool trip limit adjustment for three stocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB cod: 3,000lb/DAS and 30,000lb/trip (increase from 2,000lb/DAS and 20,000lb/trip) • CC/GOM yellowtail flounder: 750lb/DAS and 3,000lb/trip (increase from 250lb/DAS and 1,500lb/trip) • SNE/MA yellowtail flounder: 750lb/DAS and 3,000lb/trip (increase from 250lb/DAS and 1,500lb/trip) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11MulFY10TripLimitAdjust.pdf
<p>April 5: Common pool trip limit adjustment for two stocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOM cod: 100lb/trip (decrease from 100lb/DAS and 1,000lb/trip) • GOM winter flounder: 100lb/trip (decrease from 250lb/trip) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11MulFY10TripLimitAdjust.pdf
<p>May 1: New and revised management measures for FY 2011 under Framework Adjustment 45 to the NE Multispecies FMP Modified 2011 ACLs for five stocks: GB haddock, GB cod, GB yellowtail flounder, white hake, and Pollock. Sets common pool sub-ACLs and trip limits</p>	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11MulMeasures2011.pdf
<p>July 19: Updated NE Multispecies ACLs for FY2011 ACLs for sectors and common pool adjusted based on final sector enrollment as of May 1, 2011</p>	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11MulACL201&1Correction.pdf
<p>August 30: Common pool trip limit adjustment for two stocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOM cod: 350lbs/DAS and 1,000lb/trip (decrease from 500lb/day and 2,000lb/trip) • GB cod: 300lb/DAS and 600lb/trip (decrease from 3,000lb/DAS and 30,000lb/trip) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11MulCommonPoolInseasonAdjustment.pdf
<p>September 14: Changes to haddock Annual Catch Limits for NE multispecies fishery – reduced portion of ACLs for sectors and common pool due to increase in haddock incidental catch cap allocated to Atlantic herring fishery</p>	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11HerFW46MultsPHL.pdf
<p>October 3: Common pool Handgear B trip limit adjustment for cod</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOM cod: 50lb/trip (decrease from 75lb/trip) • GB cod: 25lb/trip (decrease from 75lb/trip) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11MulCorCodLandingLimitHandBComPoolPHL.pdf
2012	
<p>February 7: Revised FY2011 catch limits for GOM winter flounder – changes to common pool sub-ACL Common pool sub-ACL increased from 8mt to 16mt</p>	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/12/12WFlounderEmergencyRulePHL.pdf
<p>March 8: Common pool trip limit adjustment for two stocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB cod: 1,500 lb/DAS up to 4,500 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (increase from 300 lb/DAS up to 600 lb/trip) and 75 lb/trip for Handgear B vessels (increase from 25 lb/trip) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/12/12MulGBcodSNEMAYIncreaseCommonPoolVes.pdf

