

CORRESPONDENCE



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

April 21, 2022

Dr. Christopher Moore
Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Suite 201, 800 N. State Street
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Chris:

I would like to advise you of upcoming changes to the management of Georges Bank (GB) cod the New England Fishery Management Council proposes to NOAA Fisheries in Framework Adjustment 63 (FW63) to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) fishery management plan. These changes if approved will impact commercial and recreational fisheries for GB cod from states represented by our two Councils.

The most recent stock assessment for GB cod in 2021 indicated a continued poor state of the resource and NOAA Fisheries determined the stock is overfished. In response, the Council recommended a major reduction in the GB cod acceptable biological catch (ABC) for fishing year (FY) 2022 which would be set at 764 mt. The Council anticipates a 78% reduction in the commercial annual catch limit from 1,093 mt in FY2021 to 244 mt proposed for FY2022.

Furthermore, the Council's proposal for GB cod adopts additional recreational fishery measures to promote cod stock rebuilding and reduce recreational mortality by 68% from recent levels. The proposed recreational measures are:

- Slot Limit- The minimum size for GB cod would be 22 inches (55.88 cm.) and the maximum size would 28 inches (71.12 cm), total length for the recreational fishery (private, party, and charter).
- Possession Limit- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be permitted to land 5 legal sized GB cod per angler, per day.
- Season- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be prohibited from retaining GB cod from May 1 to July 31. No possession would be in place during this time.

In general, state regulations that are less restrictive than those in the federal plan can create enforcement challenges and reduce the effectiveness of the federal measures. I will be sharing this information with the state fishery management officials on your Council. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

April 21, 2022

Mr. David Saveikis, Director
Delaware Fish and Wildlife
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Saveikis:

I would like to advise you of upcoming changes to the management of Georges Bank (GB) cod. The New England Fishery Management Council proposes to NOAA Fisheries in Framework Adjustment 63 (FW63) to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) fishery management plan. These changes if approved will impact commercial and recreational fisheries for Georges Bank (GB) cod from states represented by our two Councils.

The most recent stock assessment for GB cod in 2021 indicated a continued poor state of the resource and NOAA Fisheries determined the stock is overfished. In response, the Council recommended a major reduction in the GB cod acceptable biological catch (ABC) for fishing year (FY) 2022 which would be set at 764 mt. The Council anticipates a 78% reduction in the commercial annual catch limit from 1,093 mt in FY2021 to 244 mt proposed for FY2022.

Furthermore, the Council's proposal for GB cod adopts additional recreational fishery measures to promote cod stock rebuilding and reduce recreational mortality by 68% from recent levels. The proposed recreational measures are:

- Slot Limit- The minimum size for GB cod would be 22 inches (55.88 cm.) and the maximum size would 28 inches (71.12 cm), total length for the recreational fishery (private, party, and charter).
- Possession Limit- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be permitted to land 5 legal sized GB cod per angler, per day.
- Season- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be prohibited from retaining GB cod from May 1 to July 31. No possession would be in place during this time.

These measures apply to the federal waters off your state. In general, state regulations that are less restrictive than those in the federal plan can create enforcement challenges and reduce the effectiveness of the federal measures. I encourage you to consider adopting similar measures for your fishermen. Please contact me or our Groundfish Pan Coordinator Dr. Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

April 21, 2022

Mr. Michael Luisi
Division Director, Monitoring and Assessment
Maryland DNR, Fisheries and Boating Services
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue, B-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mike:

I would like to advise you of upcoming changes to the management of Georges Bank (GB) cod the New England Fishery Management Council proposes to NOAA Fisheries in Framework Adjustment 63 (FW63) to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) fishery management plan. These changes if approved will impact commercial and recreational fisheries for Georges Bank (GB) cod from states represented by our two Councils.

The most recent stock assessment for GB cod in 2021 indicated a continued poor state of the resource and NOAA Fisheries determined the stock is overfished. In response, the Council recommended a major reduction in the GB cod acceptable biological catch (ABC) for fishing year (FY) 2022 which would be set at 764 mt. The Council anticipates a 78% reduction in the commercial annual catch limit from 1,093 mt in FY2021 to 244 mt proposed for FY2022.

Furthermore, the Council's proposal for GB cod adopts additional recreational fishery measures to promote cod stock rebuilding and reduce recreational mortality by 68% from recent levels. The proposed recreational measures are:

- Slot Limit- The minimum size for GB cod would be 22 inches (55.88 cm.) and the maximum size would 28 inches (71.12 cm), total length for the recreational fishery (private, party, and charter).
- Possession Limit- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be permitted to land 5 legal sized GB cod per angler, per day.
- Season- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be prohibited from retaining GB cod from May 1 to July 31. No possession would be in place during this time.