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SNE/MA yellowtail flounder: 1,500 lb/DAS up to 4,500 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (increase from 500 lb/DAS up to 2,000 lb/trip) 	
May 1: Changes to GOM cod ACLs for FY2012 – to reduce GOM cod catch	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nero/nr/ndoc/12/12Interim%20Measures%20ACL%20Info%20Bulletin%20%28GOM%20cod%20interim%29.pdf
May 1: Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Fishery Regulations for FY2012 – sets trimester TAC AMs, including area closures and overage deductions, and changes to trip limits	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/doc/12/12mul2012commompoolregs.pdf
June 25: Adjustments to the common pool and sector annual catch limit (ACL) specifications for FY2012 - based on updated sector rosters as of May 1, 2012	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/doc/12/12mulupdatedspecs12.pdf
July 13: Revised FY2012 catch limits for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder – changes to common pool sub-ACL Common pool sub-ACL increased from 2.5mt to 4.2mt	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/doc/12/12mulgbytfloundersub-aclincreasephl.pdf
August 15: Common pool white hake trimester area closed for remainder of Trimester 1 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/doc/12/12mulinseason1-whitehaketrimester1closure_phl_final.pdf
December 5: Common pool white hake trimester area closed for remainder of Trimester 2 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/doc/12/12mulwhitehaket2closurephl.pdf
2013	
February 11: Common pool trip limit adjustment for five stocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOM cod: 2,000 lb/DAS up to 6,000 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (increase from 650 lb/DAS up to 2,000 lb/trip) and 200 lb/trip for Handgear B vessels (increase from 75 lb/trip) GB cod: 3,000 lb/DAS up to 30,000 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (increase from 2,000 lb /DAS up to 20,000lb/trip) and 12 5lb/trip for Handgear B vessels (increase from 75 lb/trip) SNE/MA yellowtail flounder: 5,000 lb/DAS up to 15,000 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (increase from 1,500 lb/DAS up to 4,500 lb/trip) White hake: 500 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (decrease from 1,500 lb/trip) Pollock: 10,000 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (decrease from unlimited) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2013/February/13mulcommonpoolinseasonaction.pdf
May 1: Northeast Multispecies Fishery Regulations for FY2013 – sets common pool trimester TAC AMs and changes to trip limits	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2013/April/13mulfw48fw50phl.pdf
June 10: Adjustments to the common pool and sector annual catch limit (ACL) specifications for FY2012 - based on updated sector rosters as of May 1, 2013	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2013/June/13mulsectorscatchlimitscommonpoolphl.pdf
July 16: Common pool trip limit adjustment for one stock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SNE/MA winter flounder: decrease to 1,000 lb/trip 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2013/July/13mulcpinseasonactionphl.pdf
Also Trimester 1 TAC area closure for GOM haddock – stat areas 513, 514, and 515 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	

July 30: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for GB cod – stat areas 521, 522, 55, and 561 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2013/July/13t1gbcodclosurephl.pdf
August 28: Common pool trip limit adjustment for two stocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SNE/MA winter flounder: decrease to 300 lb/trip GOM haddock: decrease to 0lb/trip 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2013/August/13mulwfhadlimits.pdf
October 30: Common pool trip limit adjustment for five stocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOM cod: 650 lb/DAS up to 2,000 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (increase from 100 lb/DAS up to 300 lb/trip), 300 lb/trip for Handgear A vessels (increase from 100 lb/trip), 75 lb/trip for Handgear B vessels (increase from 25 lb/trip), and 300 lb/trip within the 300-lb combined trip limit of cod/yellowtail flounder for Category C vessels (increase from 100 lb cod within the 300-lb combined trip limit of cod/yellowtail flounder) CC/GOM yellowtail flounder: 2,000 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (change from 500 lb /DAS up to 2,000 lb/trip) GOM winter flounder: 2,000 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (increase from 500 lb/trip) White hake: 1,000 lb /DAS up to 3,000 lb/trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels (increase from 500 lb/trip) Pollock: unlimited for NE multispecies DAS vessels (increase from 10,000 lb/trip) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2013/October/13multiplimitadjustphl.pdf
2014	
January 1: Trimester 3 TAC area closure for GOM haddock – stat areas 513, 514, and 515 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2013/December/13mulgomhaddockclosurephl.pdf
April 9: Trimester 3 TAC area closure for GB cod – stat areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2014/April/14mulcompoolphl.pdf
May 1: Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Fishery Regulations for FY2014 – sets common pool trimester TAC AMs and changes to trip limits	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2014/April/14mulcommonpool2014.pdf
July 1: Amendment 18 - this action removes the March 1–20 spawning-block closure for all Handgear A vessels.	http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Final-Rule-Groundfish-Amendment-18.pdf
July 23: Common pool trip limit increase for SNE/MA winter flounder – 3,000 lb/DAS and 6,000 lb/trip (increase from 1,500 lb/DAS and 2,000 lb/trip) for NE multispecies DAS vessels Also, Trimester 1 TAC area closure for GOM cod – stat areas 513, 514, and 515 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2014/July/14mulsnemawinterfladjustmentgomcodtrimesterclosurephl.pdf
July 23: Correction - Trimester 1 TAC area closure for GOM cod – stat areas 513 and 514 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2014/July/14mulinseason1gomcodtrimesterclosurephlcorrected.pdf
August 6: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for American plaice – stat areas 512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, and 525 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2014/July/14mulinseason2plaiceclosurephl.pdf
August 18: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for GB cod – stat areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2014/August/140818_inseason_3_trimester_1_gb_cod_closure_phl_final.pdf
August 26: Closure of Eastern US/Canada Area for remainder of FY2014 for all common pool vessels	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2014/August/14mulcommonpoolinseason4and5closurephl.pdf