These measures apply to the federal waters off your state. In general, state regulations that are less restrictive than those in the federal plan can create enforcement challenges and reduce the effectiveness of the federal measures. I encourage you to consider adopting similar measures for your fishermen. Please contact me or our Groundfish Pan Coordinator Dr. Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

April 21, 2022

Ms. Kathy B. Rawls, Director
NC Division of Marine Fisheries
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Dear Ms. Rawls:

I would like to advise you of upcoming changes to the management of Georges Bank (GB) cod the New England Fishery Management Council proposes to NOAA Fisheries in Framework Adjustment 63 (FW63) to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) fishery management plan. These changes if approved will impact commercial and recreational fisheries for Georges Bank (GB) cod from states represented by our two Councils.

The most recent stock assessment for GB cod in 2021 indicated a continued poor state of the resource and NOAA Fisheries determined the stock is overfished. In response, the Council recommended a major reduction in the GB cod acceptable biological catch (ABC) for fishing year (FY) 2022 which would be set at 764 mt. The Council anticipates a 78% reduction in the commercial annual catch limit from 1,093 mt in FY2021 to 244 mt proposed for FY2022.

Furthermore, the Council's proposal for GB cod adopts additional recreational fishery measures to promote cod stock rebuilding and reduce recreational mortality by 68% from recent levels. The proposed recreational measures are:

- Slot Limit- The minimum size for GB cod would be 22 inches (55.88 cm.) and the maximum size would 28 inches (71.12 cm), total length for the recreational fishery (private, party, and charter).
- Possession Limit- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be permitted to land 5 legal sized GB cod per angler, per day.
- Season- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be prohibited from retaining GB cod from May 1 to July 31. No possession would be in place during this time.

These measures apply to the federal waters off your state. In general, state regulations that are less restrictive than those in the federal plan can create enforcement challenges and reduce the effectiveness of the federal measures. I encourage you to consider adopting similar measures for your fishermen. Please contact me or our Groundfish Pan Coordinator Dr. Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

April 21, 2022

Mr. Joseph Cimino
Division of Fish & Wildlife
NJ Marine Fisheries Administration
PO Box 418
Port Republic, NJ 08241

Dear Mr. Cimino:

I would like to advise you of upcoming changes to the management of Georges Bank (GB) cod. The New England Fishery Management Council proposes to NOAA Fisheries in Framework Adjustment 63 (FW63) to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) fishery management plan. These changes if approved will impact commercial and recreational fisheries for Georges Bank (GB) cod from states represented by our two Councils.

The most recent stock assessment for GB cod in 2021 indicated a continued poor state of the resource and NOAA Fisheries determined the stock is overfished. In response, the Council recommended a major reduction in the GB cod acceptable biological catch (ABC) for fishing year (FY) 2022 which would be set at 764 mt. The Council anticipates a 78% reduction in the commercial annual catch limit from 1,093 mt in FY2021 to 244 mt proposed for FY2022.

Furthermore, the Council's proposal for GB cod adopts additional recreational fishery measures to promote cod stock rebuilding and reduce recreational mortality by 68% from recent levels. The proposed recreational measures are:

- Slot Limit- The minimum size for GB cod would be 22 inches (55.88 cm.) and the maximum size would 28 inches (71.12 cm), total length for the recreational fishery (private, party, and charter).
- Possession Limit- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be permitted to land 5 legal sized GB cod per angler, per day.
- Season- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be prohibited from retaining GB cod from May 1 to July 31. No possession would be in place during this time.

These measures apply to the federal waters off your state. In general, state regulations that are less restrictive than those in the federal plan can create enforcement challenges and reduce the effectiveness of the federal measures. I encourage you to consider adopting similar measures for your fishermen. Please contact me or our Groundfish Pan Coordinator Dr. Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

April 21, 2022

Mr. James Gilmore, Director
NYSDEC Division of Marine Resources
205 N. Belle Mead Road, Suite 1
E. Setauket, NY 11733-3400

Dear Mr. Gilmore:

I would like to advise you of upcoming changes to the management of Georges Bank (GB) cod the New England Fishery Management Council proposes to NOAA Fisheries in Framework Adjustment 63 (FW63) to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) fishery management plan. These changes if approved will impact commercial and recreational fisheries for Georges Bank (GB) cod from states represented by our two Councils.