August 27: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder – stat areas 537, 538, 539, and 613 for all common pool vessel fishing with trawl or sink gillnet gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2014/August/14mulcommonpoolinseason4and5closurephl.pdf
October 23: Updated ACLs for sectors, common pool, and herring mid-water trawl vessels for FY 2014 Reductions in GB cod and GOM haddock for common pool based on FY2013 sub-ACL overages	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2014/October/14mulcatchspeccarryoverphl.pdf
2015	
January 20: Common pool trip limit adjustment for one stock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SNE/MA yellowtail flounder: decreased to 250 lb/DAS up to 500 lb/trip 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/January/15mulnemaytriplimitadjustphl.pdf
May 1: Northeast Multispecies Fishery Regulations for FY2015 – sets common pool trimester TAC AMs and changes to trip limits	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/April/15mulfw53phl.pdf
June 15: Common pool possession limit adjustment for GOM cod – reduced to zero for remainder of FY2015 for all common pool vessels	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/June/150615_inseason_1-gom_cod_limit_adjustment_phl_final.pdf
June 23: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for GOM cod – stat areas 513, and 514 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, gillnet, or longline/hook gear, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder – stat areas 514, and 521 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl or gillnet gear, and American Plaice – stat areas 512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, and 525 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear Also, possession limit adjustment for CC/GOM yellowtail flounder and American plaice – reduced to zero for all common pool vessels in all areas	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/June/15mulinseasonclosuresgomgbgphl.pdf
Jul 29: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder – stat areas 537, 538, 539, and 613 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl or sink gillnet gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/July/15mulnemaytcommonpoolclosurephl.pdf
August 17: Updated NE Multispecies ACLs for FY2015 ACLs for sectors and common pool adjusted based on final sector enrollment as of May 1, 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EGB cod common pool allocation reduced to 1.4 mt from 2.7 mt Final common pool trimester quotas 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/August/15mulfw53revphl.pdf
September 1: Common pool possession and trip limit adjustments for two stocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American plaice: increased to unlimited CC/GOM yellowtail flounder: increased to 1,500 lb/DAS up to 3,000 lb/trip 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/September/15mulcommonpoolfisherytriplimitadjustmentphl.pdf
September 16: Common pool possession limit adjustment for GOM cod – increased to 25 lb/trip from zero possession for remainder of FY2015 for all common pool vessels	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/September/15mulcommonpoolfisherytriplimitadjustmentphl.pdf
2016	
January 15: Common pool possession and trip limit adjustment for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder – reduced to 50 lb/trip for remainder of FY2015 for all common pool vessels	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/January/15mulnemaytailposslimdecreephl.pdf
April 14: Common pool trip limit adjustment for three stocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOM cod: 100 lb/trip (increase from 25 lb/trip) GOM haddock: 500 lb/DAS up to 1,000 lb/trip (increase from 50 lb/DAS up to 200 lb/trip) 	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/April/16mulinseason6triplimitincreasesphl.pdf