The most recent stock assessment for GB cod in 2021 indicated a continued poor state of the resource and NOAA Fisheries determined the stock is overfished. In response, the Council recommended a major reduction in the GB cod acceptable biological catch (ABC) for fishing year (FY) 2022 which would be set at 764 mt. The Council anticipates a 78% reduction in the commercial annual catch limit from 1,093 mt in FY2021 to 244 mt proposed for FY2022.

Furthermore, the Council's proposal for GB cod adopts additional recreational fishery measures to promote cod stock rebuilding and reduce recreational mortality by 68% from recent levels. The proposed recreational measures are:

- Slot Limit- The minimum size for GB cod would be 22 inches (55.88 cm.) and the maximum size would 28 inches (71.12 cm), total length for the recreational fishery (private, party, and charter).
- Possession Limit- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be permitted to land 5 legal sized GB cod per angler, per day.
- Season- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be prohibited from retaining GB cod from May 1 to July 31. No possession would be in place during this time.

These measures apply to the federal waters off your state. In general, state regulations that are less restrictive than those in the federal plan can create enforcement challenges and reduce the effectiveness of the federal measures. I encourage you to consider adopting similar measures for your fishermen. Please contact me or our Groundfish Pan Coordinator Dr. Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

April 21, 2022

Kristopher M. Kuhn
Director Bureau of Fisheries
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
595 E. Rolling Ridge Drive
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9616

Dear Mr. Kuhn:

I would like to advise you of upcoming changes to the management of Georges Bank (GB) cod. The New England Fishery Management Council proposes to NOAA Fisheries in Framework Adjustment 63 (FW63) to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) fishery management plan. These changes if approved will impact commercial and recreational fisheries for Georges Bank (GB) cod from states represented by our two Councils.

The most recent stock assessment for GB cod in 2021 indicated a continued poor state of the resource and NOAA Fisheries determined the stock is overfished. In response, the Council recommended a major reduction in the GB cod acceptable biological catch (ABC) for fishing year (FY) 2022 which would be set at 764 mt. The Council anticipates a 78% reduction in the commercial annual catch limit from 1,093 mt in FY2021 to 244 mt proposed for FY2022.

Furthermore, the Council's proposal for GB cod adopts additional recreational fishery measures to promote cod stock rebuilding and reduce recreational mortality by 68% from recent levels. The proposed recreational measures are:

- Slot Limit- The minimum size for GB cod would be 22 inches (55.88 cm.) and the maximum size would 28 inches (71.12 cm), total length for the recreational fishery (private, party, and charter).
- Possession Limit- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be permitted to land 5 legal sized GB cod per angler, per day.
- Season- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be prohibited from retaining GB cod from May 1 to July 31. No possession would be in place during this time.

These measures apply to the federal waters off your state. In general, state regulations that are less restrictive than those in the federal plan can create enforcement challenges and reduce the effectiveness of the federal measures. I encourage you to consider adopting similar measures for your fishermen. Please contact me or our Groundfish Pan Coordinator Dr. Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

April 21, 2022

Mr. Patrick Geer
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Chief, Fisheries Management Division
Building 96 380 Fenwick Road
Ft. Monroe, VA 23651

Dear Mr. Geer:

I would like to advise you of upcoming changes to the management of Georges Bank (GB) cod. The New England Fishery Management Council proposes to NOAA Fisheries in Framework Adjustment 63 (FW63) to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) fishery management plan. These changes if approved will impact commercial and recreational fisheries for Georges Bank (GB) cod from states represented by our two Councils.

The most recent stock assessment for GB cod in 2021 indicated a continued poor state of the resource and NOAA Fisheries determined the stock is overfished. In response, the Council recommended a major reduction in the GB cod acceptable biological catch (ABC) for fishing year (FY) 2022 which would be set at 764 mt. The Council anticipates a 78% reduction in the commercial annual catch limit from 1,093 mt in FY2021 to 244 mt proposed for FY2022.

Furthermore, the Council's proposal for GB cod adopts additional recreational fishery measures to promote cod stock rebuilding and reduce recreational mortality by 68% from recent levels. The proposed recreational measures are:

- Slot Limit- The minimum size for GB cod would be 22 inches (55.88 cm.) and the maximum size would 28 inches (71.12 cm), total length for the recreational fishery (private, party, and charter).
- Possession Limit- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be permitted to land 5 legal sized GB cod per angler, per day.
- Season- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery would be prohibited from retaining GB cod from May 1 to July 31. No possession would be in place during this time.

These measures apply to the federal waters off your state. In general, state regulations that are less restrictive than those in the federal plan can create enforcement challenges and reduce the effectiveness of the federal measures. I encourage you to consider adopting similar measures for your fishermen. Please contact me or our Groundfish Pan Coordinator Dr. Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director