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SNE/MA yellowtail flounder: 500 lb/DAS up to 1,000 lb/trip (increase from 50 lb/trip) 	
May 1: Northeast Multispecies Fishery Regulations for FY2016 – sets common pool trimester TAC AMs and changes to trip limits	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/April/16mulfy2016regsphtml.pdf
June 8: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for witch flounder – stat areas 512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, and 525 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/June/16mulinseason1witchclosurephl.pdf
June 15: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for CC/GOM yellowtail flounder – stat areas 514 and 521 for all common pool vessels fishing with gillnet or trawl gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/June/16mulinseason2ccgomytclosurephl.pdf
July 13: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for GB cod – stat areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/July/16mulgbcodclosurephl.pdf
August 17: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for GOM cod – stat areas 513 and 514 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear, including handgear vessels	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/August/16mulinseason4gomcodclosurephl.pdf
November 9: Trimester 2 TAC area closure for witch flounder – stat areas 512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, and 525 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/November/16mulinseason6wfclosurephl.html
November 15: Trimester 2 TAC area closure for GB cod – stat areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/November/16mulinseason6gbcodclosurephl.html
December 22: Common pool possession and trip limit adjustment for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder - increased to 500 lb/DAS up to 1,000 lb/trip for all common pool vessels	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/December/16mulmodtriplimitsGBCodYTclosurephl.html
2017	
January 1: Common pool possession and trip limit adjustment for GB cod - 300 lb of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder combined and maximum of 25 lb of cod and 200 lb of GOM haddock within the 300-lb combined trip limit for Small Vessel (Category C) vessels	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2016/December/16mulmodtriplimitsGBCodYTclosurephl.html
January 9: Trimester 3 TAC area closure for GB cod – stat areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2017/January/09_commonpoolgbclosurejan2017.html
Also, possession of GB cod for any common pool vessel is zero	
March 16: Common pool increased the GOM cod (100) and haddock trip limit (500/1000).	https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/03/21/2017-05550/fisheries-of-the-northeastern-united-states-northeast-multispecies-fishery-trip-limit-increase-for
March 22: Common pool trip limit correction for GOM cod for Small Vessel (Category C) vessels only – increased to 100 lb/trip (to match above action) Vessels in the small vessel category are still held to the combined 300-lb trip limit for cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2017/March/17mulgomcodincreasephl.html
May 1: Northeast Multispecies Fishery Regulations for FY2017 – sets common pool trimester TAC AMs and changes to trip limits	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2017/April/17mulfy2017regsphtml.html
May 24: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for American plaice – stat areas 512, 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, and 525 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl gear	https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2017/May/17mulcloseaptaarea.html

July 28: Trimester 1 TAC area closure for GB cod – stat areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 for all common pool vessels fishing with trawl, sink gillnet, or longline/hook gear, including handgear vessels

<https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2017/July/17multir1gbcodph.html>

Attachment #3: Stocks that experienced early closures in Trimester 1 or 2 since 2012

Table 1 – Stocks with Common Pool Closures in Trimester 1 or 2 from FY2012-2017

Stock	FY2012		FY2013		FY2014		FY2015		FY2016		FY2017
	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1	T2	T1
GOM Cod					X		X		X		
GB Cod			X		X				X	X	X
GOM Haddock			X								
GB Haddock											
CC/GOM Yellowtail							X		X		
GB Yellowtail											
SNE/MA Yellowtail					X		X				
GOM Winter											
GB Winter											
Witch Flounder									X	X	
Plaice					X		X				X
Pollock											
Redfish											
White Hake	X	X									

An “x” indicates a closure for that stock in that trimester. FY2017 is currently in progress and only Trimester 1 data is available.

Table 2 –Percent of Common Pool Sub-Annual Catch Limits Taken (%) for Stocks with Common Pool Closures in Trimester 1 or 2 from FY2012-2016

Stock	FY2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY2016
GOM Cod	37.3	48.9	57.1	86.3	68.8
GB Cod	35.4	101.0	65.8	95.8	124.8
GOM Haddock	18.6	108.9	21.6	24.8	40.4
CC/GOM Yellowtail	13.0	31.5	6.3	64.0	83.7
SNE/MA Yellowtail	24.4	93.1	85.7	91.7	51.3
Witch Flounder	10.5	30.6	9.6	98.7	94.2
Plaice	6.1	14.3	31.3	51.5	86.6
White Hake	91.6	21.6	28.6	0.8	2.7

Values in bold indicate that a trimester closure occurred for that stock in that fishing year. FY 2016 data is preliminary and includes data reported through June 25, 2017.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office